



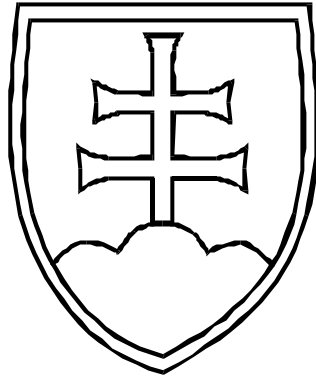
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**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Initial Periodical Report  
presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**



*Report on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority  
Languages in the Slovak Republic*

**Bratislava 2003**

## **PART I**

### ***1. General information on the accession process:***

The Charter was signed in the name of the Slovak Republic in Strasbourg on 20 February 2001. The National Council of the Slovak Republic gave its consent with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by its Resolution No. 1497 of 19 June 2001. The President of Slovakia ratified the Charter on 20 July 2001 and the instrument of ratification was deposited and registered with the depositary, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on 5 September 2001. The Charter entered into force on 1 March 1998 on the basis of Article 19, paragraph 1. For the Slovak Republic, the Charter entered into force on 1 January 2002 on the basis of Article 19, paragraph 2. The text of the Charter was published in the Collection of Laws under the No. 588/2001.

Accession to the Charter by the Slovak Republic is based on the Slovak Government Policy Statement (Part IV. 4. D. *Foreign Policy*) of 1998, where is enacted its support for the signature of the Charter. Section 39 of the minutes of the Government's meeting of 12 July 2000 specifies the Government's decision to authorize the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a coordinator of negotiations regarding international agreements to discuss any issues concerning Slovakia's accession to the Charter with the relevant ministries and sectors.

Under the provisions of *Article 15* of Part IV (Application of the Charter), the Parties are to present to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe reports on the implementation of their undertakings, and the first report is to be submitted within one year following the entry into force of the Charter and the other reports at three-yearly intervals.

Upon the depositing of its instrument of ratification, the Slovak Republic made the following statement:

*1. The Slovak Republic declares that it will apply the adopted Charter in compliance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and relevant international treaties, which ensure the equality of citizens before law irrespectively of their origin, race, religion or nationality, aiming at supporting the European linguistic heritage without detriment to the application of the state language.*

*2. The Slovak Republic declares that according to Article 1, sub-paragraph b) of the Charter the notion "territory in which the regional or minority language is used" applies to municipalities according to Slovak Government Ordinance No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority represent at least 20 per cent of the population as of 25 August 1999. The above specified also applies to the application of Article 10 of the Charter.*

*3. Under Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Charter, the "regional or minority languages" in the Slovak Republic are as follows: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, and Ukrainian; the application of the provisions of the Charter according to its Article 2, paragraph 2, in case of*

*Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, German, Polish, and Roma:*

*Article 8, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indent iii, sub-paragraph b) indent iii, sub-paragraph c) indent iii, sub-paragraph d) indent iii, sub-paragraph e) indent ii, sub-paragraph f) indent ii, sub-paragraphs g), h), and i);*

*Article 9, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indents ii and iii, sub-paragraph b) indents ii and iii, sub-paragraph c) indents ii and iii, sub-paragraph d) ;*

*Article 10, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indents iii and iv, paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs b), c), d), f), and g),*

*paragraph 3, sub-paragraph c), paragraph 4, sub-paragraphs a) and c), paragraph 5;*

*Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indent iii, sub-paragraph b) indent ii, sub-paragraph c) indent ii, sub-paragraph d), sub-paragraph e) indent i,*

*sub-paragraph f) indent ii, paragraphs 2 and 3;*

*Article 12, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a), b), c), d), e), f), and g), paragraphs 2 and 3;*

*Article 13, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a), b), and c), paragraph 2, sub-paragraph c);*

*Article 14, sub-paragraph a);*

*Article 14, sub-paragraph b) only in case of the Czech, German, and Polish languages;*

*Ruthenian and Ukrainian:*

*Article 8, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indent ii, sub-paragraph b) indent ii, sub-paragraph c) indent ii, sub-paragraph d) indent ii, sub-paragraph e) indent ii,*

*sub-paragraph f) indent ii, sub-paragraphs g), h), and i);*

*Article 9, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indents ii and iii, sub-paragraph b) indents ii and iii, sub-paragraph c) indents ii and iii, sub-paragraph d), paragraph 3;*

*Article 10, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indents iii and iv, paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs b), c), d), f), and g), paragraph 3, sub-paragraph c), paragraph 4 sub-paragraphs a) and c), paragraph 5;*

*Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indent iii, sub-paragraph b) indent ii, sub-paragraph c) indent ii, sub-paragraph d), sub-paragraph e) indent i,*

*sub-paragraph f) indent ii, paragraphs 2 and 3;*

*Article 12, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a), b), c), d), e), f), and g), paragraphs 2 and 3;*

*Article 13, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a), b), and c), paragraph 2, sub-paragraph c);*

*Article 14, sub-paragraph a);*

*Article 14, sub-paragraph b) only in case of the Ukrainian language;*

*Hungarian:*

*Article 8, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indent i, sub-paragraph b) indent i, sub-paragraph c) indent i, sub-paragraph d) indent i, sub-paragraph e) indent i, sub-paragraph f) indent i, sub-paragraphs g), h) and i);*

*Article 9, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indents ii and iii, sub-paragraph b) indents ii and iii, sub-paragraph c) indents ii and iii, sub-paragraph d), paragraph 2, sub-paragraph a), paragraph 3;*

*Article 10, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indent ii, paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs a), b), c), d), f), and g), paragraph 3, sub-paragraphs b) and c), paragraph 4, sub-paragraphs a) and c), paragraph 5;*

*Article 11, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indent iii, sub-paragraph b) indent ii, sub-paragraph c) indent ii, sub-paragraph d), sub-paragraph e) indent i, sub-paragraph f) indent i, paragraphs 2 and 3;*

*Article 12, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a), b), c), d), e), f), and g), paragraphs 2 and 3;  
Article 13, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a), b), and c), paragraph 2, sub-paragraph c);  
Article 14, sub-paragraphs a) and b).*

4. *The Slovak Republic states that Article 8, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph e) indent i applies to the training of pedagogues, theologians, cultural and educational staff without detriment to the training provided in the state language. In this respect, most subjects, including major subjects, are taught in the relevant minority language fully complying with the Slovak legislation governing university education.*

5. *The Slovak Republic states that Article 10, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) indent ii, Article 10, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph a) and Article 10, paragraph 3, sub-paragraph b) will be interpreted without detriment to the use of the state language in accordance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and in compliance with the legal system of the Slovak Republic.*

6. *The Slovak Republic states that Article 12, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph e) and Article 13, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph c) can be applied if the effects of such application do not contradict other provisions of the Slovak legislation banning discrimination of Slovak nationals in labour law relations within the territory of the Slovak Republic.*

The main tasks with regard to the fulfilment of the commitments of the Charter have been determined by the Government's Resolution No. 27 of 17 January 2001 on the proposal of signature of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, wherein the Government of the Slovak Republic *inter alia*:

- Stated its consent with the signature of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages,
- Established the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups as its consultative body in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 4 of the Charter,
- Tasked the Vice-Prime-Minister P. Csáky to submit the *comprehensive report on legislative, financial and other measures adopted in order to ensure fulfilment of the commitments of the Slovak Republic arising from the applied provisions of the Charter*, in co-operation with the Minister of Culture, Minister of Education, Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior, Minister of Economy, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Minister of Health, Minister of Environment and the Minister of Construction and Regional Development until 30 September 2001,
- Tasked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ensure submission of the aggregate report on fulfilment of the commitments of the Slovak Republic arising from the Charter to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
- Tasked the Minister of Education, Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior, Minister of Culture, Minister of Economy, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Minister of Health, Minister of Environment and the Minister of Construction and Regional Development to ensure implementation of the respective provisions of the Charter in their area of responsibility.

## ***2. Minority and regional languages in the meaning of Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Charter and the notion of territory:***

In accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Charter, the "regional or minority languages" in the Slovak Republic are as follows: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish, Romany, Ruthenian, and Ukrainian.

The Slovak Republic declares that according to Article 1, sub-paragraph b) of the Charter the notion "territory in which the regional or minority language is used" applies to municipalities according to the Slovak Government Ordinance No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority represent at least 20 per cent of the population, of 25 August 1999. The above specified also applies to the application of Article 10 of the Charter.

According to paragraph 2 of the Slovak Republic Declaration related to the deposit of its instrument of ratification of the Charter, the notion "territory in which the regional or minority language is used" means the territory of any municipality listed in the Appendix to the Slovak Government Ordinance No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority represent at least 20 per cent of the population. There are 638 municipalities (towns and villages) meeting the above-specified criterion. Such municipalities are located in six regions and 38 districts in the Slovak Republic. Nine of them are municipalities where district bodies of state administration are based and in 15 of them branches of such bodies are based. Local government bodies are based in all of the above-mentioned municipalities.

## ***3. Non-territorial languages***

There are no provisions on territorial and non-territorial languages in the legislature of the Slovak Republic. The relevant criterion is the list of the minority languages and the number of inhabitants of the municipality using a minority language (as above).

## ***4. Demographic parameters:***

The demographic parameters of the structure of the population indicate that 14.2 per cent of Slovakia's population recognize themselves as members of national minorities and/or ethnic groups. According to the above-referred demographic characteristics, the Slovak Republic could be considered a standard European country with a portion of its population represented by national minorities and/or ethnic groups.

The demographic indicators serve as the basis for Slovakia's policy towards so-called autochthonous national minorities. The dominant role of the state policy in this area is to preserve the cultural and linguistic identity of citizens belonging to national minorities and to provide for their non-discriminatory treatment in the social, cultural and educational systems. It is indisputable that language as one of the key signs of cultural identity plays a token role in the preservation and development of minority communities which pass the values and attributes of their culture from generation to generation.

The following table of the demographic distribution of the population indicates that the largest national minority is Hungarian (9.7 per cent) living mainly in the Southern part of the country

bordering with Hungary. As far as the territorial concentration is concerned, the Ruthenian (0.4 per cent) and the Ukrainian (0.2 per cent) minorities are concentrated in the Prešov region, where these communities are found farther north towards the Polish border and east towards the Ukrainian border respectively, as well as the Polish national minority residing in the northern regions, especially in the High Tatras' area, but spread out also in other localities. In respect of other autochthonous national minorities – Roma (1.7 per cent), German (0.1 per cent), Bulgarian (0,02 per cent) and partially Croatian (0.01 per cent) – their pattern of territorial occupation is more or less concentrated, dispersed and uneven.

The census carried out in May 2001 shows that 763,601 citizens (14.2 per cent) out of the total population of 5,379,455 declared themselves as belonging to other than the Slovak nationality. The following chart shows the numbers of persons declaring themselves as belonging to each national minority according to the census results of 1980, 1991 and 2001. It should be pointed out that the census of 1980 and 1991 were carried out under the conditions of the Czechoslovak Federation.

Nationality	1980		1991		2001	
Slovak	4 317 008	86,5 %	4 519 328	85,7%	4 614 854	85,8%
Hungarian	559 490	11,2%	567 296	10,8%	520 528	9,7%
Roma	-	-	75 802	1,4%	89 920	1,7%
Czech	57 197	1,1%	52 884	1,0%	44 620	0,8%
Ruthenian	-	-	17 197	0,3%	24 201	0,4%
Ukrainian	36 850	0,7%	13 281	0,3%	10 814	0,2%
German	2 918	0,1%	5 414	0,1%	5 405	0,1%
Moravian	-	-	6 442	0,1%	2 348	0,1%
Croatian	-	-	-	-	890	0,02%
Polish	2 053	0,04%	2 659	0,05%	2 602	0,04%
Bulgarian	-	-	1 400	0,02%	1 179	0,02%
Jewish	-	-	134	0,002%	218	0,004%
Other	2 898	0,1%	3 476	0,06%	5 350	0,1%
Unidentified	10 344	0,2%	8 782	0,16%	56 526	1,1%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4 991 168</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5 274 335</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5 379 455</b>	<b>100%</b>

### ***5. Bodies and organisations dealing with the protection of the languages of the minorities in the Slovak Republic***

The Slovak Republic has not created a special public power body to be concentrated solely on the implementation of the Charter including on the issue of the protection of the regional or minority languages. The protection of the minority languages constitutes a component of a broader protection of the national minorities provided on different levels in connection with the protection of the fundamental human rights and freedoms. On the level of Government the issues of the national minorities and ethnic groups including protection of minority languages fall under the responsibility of the Vice-Prime-Minister of the Slovak Government for the European Integration, Human Rights and Minorities. As a consultative body on the issues concerned acts the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, where the members are representatives of the national minorities (the Government's Resolution No. 27 of 17 January 2001). The ministries in the scope of their responsibilities take into consideration the issues concerned while implementing the judicial regulations mentioned in the section 1. of this part. The Constitutional Court



of the Slovak Republic adjudicates on the filings pertaining to the constitutional rights of the citizens including the right to use a language of a national minority.

#### **6. Legal protection (Legislation):**

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages according to Article 7 paragraph 5 of the Slovak Constitution enjoys preference before laws. At the same time it is an international treaty and more elaborate national legal regulation is required for its implementation. Most of the relevant internal regulations relating to the issues embedded in the Charter have been adopted before its signature. Many of them have been amended afterwards.

Among internal legal regulations relating to the subject matter for use of the languages of national minorities or foreign languages and use of foreign names and surnames, names of settlements, streets and other public places are relevant mainly:

##### A) Constitutional law:

1. Constitutional Law No. 23/1991 Coll. introducing the Bill of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (notably Articles 25, and 27);
2. Constitution of the Slovak Republic No. 460/1992 Coll. as amended by Constitutional Law No. 244/1998 Coll., Constitutional Law No. 9/1999 Coll. and Constitutional Law No. 90/2001 Coll. (hereinafter referred to as the "Slovak Constitution") in Article 6, Article 34 Section 1 and 2 and Article 47 Section 4;
3. Linguistic aspect of the exercise of the fundamental rights and freedoms - PL. of the Constitutional Court 8/96 (Collection of the Findings and Resolutions of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic No. 14/97)

##### B) Education

1. Act No. 29/1984 Coll. on the system of primary and secondary schools as amended, republished in the Act No. 350/1994 Coll. (Section 3 and 3a);
2. Ministry of Education Decree No. 536/1991 Coll. on establishment and operation of the clerical schools;
3. Act No. 542/1990 Coll. on state administration in the education sector and school self government as amended;
4. Government Ordinance No. 113/1991 Coll. on the provision of subsidies from the state budget to private schools;
5. Decree of Ministry of Education and Science No. 102/1991 Coll. on the completion of education at secondary schools, secondary vocational schools, and apprentice schools as amended;
6. Act No. 279/1993 Coll. on school facilities as amended (Sections 2 and 2a);
7. Ministry of Education Decree No. 280/1994 Coll. on private schools (Sections 3 and 6);
8. Ministry of Education Decree No. 353/1994 Coll. on pre-school education facilities as amended (Section 3 paragraph 3, Sections 4 and 7);
9. Ministry of Education Decree No. 145/1995 Coll. on enrolment at secondary schools as amended;
10. Ministry of Education Decree No. 217/1999 Coll. on pedagogic documentation;
11. Ministry of Education Decree No. 32/2000 Coll. on school inspection;

12. Act No. 416/2001 Coll. on the delegation of certain powers and responsibilities from state administration to municipalities and regions as amended (Section 3 paragraph 3);
13. Act No. 334/2002 Coll., Article II that amends Act No. 29/1984 Coll. as amended (School Law) (Section 51a)

#### C) Judiciary:

1. Act No. 141/1961 Coll. on criminal judicial procedure (Code of Criminal Procedure) (Section 2 paragraph 14, Section 28, Section 55, Section 434);
2. Code of Civil Judicial Procedure No. 99/1963 Coll. (Section 18, Section 141);
3. Act No. 38/1993 Coll. on the organization of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, procedure before the Constitutional Court and the status of its judges as amended by Act No. 293/1995 Coll. (Section 23);
4. Act No. 335/1991 Coll. on courts and judges (Section 7 paragraph 3);
5. Act No. 36/1967 Coll. on experts and interpreters as amended;

#### D) State and Public Administration:

1. Act No. 71/1967 Coll. on administrative law procedure (in continuation of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on use of the languages of national minorities);
2. Act No. 83/1990 Coll. on assembly of citizens as amended;
3. Act No. 84/1990 Coll. on the right of assembly as amended by Act No. 175/1990 Coll.;
4. Act No. 85/1990 Coll. on the right of petition as amended;
5. Act No. 300/1993 Coll. on first name and surname as amended;
6. Act No. 154/1994 Coll. on registers;
7. Act No. 191/1994 Coll. on the names and signs of municipalities in minority languages;
8. Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the state language of the Slovak Republic as amended by the Finding of the Constitutional Court published under No. 260/1997 Coll. and Act No. 5/1999;
9. Act No. 52/1998 Coll. on the protection of personal data in information systems as amended by Act No. 241/2001 Coll.
10. Act No. 152/1998 Coll. on complaints;
11. Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the use of the languages of national minorities;
12. Government Ordinance No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the list of settlements in which citizens belonging to a national minority constitute at least 20 per cent of population;
13. Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information;
14. Act No. 564/2001 Coll. on public defender of rights;
15. Act No. 612/2002 Coll. - full version of Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on municipal establishment (Section 1a. Section 2b and Section 4 paragraph 3 r)

#### E) Media:

1. Act No. 254/ 1991 Coll. on Slovak Television;
2. Act No. 255/1991 Coll. on Slovak Radio;
3. Act No. 308/2000 Coll. on broadcasting and retransmission and on amendment of Act No. 195/2000 on telecommunications (Section 16 g, Section 49 paragraph 4 f);

#### F) Cultural, economic and social life:

1. Act No. 634/1992 Coll. on consumer protection;
2. Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the state language of the Slovak Republic as amended;
3. Act No. 384/1997 Coll. on theatres (Section 3 paragraph 3)
4. Act No. 312/2002 Coll. on civil service as amended (Section 14);

5. Act No. 313/2002 Coll. on public service as amended;
6. Government Ordinance No. 117/2002 Coll. on special requirements in respect of safety and health at work in mining and extraction of unlisted minerals;

To provide a full picture in this respect, the following are international multilateral conventions, which are binding upon the Slovak Republic (in addition to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages published under No. 588/2001 in the Slovak Collection of Laws):

- a) Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms published under No. 209/1992 Coll.;
- b) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination published under No. 95/1974 Coll.;
- c) International Pact on Civil and Political Rights published under No. 120/1976 Coll.;
- d) International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights published under No. 120/1976 Coll.;
- e) Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities published under No. 160/1998 Coll.;
- f) European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities published under No. 78/2001 Coll.

#### ***7. Bodies contributing to the preparation of the Report on implementation:***

The relevant central bodies of state administration in the Slovak Republic were involved in the preparation of this Report, notably the Office of the Government, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Economy, and others.

#### ***8. Measures taken for improvement of public information on the rights and obligations flowing from application of the Charter***

The text of the Charter has been published in the Collection of Laws under No. 588/2001 in Slovak.

## **PART II**

### ***Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1***

#### **Article 7 – Objectives and principles**

1. *"In respect of regional or minority languages, within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:*

- a) *the recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth;*
- b) *the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question;*
- c) *the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them;*
- d) *the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life;*
- e) *the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;*
- f) *the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;*
- g) *the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;*
- h) *the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions;*
- i) *the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.*

2. *The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.*

3. *The Parties undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.*

*4. In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups, which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.*

*5. The Parties undertake to apply, mutatis mutandis, the principles listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 above to non-territorial languages. However, as far as these languages are concerned, the nature and scope of the measures to be taken to give effect to this Charter shall be determined in a flexible manner, bearing in mind the needs and wishes, and respecting the traditions and characteristics, of the groups which use the languages concerned."*

### **Policy:**

Through its minority policy the Slovak Government strives to attain its key objectives in this area and the foremost principle of the protection of individuals belonging to national minorities, notably:

- to provide for the equality of all citizens before law, which means to provide for the fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens in the Slovak Republic irrespectively of sex, race, colour of skin, language, creed and religion, political or other beliefs, national or social origin, affiliation to a nation of ethnic group, property, descent, or another status.
- to provide for the full integration of all citizens into the society;
- to provide for the preservation of the cultural values of the national minorities as a part of the cultural heritage of the state.

The national minorities living in the Slovak Republic enjoy a vibrant cultural life expressed through the existence and activities of the minorities' culture associations. Such organisations freely, independently and actively co-ordinate the activities of many active ensembles and companies and a rich gamut of various valuable educational and cultural events. The broad range of interesting activities carried out by amateur ensembles and companies is accompanied with the activities of professional theatres, professional dance and singing groups, publishing houses, museums, the periodic and non-periodic press of the minorities.

### **Legislation:**

The legislative basis for the implementation and application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic are the provisions of the Slovak Constitution (Act No. 460/1992 Coll. as amended by Constitutional Laws No. 244/1998 Coll., 9/1999 Coll. and 90/2001 Coll.), notably Articles 6 and 34.

Article 6 of the Slovak Constitution reads as follows: "*(1) The Slovak language is the state language of the Slovak Republic. (2) The use of languages other than the state language in official communications shall be determined by law.*" This constitutional provision is addressed in detail by Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the state language of the Slovak Republic, which regulates the use of the state language in the fields of education (Section 4), the judiciary (Section 7), state and public administration (Section 3), the media and culture (Section 5), economic services and health (Section 8) and Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the use of the languages of national minorities, which regulates the use of minority languages, notably in the official communication.

Article 33 of the Slovak Constitution declares that *'membership of any national minority or ethnic group must not be to anyone's detriment'*. Article 34, paragraph 1 of the Constitution states that *"Citizens forming national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic shall be guaranteed their full development, particularly the right to develop their own culture together with other members of the minority or ethnic group, the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, the right to associate in national minority associations, and the right to establish and maintain educational and cultural institutions."* Furthermore, paragraph 2 of this Article stipulates *"...in addition to the right to master the state language, a) the right to education in their own language, b) the right to use their language in official communications, c) the right to participate in the solution of affairs concerning national minorities and ethnic groups."* These provisions are addressed in detail by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the use of languages of national minorities – along with other laws which it refers to – deals with the provisions of the Charter in the fields of state and public administration (Sections 2, 3 and 7; regarding the Czech language Sections 6 and 7), of naming streets and other local geographic items, important information, of providing information on generally binding judicial regulations also in the minority language (Section 4), and of the judiciary. Government Ordinance No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority represent at least 20 per cent of the population indicates the following minority languages in the Slovak Republic: Hungarian, German, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, and Roma.

Article 44 of the Slovak Constitution subsequently lays down the obligation of everyone *"to protect and enhance the environment and the cultural heritage."*

The Preamble of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the use of the languages of national minorities declares the following:

*"having regard to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and international treaties by which the Slovak Republic is bound, respecting the protection and development of fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority, ... acknowledging and appreciating the significance of the mother tongues of the citizens of the Slovak Republic who belong to a national minority, as a manifestation of the cultural heritage of the state, ...."*

The Slovak Republic applies the principle embedded in the European Charter of regional or minority languages relating to facilitating of oral and written expression in the regional or minority language as follows from the wording of Article 34 paragraph 2 of the Slovak Constitution and in the sense of the valid legislation as follows:

*"In addition to the right to master the state language, citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups also have, under conditions defined by law, a guaranteed*

- a) right to education in their own language,*
- b) right to use their language in official communications,*
- c) the right to participate in the solution of affairs concerning national minorities and ethnic groups."*

a) The right to education in the minority or foreign language is regulated by Act No. 29/1984 Coll. on the system of the primary and secondary schools as amended (so called school law), particularly in Sections 3 and 3a. According to the Section 3 "Education is conducted in the state language. Citizens of the Czech, Hungarian, German, Polish and Ukrainian (Ruthenian) nationality have the right of education in their own language in the extent measured to the interest of their national development." According to the Section 3a "Education since the 5th year of primary school and on secondary schools can be conducted also in a foreign language with the consent of the Ministry of Education. In the schools or classes where instruction is realized in a foreign language, the subject Slovak language and literature shall be part of it. As foreign language for the purpose of this law is understood a language of a foreign State, with which the Slovak Republic have concluded a cultural agreement, according to which a class or school was established with the language of that State as the second language of instruction.

b) With regard to the right to use languages of national minorities in the official communications the Slovak Republic in the second clause upon the depositing of its instrument of ratification declared according to Article 1 b) of the Charter that the notion "*territory in which the regional or minority language is used*" applies to municipalities according to Slovak Government Ordinance No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority represent at least 20 per cent of the population as of 25 August 1999 which also applies to the implementation of Article 10 of the Charter. As follows from these preconditions, this right can be exercised by the persons belonging to national minorities in fact only in the relation to the local state administration bodies, i. e. to the regional offices and municipal authorities. This applies also to issuing of decisions. The public documents can be issued only in the state language (as mentioned below).

The rules of the use of the languages of national minorities in official communications involving individuals belonging to a national minority are laid down by the provisions of the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the use of the languages of national minorities. However, in respect of the use of a national minority language in dealings before courts Section 5, sub-section 1 of the above-specified Act makes reference to specific laws (the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Act on the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, and the Act on courts and judges):

*(1) The right to use a national minority language in dealings before courts and in other areas shall be governed by specific laws.*

Under Article 6 of the Slovak Constitution the Slovak language is the state language within the territory of the Slovak Republic:

*(1) Slovak is the state language on the territory of the Slovak Republic.*

*(2) The use of other languages in dealings with the authorities will be regulated by law.*

The use of the state language in judicial and administrative law procedures is governed by Section 7 of the Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the state language, as amended:

*(1) Mutual communication between courts and citizens, judicial procedure, administrative law procedure, decisions and protocols of courts and administrative law bodies are made and issued in the state language.*



*(2) The rights of individuals belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups or the rights of aliens not mastering the state language laid down by specific legislation shall remain unaffected.*

In respect of these legal arrangements, the following resolution of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic of 1 April 1996 (File No. I. US 19/96) should be taken into consideration:

*"The obligation to respect and comply with the provisions of the Act governing the use of the state language does not constitute the violation of the fundamental right of a citizen belonging to a national minority or ethnic group to use his/her own language in official communication as the Slovak Constitution lays down that the conditions for the use of this right will be regulated by special law.."*

The above-referred indicates that the use of a regional or minority language in the Slovak Republic in civil and criminal proceedings as well as in proceedings in administrative matters is directly linked to the application of Section 5 of the Act on the use of the languages of national minorities and Section 7 of the Act on the state language accompanied with specific procedural law provisions providing for the use of such languages in accordance with Article 47, paragraph 4 of the Slovak Constitution:

*"Anyone who declares that he does not have a command of the language in which the proceedings according to section 2 are conducted has the right to an interpreter."*

In addition to the above-quoted Article of the Slovak Constitution, Article 47, paragraph 2 of the Slovak Constitution says:

*"Everyone has the right to legal assistance in court proceedings or proceedings before other state or public administration bodies. He has this right from the very start of the proceedings, under conditions defined by law."*

The purpose of such Article of the Slovak Constitution is to provide for the equality of the parties to proceedings as stipulated in Article 47, paragraph 3 of the Slovak Constitution:

*"All participants in proceedings according to section 2 are equal."*

The application of this principle in civil as well as penal proceedings is reflected in legislation laying down the right to an interpreter to everyone who declares that he/she does not understand the state language. This undoubtedly applies to any national of the Slovak Republic stating that he/she only understands a regional or minority language. The above specified indicates that the state language is used in proceedings before courts in the Slovak Republic, in written as well as oral communication. Anyone stating that he/she does not understand the state language has the right to an interpreter according to the applicable legal system. This principle is also expressed in Section 7, sub-section 3 of the Act on courts and judges:

*"Everyone may communicate in his/her mother tongue in proceedings before court. The Act stipulates when the costs of interpreting are to be borne by the state."*

The Slovak legal system fully respects the undertaking to eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. This is also reflected in Article 33 of the Slovak Constitution, which stipulates the following:

*"The membership of any national minority or ethnic group must not be to anyone's detriment".*

This general provision also indicates that the use of a regional or minority language as one of the aspects of membership of a national minority or ethnic group must not be to anyone's detriment. Article 12 of the Slovak Constitution can also be interpreted to this end:

(1) *"People are free and equal in their dignity and rights. Basic rights and liberties are inviolable, inalienable, secured by law, and unchallengeable.*

(2) *Basic rights and liberties on the territory of the Slovak Republic are guaranteed to everyone regardless of sex, race, colour of skin, language, creed and religion, political or other beliefs, national or social origin, affiliation to a nation or ethnic group, property, descent, or another status. No one must be harmed, preferred, or discriminated against on these grounds.*

(3) *Everyone has the right to freely decide on his nationality. Any influence on this decision and any form of pressure aimed at assimilation are forbidden.*

(4) *No one must be restricted in his rights because he upholds his basic rights and liberties."*

The above specified indicates that the applicable legal system does not provide any legal basis for creating differences concerning the use of a regional or minority language. In this respect, it should also be noted that there are no legal provisions concerning proceedings before courts in the Slovak Republic that would give rise to such differences or distinction intended to discourage the use of such languages.

Act No. 254/1991 Coll. on the Slovak Television and Act No. 255/1991 on the Slovak Radio contain the following regulation:

*Section 3 paragraph 3 "Slovak Television ensures by means of radio broadcasting in mother tongues the exercise of the interests of nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic."*

*Section 5 paragraph 2 "Slovak Radio ensures by means of radio broadcasting in mother tongues the exercise of the interests of nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic."*

Act No. 191/1994 Coll. on the names and signs of municipalities in minority languages determines that (Section 1 paragraph 1) "Municipalities where persons belonging to a national minority constitute at least 20 per cent of the population (hereinafter 'municipality') shall be identified in the language of the national minority on separate traffic signs indicating the beginning and the end of the municipality." "(3) List of the names of the municipalities in the languages of the national minorities is in the Annex to

this law; names of municipalities are of local nature" "Paragraph 3 (1) A municipality may decide by means of a vote of its inhabitants on changing the name of a municipality given in Annex to this law and may thus determine the name of the municipality in the language of a national minority, if the name is not stated in the Annex to this law." According to Section 3 paragraph (3) "Provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 do not refer to municipalities whose name was changed in the period 1867 - 1918 or 1938 - 1945." Thus the Act makes an exception from the above mentioned principle when there is fulfilled a criterion of per cent representation. This relates e. g. to the municipalities of Gabčíkovo, Štúrovo, Kollárovo, Sládkovicovo, Jesenské etc.

In order to provide clear overview it would be appropriate to include a basic information on the Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on state language of the Slovak Republic, which determines:

"Section 3 Usage of the state language in official contacts

(1) State bodies and state organizations, bodies of territorial self-administration and bodies of public and legal institutions (hereafter only public and legal organs) use obligatorily the state language while performing their duties on the whole territory of the Slovak Republic. Showing of adequate knowledge of the state language orally and in writing is the precondition of acceptance to work or to a similar labour relation and the assumption of performing the agreed-upon work in determined working activity in legal and public bodies.

(2) Employees and functionaries of public and legal bodies, transport and communication employees as well as members of armed forces, armed security corps, other armed corps and fire corps use the state language in official communication.

(3) In the state language

a) laws, governmental acts and other generally binding legal regulations including regulations of the territorial self-administration bodies, decisions and other public deeds are published,

b) negotiations of public and legal bodies are conducted,

c) entire official agenda (registers, minutes, resolutions, statistics, registers, balances, official records, information for public, etc.) and agenda of churches and religious communities for public is conducted,

d) official names of municipalities and their parts, names of streets and other public spaces, other geographical names as well as data on state map works including cadastre maps are stated; names of municipalities in other languages is treated by a special law,

e) chronicles of municipalities are written. Possible other-language wording is translation from the state language.

(4) Legal and public organs and organizations established by them are obligated to use the state language in all information systems and in mutual contacts.

(5) Repealed since 4 October 1997."

The original wording of the paragraph (5) was: "Written presentations of citizens determined for public and legal bodies are presented in the state language." The reason of repeal of this provision

was the finding of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic of 1997, in which the Constitutional Court stated that the provision of Section 3 paragraph 5 of the Act (in connection with the provision of Section 12 in extent in which it applies to the Slovak citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups) did not correspond to Article 34 paragraph 2 b) of the Slovak Constitution which stated that "(2) In addition to the right to master the state language, citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups also have, under conditions defined by law, a guaranteed... b) right to use their language in official communication." Section 12 of the Act on state language repealed the original Act of the Slovak National Council No. 428/1990 Coll. on official language in the Slovak Republic.

"(6) Each citizen of the Slovak Republic has the right to free adjustment of his name and surname into Slovak spelling form.

#### Section 4

##### Usage of the state language in schools

(1) Learning of the state language is obligatory at all primary and secondary schools. Other than the state language is the instructional language and examining language to extent determined by special regulations.

(2) Pedagogical workers at all schools and in school facilities on the territory of the Slovak Republic with the exception of foreign pedagogues and lecturers are obliged to speak and use the state language in word and in writing.

(3) The entire pedagogical documentation is conducted in the state language.

(4) Textbooks and instructional texts used in the education process in the Slovak Republic are published in the state language besides textbooks and instructional texts for study in the language of national minorities, ethnic groups and other foreign languages. Their publishing and use is treated by special regulations.

(5) Provisions of para 1, 2 and 4 do not refer to usage of the state language in study at universities, in study of other languages or in education in other than the state language 8) nor for using textbooks and instructional texts in study at universities.

#### Section 5

##### Usage of the state language in mass information media at cultural events and public gatherings

(1) Broadcasting on radio and television is performed in the state language on the whole territory of the Slovak Republic. Exceptions are

a) other language radio programmes and foreign language television programmes consisting of audiovisual works and other sound and pictorial recordings with subtitles in the state language or otherwise fulfilling the requirement of basic understandability from the point of view of the state language,

b) foreign language broadcasting of Slovak radio for foreign countries, television and radio language courses and programmes with similar orientation,

c) music programmes with original texts.

Broadcasting in languages of national minorities and ethnic groups are treated by special regulations.

(2) Other language audiovisual works determined for children up to 12 years must be dubbed into the state language.

(3) Operators of radio and television broadcasting, announcers, moderators and editors are obligated to use the state language in broadcasting.

(4) Broadcasting of regional or local stations, radio stations and radio facilities is performed, in principle, in the state language. Other languages may be used before a particular programme is broadcast in the state language.

(5) Periodical and non-periodical publications are published in the state language. Publishing of different language print is treated by the special regulation,

(6) Occasional print determined for public, catalogues of galleries and museums, libraries, cinema, theatre, concert and other cultural event programmes are published in the state language. In case of need, they may contain translations into different languages.

(7) Cultural and educational events are performed in the state language, or in another language if they fulfil the requirement of basic understandability from the point of view of the state language. The exception is formed by cultural events of national minorities, ethnic groups, foreign artists appearing as guests and music works with original texts. Accompanying presentation of programmes will first be expressed in the state language.

(8) Each participant of a gathering or lecture on the territory of the Slovak Republic has the right to present his speech in the state language.

## Section 6

Usage of the state language in armed forces, in armed corps and in fire corps

(1) The state language is used in official relations in the Army of the Slovak Republic, in the forces of the Home Office of the Slovak Republic, in the Police Corps, in the Slovak Information Service, in the Corps of prison and justice guard of the Slovak Republic, in Railway Police of the Slovak Republic and in municipal police.

(2) The entire agenda and documentation of armed forces, armed security corps, other armed corps and fire corps is carried in the state language.

(3) Provision of para. 1 does not refer to air forces during flight operation and on international activities of armed corps.

## Section 7

Usage of the state language in court and administrative proceedings

(1) Mutual contact of courts with citizens, court proceedings, administrative proceedings, decisions and minutes from courts and administrative organs are carried and published in the state language.

(2) Rights of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups or rights of foreigners who does not speak the state language, following from special regulations 12) remain untouched.

## Section 8

### Usage of the state language in economy, services and health system

(1) In the interest of the consumer, the usage of the state language is obligatory in marking the contents of domestic or imported goods, in instructions for usage of goods, especially groceries and medicaments, in guarantee conditions and other information for consumers. 13)

(2) Written legal acts in public and legal relation or in similar labour relations are made in the state language.

(3) Finance and technical documentation, Slovak technical standards, statutes of associations, groups, political parties, political movements and trade companies are made in the state language.

(4) The entire agenda of health facilities is made in the state language. Contacts of health personnel with patients is usually made in the state language; if a citizen or foreigner does not speak the state language, also in the language in which it is possible to communicate with the patient.

(5) In proceedings before public and legal bodies on contracts treating binding relations, only wording in the state language is acknowledged.

(6) All notices (signs), advertisements and announcements determined for informing the public, especially in shops, at sports centres, in pubs, in streets, along roads and above them, at airports, in bus stations and railway stations, in rail wagons and in mass transport vehicles must be stated in the state language. They may be translated into other languages, but different language texts follow after the equally large text in the state language.

The Government in its Resolution No. 27 of 17 January 2001 tasked Vice-Prime-Minister Pál Csáky to submit the *comprehensive report on legislative, financial and other measures adopted in order to ensure fulfilment of the commitments of the Slovak Republic arising from the applied provisions of the Charter*, in co-operation with the Minister of Culture, Minister of Education, Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior, Minister of Economy, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Minister of Health, Minister of Environment and the Minister of Construction and Regional Development until 30 September 2001. The said Government's Resolution also tasked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ensure submission of the aggregate report of the Minister of Education, Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior, Minister of Culture, Minister of Economy, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Minister of Health, Minister of Environment and the Minister of Construction and Regional Development on fulfilment of the commitments of the Slovak Republic arising from the Charter to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

The new Government formed after the parliamentary elections, which took place in September 2002 declared in its Policy Statement of November 2002 (Part II, 1. Democratic State) that "the Government is aware of the multiethnic character of the Slovak society; it therefore commits itself to countering all forms of intolerance. The Government undertakes to apply the approved provisions of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. The Government will prepare a draft act on minorities, which will also deal with the financing of minority cultures.

The Government sees the resolution of the Roma issue as a matter of priority and will continue to support specific development programmes and provide appropriate funding to ensure that the situation and integration of Roma into the society improve. The Government will deliver a

continuation of the strategy to address the situation of the Roma community and complete the expert and specific capacities directly in regions with large Roma populations in the interest of reinforcing the efficiency of implementation of individual objectives. The Government will continue to implement successful projects in the field of education, culture, housing and infrastructure, as well as in the social area, while paying attention to the aspects of harmonic co-existence between Roma and non-Roma citizens.”

Further in the Chapter Education and Training / Higher Education the Policy Statement of the Government puts forward: "To overcome the differences in the level and structure of education, the Government undertakes to establish a university for the Hungarian minority within the first year of the term of office." The Government's bill on establishment of the J. Selye's University in Komárno and on amendment of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on higher education and on amendments of some acts as amended was passed by the National Council of the Slovak Republic on 23 October 2003.

According to the Government's Plan of Legislation for 2003 had to be prepared the new bill on the Slovak Television and Slovak Radio in June 2003, in September the legislative intent on education and training and in December the proposal of the legislative intent of the media law, as well as the bill on financing of national minorities' culture and the bill on minorities.

As follows from the above, the Government of the Slovak Republic does not consider the achieved degree of implementation of the Charter a final one and wherever it would be necessary – including on the basis of the assessment by the Committee of Experts and in accordance with the resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe – the Slovak Government is ready to take appropriate measures.



### **PART III**

#### *Application of the provisions of the Charter according to its Article 2, paragraph 2*

#### **Languages : Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Polish, and Roma:**

#### **Article 8 – Education**

##### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen:**

*1. With regard to education, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used, according to the situation of each of these languages, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State:*

- a) to make available pre-school education or a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient,*
- b) to provide, within primary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum,*
- c) to provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum,*
- d) to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum,*
- e) to provide means for the study of these languages as university and higher education subjects,*
- f) to offer such languages as subjects of adult or continuing education courses,*
- g) to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language,*
- h) to provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs a to g accepted by the Party,*
- i) to set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring these measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of regional or minority languages and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public.*

##### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions:**

During the discussion and ratification of the Charter important legislation governing education for national minorities or ethnic groups in accordance Part I of the Charter were adopted. The following arrangements were introduced:

- the maintenance of bilingual pedagogical documentation at schools using a national minority language as the language of instruction and the issuance of bilingual school reports;
- secondary school entry exams for pupils from primary schools using a national minority language as the language of instruction for studies at schools using Slovak as the language of instruction on the subject of Slovak and Slovak literature within the scope of the curriculum of the primary

school they have attended and another main subject in the language used by the primary school they have attended as the language of instruction;

- the introduction of primary school zero classes into the school education system and the establishment of the pedagogical profession of assistant teacher; the assistants work as pedagogical staff at nursery schools, primary schools and special primary schools and promote the success in school of children and pupils from social and educational environments that provide lack of stimulation;
- the transfer of certain competences in the field of education from state administration authorities to municipalities and higher territorial units, effective from 1 July 2002.

### **Envisaged changes:**

A reform of primary and secondary education will be gradually implemented on the basis of the National Programme for the Development of Education and Training in the Slovak Republic in the coming 15 to 20 years, which was approved by the Slovak Government (Government Resolution No. 1193 of 19 December 2001) and the Parliamentary Committee on education, science, youth and sport (Resolution No. 368 of 7 May 2002).

In its Policy Statement (November 2002) the Slovak Government expressed its intention to deal with the several aspects of minority education, notably:

- to approve a new school law governing the field of education and training,
- to establish a university offering studies to citizens of Hungarian nationality in order to overcome differences in level of education and structure,
- to offer the possibility of choice of teaching in the mother tongue to the Ruthenian and Roma minorities,
- to address the outstanding aspects of public school financing,
- to provide for an open school system – the equality of establishment and development of religious and private schools, etc.
- to enhance the university education of the pedagogues belonging to the nationalities in their mother tongue in terms of certification.

### **The school network in the Slovak Republic in the school year 2001/2002:**

The right of national minorities to education under Article 34 of the Slovak Constitution is facilitated by the system of schools with the following languages of instruction:

#### ***a) German (only state schools):***

- kindergartens,
- primary schools,
- university (Department of German Studies of the Faculty of Arts and the Pedagogic Faculty of the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, Department of German, Dutch and Scandinavian Studies and the Department of the German Language and Literature of the Comenius University in Bratislava);

#### ***b) Roma, used as an auxiliary language of instruction (only state schools):***

- kindergartens,
- preparatory grades of primary and special schools with a high concentration of Roma pupils,
- Secondary School of Fine Arts in Košice,

- Private Gymnasium Košice
- university (Department of the Roma Culture at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra and its facilities in Spišská Nová Ves and Lucenec).

Following is an overview of the schools and school facilities where languages of nationalities have been taught in the school year 2001/2002. This overview does not encompass primary schools where minority languages and literature are taught as a subject and all other subjects are taught in Slovak. In statistics they are filed under the schools with Slovak as a language of instruction. The following minority languages are languages of instruction:

- Ruthenian* - 4 primary schools attended by 134 pupils in grades 1 to 8;
- German* - 6 primary schools attended by 1 052 pupils in grades 1 to 9;
- Ukrainian* - 17 primary schools attended by 526 pupils in grades 1 to 9;
- Roma* – Secondary School of Arts in the city of Košice with a total of 192 students.

## 1. NURSERY SCHOOLS

### a) state

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	2804	6862	141729
of which schools using Ruthenian as the language of instruction	0	0	8
Hungarian	277	557	9479
Slovak-Hungarian	101		
Ukrainian	22	34	534
Slovak-Ukrainian	3		
Slovak-German	1	1	22
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>3208</b>	<b>7454</b>	<b>151772</b>

### b) other

Founder/Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
municipality/Slovak	10	25	526
enterprise/Slovak	20	56	1103
private/Slovak	10	16	336
church/Slovak	10	19	408
church/Hungarian	2	2	32
civic association/Slovak	1	1	10
other/Slovak	2	3	45
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>2460</b>

<b>Nursery schools in Slovakia in total</b>	<b>3263</b>	<b>7576</b>	<b>154232</b>
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**Children in nursery schools by nationality**

Total number of children in nursery schools	154232
of which Slovak nationals	154028
of which:	
Slovak nationality	140546
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	46
Ukrainian	120
Ruthenian	60
Hungarian	12087
Polish	9
German	25
Roma	1016
other	119
foreigners	204

**2. PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**a) state**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	2053	25754	582669
of which schools with classes using German as the language of instruction	5	39	941
Hungarian	259	2114	41957
Slovak-Hungarian	29		
Ukrainian	7	53	579
Slovak-Ukrainian	1		
German	1	4	60
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>2350</b>	<b>27925</b>	<b>625265</b>

**b) private**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	2	8	79
Bulgarian	1	8	101
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>180</b>

c) church

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	82	1088	24498
Hungarian	12	64	1023
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>25521</b>

<b>Total number of primary schools in Slovakia</b>	<b>2447</b>	<b>29093</b>	<b>650966</b>
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**Primary school pupils by nationality**

Total number of pupils at primary schools		650966
of which Slovak nationals		650027
of which :		
Slovak nationality		589791
Czech, Moravian, Silesian		1267
Ukrainian		613
Ruthenian		255
Hungarian		52863
Polish		48
German		99
Roma		4654
other		437
foreigners		939

**3. GYMNASIA**

a) state

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	137	2116	63325
Hungarian	11	153	4046
Slovak-Hungarian	8		
Ukrainian	1	6	116
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>2275</b>	<b>67487</b>

**b) private**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	15	104	2407
Hungarian	1	7	170
other	1	4	38
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>2615</b>

**c) church**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	34	333	10054
Hungarian	4	18	459
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>10513</b>

<b>Total number of gymnasia in Slovakia</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>2741</b>	<b>80615</b>
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**Students of gymnasia by nationality**

Total number of students	80615
of which Slovak nationals	80434
of which:	
Slovak nationality	74104
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	264
Ukrainian	91
Ruthenian	56
Hungarian	5787
Polish	15
German	36
Roma	3
other	78
foreigners	181

**4. SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS****a) state**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	289	2970	81268
Hungarian	6	129	3285
Slovak-Hungarian	14		

<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>3099</b>	<b>84553</b>
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**b) private**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	25	140	3102
Hungarian	1	14	259
Slovak-Hungarian	2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>3361</b>

**c) church**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	4	35	862
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>862</b>

<b>Total number of secondary vocational schools in Slovakia</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>3288</b>	<b>88776</b>
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**Students of secondary vocational schools by nationality**

Total number of students	88776
of which Slovak nationals	88701
of which:	
Slovak nationality	81609
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	190
Ukrainian	618
Ruthenian	35
Hungarian	6131
Polish	5
German	13
Roma	62
other	38
foreigners	75

**5. SECONDARY APPRENTICE SCHOOLS AND APPRENTICES**

**a) state**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	326	4019	96093
Hungarian	5	56	1151

Slovak-Hungarian	22	306	6391
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>4381</b>	<b>103635</b>

**b) private**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	5	25	425
Hungarian	3	33	683
Slovak-Hungarian	2	13	186
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1294</b>

**c) church**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	5	39	909
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>909</b>

<b>Total number of secondary apprentice schools and apprentices in Slovakia</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>4562</b>	<b>105838</b>
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**Students of secondary apprentice schools and apprentices by nationality:**

Total number of students		105838
of which Slovak nationals		105774
of which:		
Slovak nationality		96309
Czech, Moravian, Silesian		220
Ukrainian		103
Ruthenian		48
Hungarian		8867
Polish		6
German		11
Roma		180
other		30
foreigners		64

**6. SPECIAL SCHOOLS**

**a) state**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	339	3192	29040



Hungarian	14	180	1543
Slovak-Hungarian	17		
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>3372</b>	<b>30583</b>

**b) private**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	2	4	26

**c) church**

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	5	36	258

<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>3412</b>	<b>30867</b>
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**Pupils in special schools by nationality**

Total number of pupils at special schools	30867
of which Slovak nationals:	30855
of which:	
Slovak nationality	26522
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	33
Hungarian	2034
Ukrainian	9
Ruthenian	5
Polish	5
Roma	2240
other	7
foreigners	12

**Article 9 – Judicial authorities**

**Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

*1. The Parties undertake, in respect of those judicial districts in which the number of residents using the regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below, according to the situation of each of these languages and on condition that the use of the facilities afforded by the present paragraph is not considered by the judge to hamper the proper administration of justice:*

*a) in criminal proceedings to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language and to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral,*

*shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language;*

- b) in civil proceedings to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense and to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages;*
- c) in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense and to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;*
- d) to take steps to ensure that the application of sub-paragraphs b and c above and any necessary use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions**

In Article 47 of the Constitution concerning provisions for the use of a regional or minority language in proceedings before courts, the applicable legal system of the Slovak Republic goes beyond the framework of this provision of the Charter. This is associated with the Parties' commitment to allow users of regional or minority languages to use them in judicial districts located in the territory where they live. Act No. 184/1999 Coll. specifies the 20 percent threshold for the use of a minority language in official communication. However, by referring § 5 (1) of this Act, as regards the use of minority languages in court proceedings, to special legal norms, the validity and subsequent application of which is related to the whole territory of the Slovak Republic, it can be stated that the legal system of the Slovak Republic goes beyond this particular requirement of the Charter. The above means that, based on the application of the law on national minority languages, regional or minority languages can be used in court proceedings even outside judicial districts complying with the with the 20 percent threshold of population representing a national minority

- a) To ensure the application of this provision, the Code of Criminal Procedure in its Section 2, sub-section 14 stipulates the following:

*"Every person shall have the right to use his mother tongue before the criminal justice authorities."*

To ensure the exercise of this right, the criminal justice authorities are required to engage an interpreter in accordance with Section 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

*"If there is a need to translate the content of a statement or a written document or if the accused declares that he does not have a command the language of the proceedings, an interpreter shall be engaged; the interpreter may also act as the recorder."*

Similarly, the provision of Section 55, paragraph 3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is to be taken into consideration as it provides details concerning the principle laid down in Section 7, paragraph 1 of the Act on the state language.

*"Records of oral testimony from a person who does not have command of Slovak shall also be drawn up in Slovak; if a verbatim record of the testimony is necessary, the recorder or the interpreter shall also enter the relevant part of the testimony into the records in the language, in which the testimony was provided."*

The above-quoted provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure apply to all parties to proceedings, which means the accused, the defendant, any party to the case, the injured party, as well as the witness if such a person declares that he/she does not understand the language of the proceedings. The application of these provisions in practice is illustrated by extensive case law:

*R 34/1967: "If the defendant does not have a command of the language of the proceedings, the criminal justice authority is obliged to engage an interpreter under Section 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Failure to engage an interpreter for the proceedings constitutes a curtailment of the right of defence and grounds for the vacation of the judgment."*

*R 28/1981: "If a person who does not have a command of Czech or Slovak testifies before court as a witness, the court must engage an interpreter even if the presiding judge has a command of the language in which the witness gives testimony."*

*R 48/1994: "Under Section 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as amended by Act No. 558/1992 Coll. an interpreter must be also engaged if the accused claims that he/she does not have a command of the language of the proceedings. This is a subjective right of the accused to express himself/herself in his/her mother tongue. The above-specified indicates that the engagement of an interpreter does not depend on the opinion of the criminal justice authorities whether and to what extent the accused has a command of the Slovak language."*

The provisions of Section 2, paragraphs 14 and 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure are not only applied to the initial phase of criminal prosecution, but also to the period prior to the beginning of criminal prosecution, notably to the lodging of information on crime under Section 59 in connection with Section 158, paragraph 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure:

*Information on the facts indicating the commission of criminal offence shall be filed to prosecutor, investigator or police body; those are obliged to instruct informer on his/her responsibility for giving deliberately false entries. Prosecutor may handover the received information to investigator or police body for further procedures.*

Similarly, if any documentary evidence that either supports or refutes the alleged facts related to the criminal offence or the accused is provided in a regional or minority language, its translation is provided in accordance with Section 112, paragraph 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. However, it should be noted that the applicable legislation does not provide for the reverse procedure, i.e. the provision of translations of adopted decisions as it is indicated by the following adjudication:

*R 42/1976: "Written documents relating to the proceedings before court and issued in the Czech or Slovak languages in the course of criminal proceedings shall be delivered by courts to the parties to proceedings that do not command these languages, without translation into their mother tongue."*

According to Section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the costs of criminal proceedings, including the costs of sentence enforcement proceedings, shall be borne by the State. This provision indicates that in addition to costs related to the individual acts, the State also bears costs related to the engagement of an interpreter.

The above-quoted provisions show that the applicable legal system in the Slovak Republic enshrines the right to use a regional or minority language in criminal proceedings. As this right is guaranteed to any person stating that he/she does not have a command of the language of the proceedings, not limited to the accused, in any phase of criminal proceedings, the Slovak legislation governing this matter goes beyond the framework laid down by the relevant provision of the Charter. It is evident that the exercise of this right does not result in any extra costs to be incurred by such persons. The existing Code of Criminal Procedure thus fully respects the provisions of the Charter, which the Slovak Republic undertook to implement.

b) In its Section 18, the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure lays down the following:

*"The parties shall participate in civil proceedings on an equal footing. They have the right to use their mother tongue in proceedings before court. The court shall have to provide them with equal opportunities to exercise their rights."*

The above-referred provision reflects and lays down details relating to Article 12 of the Slovak Constitution, which governs the equality of participants in civil proceedings. This equality is ensured by means of the right to act before court in one's mother tongue, which means that participants in proceedings have the right to make petitions and other written motions as well as to make oral statements in their mother tongue, and the court is obliged to engage an interpreter to facilitate communication with the participant in his/her mother tongue. Costs relating to the engagement of an interpreter are borne by the State as stipulated by Section 141, sub-section 2 of the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure:

*"The costs of evidence that are not covered by the security, as well as cash expenses incurred by the appointed counsel, who is not an attorney-at-law, and costs related to the use of the party's mother tongue in the proceedings shall be borne by the State."*

The fact that this provision is applied in practise is well documented by case law:

*R 21/1986: "The duty to reimburse the costs of the engagement an interpreter so that a participant in civil judicial proceedings could act in his/her mother tongue must not be imposed on the participant. The same applies to an interpreter appointed by court to facilitate communication with a deaf-mute participant in proceedings."*

The above-specified shows that the existing legal system and legislation in the Slovak Republic allow for the use of a regional or minority language in civil proceedings before courts, to provide evidence and documents in regional and minority languages without any additional costs to be borne by those parties and thus this provision of the Charter is fully respected.

c) The provisions related to proceedings before courts in administrative matters are integral part of the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure. Part V of the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure contains

provisions concerning this particular field of law. This indicates that the general provisions of the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure, including the right to use one's mother tongue in proceedings before courts, analogously apply to proceedings before courts in administrative matters as it is required by Article 9, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph b) of the Charter.

d) As the above-outlined analysis of the Slovak legal system indicates the costs of interpreting and/or translation when a party to proceedings exercises its right to use a regional or minority language in civil proceedings or in administrative law proceedings are borne by the State. Such requirements are laid down by Article 9, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs b) and c) of the Charter.

## **Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services**

### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

1. *Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as it is reasonably possible:*

*a) iii) to ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications and receive a reply in these languages ; or*

*iv) to ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications in these languages.*

2. *In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:*

*b) the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages;*

*c) the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages;*

*d) the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages;*

*f) the use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;*

*g) the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.*

3. *With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible:*

*c) to allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request in these languages.*

4. *With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by the them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:*

*a) translation or interpretation as may be required;*

*c) compliance as far as possible with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of a regional or minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.*

5. *The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions**

The Slovak Republic complies with the undertakings accepted by it under Article 10 of the Charter. Measures taken by the Slovak Republic in this respect are in accordance with the adopted international documents as well as national legislation regulating these matters.

Slovakia makes all efforts to implement the following international documents in particular:

- the 1992 UN Declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, particularly Article 2, paragraph 1;
- Document of the Copenhagen Conference on Human Dimension, particularly Article 321;
- Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

In Section 2 of its declaration relating to the deposit of its instrument of ratification, the Slovak Republic stated that the notion "territory in which the regional or minority language is used" according to Article 1, sub-paragraph a) means the territory of any municipality listed in the Appendix to Slovak Government Ordinance No. 221/1999 Coll. issuing the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority represent at least 20 per cent of the population. The above specified also applies to the application of Article 10 of the Charter.

Ad: paragraph 1

The Bulgarian, Croatian, Polish and Czech languages are not used in any municipality due to the fact that the population of users of any of these languages does not represent 20 per cent of the population in any municipality. The German language is used in one municipality (village of Kunešov in the district of Žiar nad Hronom). However, no body of state administration is based in this municipality. The Roma language can be used in 58 municipalities; state administration bodies are based in none of them.

Ad: paragraph 2

This undertaking under the Charter is transposed in national legislation, particularly in the fundamental piece of national legislation – the Constitution, Article 34, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph b):

*"... "In addition to the right to master the state language, citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups also have, under conditions defined by law, a guaranteed right to use their language in dealings with the authorities..."*

Act No. 184/1999 Coll. lays down detail provisions concerning the use of the languages of national minorities living in the Slovak Republic on the use of minority languages. The Act allows

- to use a minority language in official communications;
- to submit applications to a state administrative body based in the municipality and a local government body also in the relevant minority language, except for official instruments and documents (such as identity cards, driving licenses, passports, etc.);
- to receive, at the request of the concerned, a decision issued in proceedings concerning administrative matters also in the relevant minority language;
- to receive forms issued within the scope of powers and authorities of the territorial self-government body, at the request of the concerned, also in the relevant minority language;

- to carry out meetings and debates of a territorial self-government body also in the relevant minority language, upon the consent of all the present;
- members of the local council to use a minority language in their debates; the municipality is responsible for providing interpreting into the state language;
- to maintain local chronicles also in a minority language;
- to identify and sign the building in which a local government or state administration body is based also in the relevant minority language;
- to use the signposts of streets and other local geographic signs in the relevant minority language;
- to provide important information (warning, alerting and health-related) also in the relevant minority language;
- to ask state administration and local government bodies to provide information on generally binding regulations also in the relevant minority language,
- employees of local government and state administration bodies in 23 municipalities where these institutions are based to provide instructions also in the official language of the relevant minority.

With regard to this Act, the Public Administration Section of the Ministry of the Interior issued in the Operational Instructions Journal for regional and district offices of state administration:

- Guidelines to general internal administration units, small traders' licensing units and fire protection units for the use of minority languages in official communications, Issue No. 12 of 9 September 1999).
- Guidelines for the signing of buildings of state administration bodies in minority languages, Issue No. 10 of 10 May 2000
- Guidelines for the signing of buildings of local government bodies, Issue No. 203-2001/05692 of 4 May 2001.

The Act No. 191/1994 Coll. on the names and signs of municipalities in minority languages regulates the use of traditional place names in minority languages:

Section 1 of the Act:

- (1) *"Municipalities in which residents belonging to a national minority represent at least 20 per cent of the population are identified in the minority language on separate traffic signposts specifying the limits of the municipality."*
- (2) *"Road signs under (1) shall be placed under road signs displaying the name of the municipality in the state language."*
- (3) *"The list of names of municipalities in national minority languages is stated in the annex to this Act; the names of municipalities have a local character."*

Under this Act the relevant bodies of local state administration, particularly traffic authorities, are obliged to provide for the signing of the municipality in the relevant minority language. This part of the Act came into effect in November 1994. The local state administration bodies comply with this statutory requirement. The municipalities in which national minorities represent at least 20 per cent of the population are identified by means of such signposts.

Ad: paragraphs 3 and 4

Implementation of this commitment of the Charter is ensured in the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Minority Languages, in particular in Section 2 paragraph 3:



*"A citizen of the Slovak Republic, belonging to a national minority shall have the right to submit written applications to a body of state administration and a body of local self-administration (hereinafter "body of public administration") in the municipality under paragraph 1 also in the minority language. The body of public administration in the municipality under paragraph 1 shall provide a reply in the state language and in the minority language, with the exception of public documents."*

Local state administration bodies or social services facilities are able to provide interpreting services when necessary and upon the request of the concerned.

Ad: paragraph 5

This Slovakia's undertaking related to the Charter is transposed into Act No. 300/1993 Coll. on first name and surname and Act No. 154/1994 Coll. on registers. In this context, the following provisions of the Act on registers are relevant:

Section 13, sub-section 4: *"Upon the oral notification of a birth, the informant is obliged to prove his/her identity. If the informant... makes such notification in a language of which the registrar does not have a command, the presence of an interpreter is required. Should the interpreter not be an officially appointed interpreter, the interpreter must make an oath, in accordance with a special regulation, before the registrar for whom the interpreter will interpret. The data on interpretation and the interpreter shall be recorded in the Birth Register."*

Section 16: *"The female surname of a person other than Slovak nationality shall be recorded without the grammatical suffix of gender indication according to the Slovak grammatical rules,*

- a) if it is requested by the parents of a female child at the registration of her surname in the Birth Register according to Section 13, sub-section 1, if it is requested by the adoptive parents at the registration of the surname of their adopted child in case of irrevocable adoption;*
- b) if it is requested by a woman at the registration of her marriage in the Marriage Register according to Section 14;*
- c) if it is requested by a woman in relation to the registration of the decision on a change to surname in accordance with a special act."*

Section 19, sub-section 3: *"In the birth certificate of a person other than of Slovak nationality whom this official document concerns and whose name is recorded in the Register in the Slovak equivalent, the person's name shall be recorded in his/her language, if he/she requests so in writing; and such fact shall be recorded in the Register. All further modifications and confirmations shall be made using this form of the name."*

Section 19, sub-section 5: *"In the birth certificate or marriage certificate of a woman whom this official document concerns, her surname shall be recorded without the Slovak gender-identifying suffix, if she requests so in writing; this fact shall be recorded in the Register. All further official extracts and confirmations on data recorded in the Register shall be made using this form of the surname. Any request in writing according to the first sentence above shall be maintained in the Register of documents."*

The Act on first name and surname:

Section 2, sub-section 1: "A person born on the territory of the SR may have several names given, also foreign ones, according to conditions set out in Section 1..."

## **Article 11 – Media**

### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

*1. The Parties undertake, for the users of the regional or minority languages within the territories in which those languages are spoken, according to the situation of each language, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:*

*a iii) to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages;*

*b ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;*

*c ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;*

*d) to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the regional or minority languages;*

*e i) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages;*

*f ii) to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the regional or minority languages.*

*2. The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language. The exercise of the above-mentioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interest of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.*

*3. The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of the users of regional or minority languages are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions**

### ***1. Slovak Radio:***

On its fifth circuit, Slovak Radio broadcasts a programme designed for national minorities – The Minority-Ethnic Programme. This programme is prepared by a specialized desk, which was set up in the process of transition in 1991. Programme broadcasting time reflects the results of the latest census, i.e. the populations of the individual minorities and ethnic groups. For this reason and in order to provide for the needs of the individual minorities, the minority-broadcasting desk has specialised units for broadcasting in the Ruthenian, Ukrainian, German, Polish, and Roma languages. Programmes are broadcast on AM, frequencies Prešov 1071 kHz and Stakcín 864 kHz. The structure of radio programmes broadcast for other national minorities is as follows:

- Roma national minority - 30 minutes per week;
- German national minority - 30 minutes per week;
- Czech national minority - 30 minutes, once in four weeks;
- Polish national minority - 30 minutes, once in four weeks.

### ***2. Slovak Television:***

Programmes designed for the individual national minorities are broadcast as follows:

- Roma national minority: The Roma minority magazine; 27 broadcasts; 12.2 hours;
- Czech national minority: The Czech minority magazine; 12 broadcasts; 5.7 hours;
- Polish national minority: The Polish minority magazine; 5 broadcasts; 2.3 hours;
- German national minority: The German minority magazine; 4 broadcasts; 1.9 hours;
- Bulgarian national minority: The Bulgarian minority magazine; 2 broadcasts; 0.9 hours;
- Multi-minority magazine: 1 broadcast, 0.4 hours.

Television and radio signals of many TV and radio stations (public and private) based in the neighbouring countries can be received in the Slovak Republic. In addition to the electronic media operating in Slovakia, a number of periodic and non-periodic newspapers are published in Slovakia, enjoying financial assistance from the State. Access to foreign literature is unhindered.

**The following provisions mainly regulate the field of the media:**

### **The Constitution**

Article 34 (1): *"The comprehensive development of persons belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic is guaranteed, particularly the right to develop their own culture, together with other members of the minority or ethnic group, the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, the right to associate in national minority associations, and the right to set up and maintain educational and cultural institutions."*

### **Act No. 308/2000 Coll. on Broadcasting and Retransmission**

Section 16: *"The broadcaster shall: (...)*

*g) ensure at broadcasting of programs and other elements of program service the use of the state language and languages of national minorities in accordance with special regulations"*.

### **Act No. 255/1991 Coll. on the Slovak Radio:**

Section 6: *"Slovak Radio fulfils the following main tasks:*

*d) By the means of the radio broadcasting it contributes to the development of the national culture and culture of the nationalities living in the Slovak Republic as well as to the mediation of the cultural values of other nations."*

### **Act No. 254/1991 Coll. on the Slovak Television:**

Section 3, sub-section (3): *"The Slovak Television by the means of the television broadcasting in their mother tongue also provides for the exercise of the interests of the nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic."*

Section 6 (j): *"Slovak Television fulfils the following tasks:*

*... it contributes by the means of the television broadcasting to the development of the national culture and cultures of the nationalities living in the Slovak Republic as well as to the mediation of the cultural values of other nations."*

The above-referred overview of legislation documents that in respect of the media, the operation of public television and radio creates good preconditions for the application and implementation of the Charter, which are comparable with standard arrangements in the EU Member States.

## **Article 12 - Cultural activities and facilities**

### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen:**

*1. With regard to cultural activities and facilities – especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies - the Parties undertake, within the territory in*

*which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:*

- a) to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;*
- b) to foster the different means of access in other languages to works produced in regional or minority languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling activities;*
- c) to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling activities;*
- d) to ensure that the bodies responsible for organizing or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;*
- e) to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organizing or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population;*
- f) to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;*
- g) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the regional or minority languages;*

*2. In respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies so, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.*

*3. The Parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad, for regional or minority languages and the cultures they reflect.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions:**

Within the framework of its powers and responsibilities, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic is engaged in a broad range of efficient co-operation with the organizations representing 12 national minorities living in the Slovak Republic. Political, organisational and financial support provided to their activities and aiming at maintaining and developing the cultures of the national minorities and ethnic groups ensures free use of their languages and respect for their specifics and values.

In this respect, a special unit of the Ministry of Culture – Section of Minority Cultures – provides systemic and planned financial support from state budget to civil associations, i.e. non-governmental organisations of the Hungarian, Roma, Jewish, German, Croatian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Czech, Bulgarian, and Moravian nationalities.

In accordance with the Government Policy Statement and minority policy, the Ministry of Culture devised an efficient, objective and transparent procedure for the provision of purpose-tied funds from the budget of the Ministry of Culture to promote the cultures of the national minorities.

**The following are the key elements of this system:**

1/ *The Ministry of Culture Guidelines for the provision and accounting of subsidies* provided from the commitments of the Ministry's budget to civil associations, foundations and professional organizations of legal persons to carry out their cultural activities;

2/ *The Ministry of Culture Guidelines for the provision and accounting of subsidies* provided from the commitments of the Ministry's budget to natural persons – entrepreneurs and non-financial entities – legal persons to support their cultural activities in accordance with Act No. 303/1995 Coll. on budgetary rules.

3/ *Rules of organization and procedure of the Committee for the transfer of purpose-tied funds intended to support the culture of national minorities*. This document sets out rules specifying the powers and responsibilities, procedures and eligibility requirements for committees making decision about the provision of purpose-tied funds – grants to projects submitted by the individual entities representing national minorities.

4/ *The Committee for the transfer of purpose-tied funds intended to support the culture of the national minorities* is an important element in this system. It provides for a high degree of the autonomy of the minorities in the fields of project preparation and application, the specification of their objectives and priorities concerning their culture, periodicals and non-periodicals. The Committee consists of 11 representatives of the national minorities. They are appointed by the Minister of Culture. Only the Secretary of the Committee is an employee of the Ministry. The Committee is an advisory body to the Minister providing him with its conclusions and recommendations in this field. This body representing the national minorities assesses the applications of the individual national minorities for contributions and, based on the principle of majority vote, adopts recommendations and conclusions as to the amounts of subsidies to be granted.

5/ The above-specified Committee has its *sub-committees*, which are formed by the individual national minorities. This means that each national minority has its own sub-committee that makes decisions as to the allocation of funds approved and committed for it by the Committee. Taking into consideration its allocation, each national minority sets out its own priorities and approves projects designed to support cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals.

6/ *Applications for the funding of projects in the fields of cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals*. Each national minority submits structured applications for projects that are valid for the whole of the calendar year.

By applying the above-referred system that has been reviewed and updated in the recent years, the national minorities are provided with purpose-tied funds to carry out cultural activities and publish periodicals and non-periodicals. This system is designed and operated with the intention to fulfil the mission and objectives of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as it provides for the development and use of the languages of minorities and ethnic groups as symbols of their cultural heritage and linguistic identity.

The table below provides a comprehensive review of the financing of national minority culture in Slovakia in the specified period.

**Table 1: The provisions of funding for minority cultures in the 1995-2002 period from the special allocation under the Ministry of Culture budget chapter (in SKK)**

Nationality	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Hungarian	10 952 000	7 327 200	10 390 000	10 976 000	23 813 935	23 014 000	23 703 000	39 142 300
Roma	4 956 296	4 079 200	3 542 000	3 970 000	7 846 550	6 054 980	4 946 000	7 303 900
Czech	937 802	1 294 000	670 000	590 000	2 078 400	2 081 700	2 201 000	2 599 200
Ruthenian	1 697 585	2 360 000	1 010 000	1 250 000	2 078 400	2 390 000	2 215 000	3 399 000
Ukrainian	3 718 793	4 313 000	4 818 000	3 710 000	2 289 990	2 498 000	2 460 000	2 995 000
Moravian	279 10	503 800	501 000	670 000	972 000	990 000	400 000	1 000 000
German	2 573 080	3 784 100	5 176 000	3 495 000	1 990 200	2 067 500	1 830 000	2 373 000
Croatian	1 275 727	1 200 000	2 242 000	2 190 000	1 153 400	1 320 000	1 700 000	1 879 000
Bulgarian	282 440	360 300	411 000	1 380 000	980 175	900 000	493 000	900 000
Jewish	203 500	400 200	1 820 000	250 000	1 920 200	1 780 000	1 626 000	2 066 400
Polish	108 200	778 000	410 000	250 000	614 200	830 000	726 000	1 300 000
Russian					582 200	580 000	520 000	520 000
others	28 644 200	21 388 000	13 352 000	6 080 000	487 200	1 387 000	990 000	1 993 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>55 628 723</b>	<b>47 787 800</b>	<b>44 342 000</b>	<b>34 811 000</b>	<b>47 135 450</b>	<b>45 893 180</b>	<b>43 810 000</b>	<b>67 470 800</b>

In addition to the aforementioned forms of state support for national minorities culture, there are also the following institutions falling under the competence of the Ministry of Culture: the ensemble Ifjú Szívek [Young Hearts], the Museum of Jewish Culture, Museum of the Culture of Hungarians in Slovakia, Museum of Culture of Carpathian Germans, the Documentation Centre of Croatian Culture seated in Bratislava, Museum of the Ruthenian-Ukrainian Culture seated in Svidník, the Documentation Centre of Czech Culture in Slovakia and Documentation Centre of Roma Culture in Slovakia at the Ethnographic Museum of the Slovak National Museum in Martin.

The following institutions are financed from the budgets of the regional offices of state administration as they were transferred from the Ministry of Culture to them under Act No. 222/1996 Coll.: the Jókai Theatre in the town of Komárno, the Thália Theatre in the city of Košice, the Romathan Theatre in the city of Košice, and the A. Duchnovic Theatre in the town of Prešov, the Museum of the Hungarian Culture and Danube region in Komárno, the Departments for the Roma minority culture of the Vihorlat Museum in the town of Humenne and the Gemer-Malohont Museum in the town of Rimavska Sobota.

Table 2: Funds provided to the institutions of minority cultures under the competence of the Ministry of Culture and regional offices of state administration in 1999-2002

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
1.	Thália Theatre, Košice	6 405 000	7 550 000	9 803 000	9 755 000
2.	Jókai Theatre, Komárno	8 679 000	9 995 000	15 723 000	22 094 000
3.	Romathan Theatre, Košice	7 048 000	7 078 000	7 595 000	7 544 000
4.	A. Duchnovic Theatre, Prešov	10 875 000	11 513 000	11 869 000	18 078 000
5.	Museum of the Ruthenian-Ukrainian Culture, Svidník	5 849 000	4 895 000	4 998 000	5 776 000
6.	Museum of the Hungarian Culture and Danube Region	4 412 000	4 116 000	3 969 000	6 983 000
7.	Museum of the Culture of Hungarians in Slovakia, Bratislava				10 000 000
8.	Museum of the Jewish Culture, Bratislava	5 460 000	5 290 000	5 430 000	5 650 000
9.	Museum of the Culture of Carpathian Germans, Bratislava	1 950 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 050 000
10.	Ensemble Ifjú Szívek, Bratislava	4 429 000	5 386 000	5 997 000	6 137 000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55 107 000</b>	<b>57 823 000</b>	<b>67 384 000</b>	<b>74 267 000</b>

### Article 13 – Economic and social life

#### Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen

1. *With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, within the whole country:*

- a) *to eliminate from their legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of regional or minority languages in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations;*
- b) *to prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of regional or minority languages, at least between users of the same language;*
- c) *to oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities;*

2. *With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, in so far as the public authorities are competent, within the territory in which the regional or minority languages are used, and as far as this is reasonably possible:*

- c) *to ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the possibility of receiving and treating in their own language persons using a regional or minority language who are in need of care on grounds of ill-health, old age or for other reasons.*



## **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions:**

Ad paragraph 1:

No legal regulations or internal guidelines regulating social care facilities contain provisions that would prohibit the use of regional or minority languages.

No complaints, petitions or applications concerning rules directed to the discouragement from the use of regional or minority languages have been recorded in the Slovak Republic.

Ad paragraph 2:

Social care facilities provide for the reception and treatment of their clients in their language. Employees of the facilities have good command of the minority language used by the clients of the facilities. There are meeting rooms for individual minorities, religious services are provided individually for each minority. Bilingual magazines and other publications are published. Clients are allowed to watch television programmes in the languages of their choice. The operation is managed in a way so as to ensure that persons of Slovak nationality are not discriminated even in areas with a larger number of clients and employees speaking a language other than Slovak. Cultural and social events for clients are organized in their mother tongue or regional language, as well as in Slovak.

Section 8, sub-section 4 of Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the state language of the Slovak Republic as amended lays down the following:

*"The entire documentation of health care facilities is maintained in the state language. The contact between healthcare personnel and the patients is usually conducted in the state language; if the patient is a citizen or foreigner who does not have command of the state language, it can be conducted in a language that enables communication with the patient."*

According to Act No. 634/1992 Coll. on consumer protection (Section 6, Sections 9 – 20), the prohibition of consumer discrimination and the principle of obligatory information apply in Slovakia. Under the above-referred Act, consumer means "a natural person purchasing products and using services for his/her direct consumption...". In this respect, the law does not differentiate between the nationalities of consumers, however, at the same time in case of technical documents, such as users' guides for products or equipment the seller is obliged to inform the consumer on the properties of the goods sold in a language comprehensible to the consumer.

With regard to health and safety at work, Government Ordinance No. 117/2002 Coll. lays down that the employer is obliged to provide information in a language that is comprehensible to all employees concerned.

## Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

*The Parties undertake:*

*a) to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education.*

*only for Czech, German, and Polish:*

*b) for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions**

The Slovak Republic entered into bilateral agreements with the neighbouring countries. These agreements contain provisions guaranteeing the protection of national minorities and support of the transfrontier co-operation.

1/ Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Co-operation between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Hungary of 1995 (Council of Europe Recommendation No. 1201 forms a part of the Treaty)

2/ Treaty between the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and the Republic of Poland on Good Neighbourliness, Solidarity and Friendly Co-operation of 1991

3/ Treaty between the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Co-operation of 1992

4/ Treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic on Good Neighbourliness, Friendly Relations and Co-operation of 1992

5/ Treaty on Good Neighbourliness, Friendly Relations and Co-operation between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine of 1993.

### **Polish:**

On 18 August 1994, the Slovak and Polish Governments entered into an agreement on transfrontier co-operation. On the basis of this agreement, a Slovak-Polish intergovernmental committee on transfrontier co-operation was set up. The agreement has contributed to the strengthening of relations between territorial self-governments and local authorities in both countries as well as the development of economic, social, legal, scientific, cultural and other activities carried out by them. In general, contacts between the users of the Slovak and Polish languages in both countries have grown

and strengthened, notably in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational and life-long education.

In May 2000, the Slovak Ministry of the Interior organised an international conference of the Council of Europe on Slovak-Polish cross-border co-operation aiming at strengthening this form of co-operation. The Conference took place in the towns of Dolný Kubín (Slovakia) and Szczawnica (Poland).

Slovak-Polish transfrontier co-operation has yielded positive results and continues to develop as it is illustrated by the existence of international associations such as Euro-region Tatras, the Carpathian Euro-region (operating within the territories of several countries), and Euro-region Beskids (operating within the territories of three countries, including the Czech Republic).

### **Czech:**

On 2 November 2000, the Slovak and Czech Governments entered into an agreement on transfrontier co-operation that encourages traditional contacts between the users of the Slovak and Czech languages in both countries in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational and life-long education.

Under Article 8 of the agreement, a Slovak-Czech committee on transfrontier co-operation was set up aiming at specifying the general direction and forms of transfrontier co-operation, co-coordinating its programmes, drafting recommendations and eliminating any obstacles hampering this co-operation.

In June 1999, the Slovak Ministry of the Interior organised an international conference of the Council of Europe on Slovak-Czech cross-border co-operation aiming at strengthening this form of co-operation. The Conference took place in the towns of Skalica (Slovakia) and Strážnice (the Czech Republic).

Slovak-Czech transfrontier co-operation has yielded positive results and continues to develop as it is illustrated by the existence of international associations such as Euro-regions: Euro-region Beskids (on the territories of three countries, including Poland), Euro-region White Carpathians, and Euro-region Morava River Valley (including also a portion of Austria).

### **German:**

The Slovak Ministry of the Interior drafted an agreement on transfrontier co-operation between the Slovak and Austrian Governments, which was already notified to the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review it. According to the draft agreement, all contacts between the users of the Slovak and German languages are to be encouraged in both countries in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational and life-long education.

Slovak-Austrian cross-border co-operation continues to grow as it is witnessed by the fact that the Euro-region Morava River Valley was established within the territories of three countries (including also a portion of the Czech Republic) and preparations are going on in order to introduce the Euro-region Bratislava-Vienna- Győr (including also a portion of Hungary).

On 24-25 October 2001, the Slovak Ministry organized an international conference of the Council of Europe on Slovak-Austrian cross-border co-operation aiming at strengthening this form of co-operation. The conference took place in the towns of Piešťany (Slovakia) and Baden bei Wien (Austria).

## **Languages: Ruthenian and Ukrainian**

### **Article 8 - Education**

#### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs chosen**

*1. With regard to education, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used, according to the situation of each of these languages, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State:*

- a) to make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages;*
- b) to make available a substantial part of primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages;*
- c) to make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages;*
- d) to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages;*
- e) to provide facilities for the study of these languages as university and higher education subjects,*
- f) to offer such languages as subjects of adult or continuing education courses,*
- g) to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language,*
- h) to provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs a to g accepted by the Party,*
- i) to set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring these measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of regional or minority languages and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public.*

#### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions**

During the discussion and ratification of the Charter important legislation governing education for national minorities or ethnic groups in accordance Part I of the Charter were adopted. The following arrangements were introduced:

- the maintenance of bilingual pedagogical documentation at schools using a national minority language as the language of instruction and the issuance of bilingual school reports;
- secondary school entry exams for pupils from primary schools using a national minority language as the language of instruction for studies at schools using Slovak as the language of instruction on the subject of Slovak and Slovak literature within the scope of the curriculum of the primary school they have attended and another main subject in the language used by the primary school they have attended as the language of instruction;
- the introduction of primary school zero classes into the school education system and the establishment of the pedagogical profession of assistant teacher; the assistants work as pedagogical staff at nursery schools, primary schools and special primary schools and promote the success in school of children and pupils from social and educational environments that provide lack of stimulation;

- the transfer of certain competences in the field of education from state administration authorities to municipalities and higher territorial units, effective from 1 July 2002.

### **Envisaged changes:**

A reform of primary and secondary education will be gradually implemented on the basis of the National Programme for the Development of Education and Training in the Slovak Republic in the coming 15 to 20 years, which was approved by the Slovak Government (Government Resolution No. 1193 of 19 December 2001) and the Parliamentary Committee on education, science, youth and sport (Resolution No. 368 of 7 May 2002).

In its Policy Statement (November 2002) the Slovak Government expressed its intention to deal with the several aspects of minority education, notably:

- to approve a new school law governing the field of education and training,
- to establish a university offering studies to citizens of Hungarian nationality in order to overcome differences in the levels of education and structure,
- to offer the possibility of choice of teaching in the mother tongue to the Ruthenian and Roma minorities.
- to address the outstanding aspects of public school financing.
- to provide for an open school system – the equality of establishment and development of religious and private schools, etc.
- to enhance the university education of the pedagogues belonging to the nationalities in their mother tongue in terms of certification.

### **The school network in the Slovak Republic in the school year 2001/2002:**

The right of national minorities to education under Article 34 of the Slovak Constitution is facilitated by the system of schools with the following languages of instruction:

#### ***a) Ukrainian (only state schools):***

- kindergartens,
- primary schools,
- secondary grammar school and secondary nursing school;
- university (Department of the Ukrainian Language and Literature at the Prešov University).

#### ***b) Ruthenian (only state schools):***

- primary schools, secondary grammar school,
- university (Ruthenian Department of the Institute for Minority Studies and Foreign Languages established at the Rectorate of the Prešov University).

Following is an overview of the schools and school facilities where languages of nationalities have been taught in the school year 2001/2002. This overview does not encompass primary schools where minority languages and literature are taught as a subject and all other subjects are taught in Slovak. In statistics they are filed under the schools with Slovak as a language of instruction. The following minority languages are languages of instruction:

- Ruthenian** - 4 primary schools attended by 134 pupils in grades 1 to 8;
- German** - 6 primary schools attended by 1 052 pupils in grades 1 to 9;
- Ukrainian** - 17 primary schools attended by 526 pupils in grades 1 to 9;
- Roma** – Secondary School of Arts in the city of Košice with a total of 192 students.

## 1. NURSERY SCHOOLS

### a) state

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Pupils
Slovak	2804	6862	141729
of which schools using Ruthenian as the language of instruction	0	0	8
Hungarian	277	557	9479
Slovak-Hungarian	101		
Ukrainian	22	34	534
Slovak-Ukrainian	3		
Slovak-German	1	1	22
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>3208</b>	<b>7454</b>	<b>151772</b>

### b) other

Founder/Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Pupils
municipality/Slovak	10	25	526
enterprise/Slovak	20	56	1103
private/Slovak	10	16	336
church/Slovak	10	19	408
church/Hungarian	2	2	32
civic association/Slovak	1	1	10
other/Slovak	2	3	45
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>2460</b>

<b>Nursery schools in Slovakia in total</b>	<b>3263</b>	<b>7576</b>	<b>154232</b>
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### Children in nursery schools by nationality

Total number of children in nursery schools	154232
of which Slovak nationals	154028
of which:	
Slovak nationality	140546
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	46
Ukrainian	120
Ruthenian	60
Hungarian	12087
Polish	9
German	25
Roma	1016
other	119
foreigners	204

## 2. PRIMARY SCHOOLS

### a) state

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	2053	25754	582669
of which schools with classes using German as the language of instruction	5	39	941
Hungarian	259	2114	41957
Slovak-Hungarian	29		
Ukrainian	7	53	579
Slovak-Ukrainian	1		
German	1	4	60
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>2350</b>	<b>27925</b>	<b>625265</b>

### b) private

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	2	8	79
Bulgarian	1	8	101
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>180</b>

### c) church

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	82	1088	24498
Hungarian	12	64	1023
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>25521</b>

<b>Total number of primary schools in Slovakia</b>	<b>2447</b>	<b>29093</b>	<b>650966</b>
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### Primary school pupils by nationality

Total number of pupils at primary schools		650966
of which Slovak nationals		650027
of which :		
Slovak nationality		589791
Czech, Moravian, Silesian		1267
Ukrainian		613
Ruthenian		255
Hungarian		52863
Polish		48
German		99
Roma		4654
other		437
foreigners		939





### 3. GYMNASIA

#### a) state

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	137	2116	63325
Hungarian	11	153	4046
Slovak-Hungarian	8		
Ukrainian	1	6	116
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>2275</b>	<b>67487</b>

#### b) private

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	15	104	2407
Hungarian	1	7	170
other	1	4	38
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>2615</b>

#### c) church

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	34	333	10054
Hungarian	4	18	459
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>10513</b>

<b>Total number of gymnasia in Slovakia</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>2741</b>	<b>80615</b>
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#### Students of gymnasia by nationality

Total number of students	80615
of which Slovak nationals	80434
of which:	
Slovak nationality	74104
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	264
Ukrainian	91
Ruthenian	56
Hungarian	5787
Polish	15
German	36
Roma	3
other	78



#### 4. SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

##### a) state

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	289	2970	81268
Hungarian	6	129	3285
Slovak-Hungarian	14		
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>3099</b>	<b>84553</b>

##### b) private

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	25	140	3102
Hungarian	1	14	259
Slovak-Hungarian	2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>3361</b>

##### c) church

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	4	35	862
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>862</b>

<b>Total number of secondary vocational schools in Slovakia</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>3288</b>	<b>88776</b>
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##### Students of secondary vocational schools by nationality

Total number of students	88776
of which Slovak nationals	88701
of which:	
Slovak nationality	81609
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	190
Ukrainian	618
Ruthenian	35
Hungarian	6131
Polish	5
German	13
Roma	62
other	38



## 5. SECONDARY APPRENTICE SCHOOLS AND APPRENTICES

### a) state

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	326	4019	96093
Hungarian	5	56	1151
Slovak-Hungarian	22	306	6391
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>4381</b>	<b>103635</b>

### b) private

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	5	25	425
Hungarian	3	33	683
Slovak-Hungarian	2	13	186
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1294</b>

### c) church

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
Slovak	5	39	909
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>909</b>

<b>Total number of secondary apprentice schools and apprentices in Slovakia</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>4562</b>	<b>105838</b>
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### Students of secondary apprentice schools and apprentices by nationality:

Total number of students		105838
of which Slovak nationals		105774
of which:		
Slovak nationality		96309
Czech, Moravian, Silesian		220
Ukrainian		103
Ruthenian		48
Hungarian		8867
Polish		6
German		11
Roma		180
other		30



## 6. SPECIAL SCHOOLS

### a) state

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	339	3192	29040
Hungarian	14	180	1543
Slovak-Hungarian	17		
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>3372</b>	<b>30583</b>

### b) private

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	2	4	26

### c) church

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	5	36	258

<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>3412</b>	<b>30867</b>
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### Pupils in special schools by nationality

Total number of pupils at special schools	30867
of which Slovak nationals:	30855
of which:	
Slovak nationality	26522
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	33
Hungarian	2034
Ukrainian	9
Ruthenian	5
Polish	5
Roma	2240
other	7
foreigners	12



## Article 9 - Judicial authorities

### Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs chosen

1. *The Parties undertake, in respect of those judicial districts in which the number of residents using the regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below, according to the situation of each of these languages and on condition that the use of the facilities afforded by the present paragraph is not considered by the judge to hamper the proper administration of justice:*

- a) *in criminal proceedings to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language and to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language;*
  - b) *in civil proceedings to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense and to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages;*
  - c) *in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense and to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;*
  - d) *to take steps to ensure that the application of sub-paragraphs b and c above and any necessary use of interpreters and translations do not involve extra expense for the persons concerned.*
3. *The Parties undertake to make available in the regional or minority languages the most important statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of these languages, unless they are otherwise provided.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions :**

In Article 47 of the Constitution concerning provisions for the use of a regional or minority language in proceedings before courts, the applicable legal system of the Slovak Republic goes beyond the framework of this provision of the Charter. This is associated with the Parties' commitment to allow users of regional or minority languages to use them in judicial districts located in the territory where they live. Act No. 184/1999 Coll. specifies the 20 percent threshold for the use of a minority language in official communication. However, by referring § 5 (1) of this Act, as regards the use of minority languages in court proceedings, to special legal norms, the validity and subsequent application of which is related to the whole territory of the Slovak Republic, it can be stated that the legal system of the Slovak Republic goes beyond this particular requirement of the Charter. The above means that, based on the application of the law on national minority languages, regional or minority languages can be used in court proceedings even outside judicial districts complying with the with the 20 percent threshold of population representing a national minority

- a) To ensure the application of this provision, the Code of Criminal Procedure in its Section 2, sub-section 14 stipulates the following:

*"Every person is entitled to use his/her mother tongue before authorities involved in criminal proceedings."*

To ensure the exercise of this right, authorities involved in criminal proceedings are required to engage an interpreter in line with Section 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure:

*"If there is a need to translate the content of a statement or a written document or if the accused declares that he does not have a command of the language of the proceedings, an interpreter shall be engaged; the interpreter may also act as the recorder."*

Similarly, the provision of Section 55, paragraph 3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is to be taken into consideration as it provides details concerning the principle laid down in Section 7, paragraph 1 of the Act on the state language:

*"Records of oral testimony from a person who does not have command of Slovak shall also be drawn up in Slovak; if a verbatim record of the testimony is necessary, the recorder or the interpreter shall also enter the relevant part of the testimony into the records in the language, in which the testimony was provided."*

The above-quoted provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure apply to all parties to proceedings, which means the accused, the defendant, any party to the case, the injured party, as well as the witness if such a person declares that he/she does not understand the language of the proceedings. The application of these provisions in practice is illustrated by extensive case law:

*R 34/1967: "If the defendant does not have a command of the language of the proceedings, the criminal justice authority is obliged to engage an interpreter under Section 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure." Failure to engage an interpreter for the proceedings constitutes a curtailment of the right of defence and grounds for the vacation of the judgment."*

*R 28/1981: "If a person who does not have a command of Czech or Slovak testifies before court as a witness, the court must engage an interpreter even if the presiding judge has a command of the language in which the witness gives testimony."*

*R 48/1994: "Under Section 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as amended by Act No. 558/1992 Coll. an interpreter must be also engaged if the accused claims that he/she does not have a command of the language of the proceedings. This is a subjective right of the accused to express himself/herself in his/her mother tongue. The above-specified indicates that the engagement of an interpreter does not depend on the opinion of the criminal justice authorities whether and to what extent the accused has a command of the Slovak language."*

The provisions of Section 2, paragraphs 14 and 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure are not only applied to the initial phase of criminal prosecution, but also to the period prior to the beginning of criminal prosecution, notably to the lodging of information on crime under Section 59 in connection with Section 158, paragraph 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure:

*Information on the facts indicating the commission of criminal offence shall be filed to prosecutor, investigator or police body; those are obliged to instruct informer on his/her responsibility for giving deliberately false entries. Prosecutor may handover the received information to investigator or police body for further procedures.*

Similarly, if any documentary evidence that either supports or refutes the alleged facts related to the criminal offence or the accused is provided in a regional or minority language, its translation is provided in accordance with Section 112, paragraph 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. However, it should be noted that the applicable legislation does not provide for the reverse procedure, i.e. the provision of translations of adopted decisions as it is indicated by the following adjudication:

*R 42/1976: "The courts shall deliver written documents issued in Czech or Slovak within the framework of criminal court proceedings to the parties of the proceedings that do not have command of these languages without translating them into their mother tongue."*

According to Section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the costs of criminal proceedings, including the costs of sentence enforcement proceedings, shall be borne by the State. This provision indicates that in addition to costs related to the individual acts, the State also bears costs related to the engagement of an interpreter.

The above-quoted provisions show that the applicable legal system in the Slovak Republic enshrines the right to use a regional or minority language in criminal proceedings. As this right is guaranteed to any person stating that he/she does not have a command of the language of the proceedings, not limited to the accused, in any phase of criminal proceedings, the Slovak legislation governing this matter goes beyond the framework laid down by the relevant provision of the Charter. It is evident that the exercise of this right does not result in any extra costs to be incurred by such persons. The existing Code of Criminal Procedure thus fully respects the provisions of the Charter, which the Slovak Republic undertook to implement.

b) In its Section 18, the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure lays down the following:

*"The parties shall participate in civil proceedings on an equal footing. They have the right to use their mother tongue in proceedings before court. The court shall have to provide them with equal opportunities to exercise their rights."*

The above-referred provision reflects and lays down details relating to Article 12 of the Slovak Constitution, which governs the equality of participants in civil proceedings. This equality is ensured by means of the right to act before court in one's mother tongue, which means that participants in proceedings have the right to make petitions and other written motions as well as to make oral statements in their mother tongue, and the court is obliged to engage an interpreter to facilitate communication with the participant in his/her mother tongue. Costs relating to the engagement of an interpreter are borne by the State as it is stipulated by Section 141, sub-section 2 of the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure:

*"The costs of evidence that are not covered by the advance payment, as well as cash expenses incurred by the appointed counsel, who is not an attorney-at-law, and costs related to the use of the party's mother tongue in the proceedings shall be borne by the State."*

Case law shows that this provision is applied in practice:

*R 21/1986: "The duty to reimburse the costs of the engagement an interpreter so that a participant in civil judicial proceedings could act in his/her mother tongue must not be imposed on the participant. The same applies to an interpreter appointed by court to facilitate communication with a deaf-mute participant in proceedings."*

The above means that the current Slovak legal order allows for the use of a regional or minority language in civil court proceedings, as well as produce documents and evidence in regional and minority languages, without incurring additional expenses for the parties to the proceedings. The relevant provision of the Charter is thereby fully respected.

c) The provisions related to proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters form an integral part of the Code of Civil Procedure. The special regulations related to this area of law are dealt with in Section V of the Code of Civil Procedure. This means that the general provisions of the Code, including the right to use one's mother tongue in court actions, are analogically applicable to

proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters. For further details, see Article 9 (1) b) of the Charter.

d) As the above analysis of the relevant provisions of the Slovak Republic's legal order shows, the cost of interpreting or translations, related to the application by a party of the right to use a regional or minority language in civil court proceedings and proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters, is borne by the state. For further details, see Article 9 (1) b) and c) of the Charter.

Ad paragraph 3

As regards the Slovak Republic's commitment to make available in the regional or minority languages the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of these languages, under point C of Governmental Resolution No. 27/2001 the Deputy Prime Minister for human and minority rights and regional development was assigned the task of elaborating a comprehensive report on the legislative, financial and other measures adopted to ensure the fulfilment of the Slovak Republic's commitments arising from the adopted provisions of the Charter. This report should specify the necessary measures related to the implementation of the Charter in practice, including Article 9 (3) of the Charter, the application of which will undoubtedly require the allocation of a significant amount of finance from the state budget.

#### **Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services**

*1. Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible:*

*a) iii) to ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications and receive a reply in these languages; or*

*iv) to ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications in these languages.*

*2. In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:*

*b) the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages*

*c) the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages*

*d) the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages*

*f) the use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State*

*g) the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.*

*3. With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or*

*minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible:*

*c) to allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request in these languages.*

*4. With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:*

*a) translation or interpretation as may be required*

*c) compliance as far as possible with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of a regional or minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.*

*5. The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.*

#### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions :**

The Slovak Republic fulfils the commitments stated under Article 10 of the Charter within the framework of adopted international documents, as well as in internal legislation concerning this matter.

As regards international documents, this concerns the following in particular:

- UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities of 1992, Article 2 (1).
- Final Document of the Copenhagen Conference on the Human Dimension, Article 32 l.
- CE Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Ad paragraph 1:

Under Article 34 (2) b), the Constitution lays down the *'right to use one's mother tongue in official contact'*. Under § 2 (1) and § 2 (3), Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of National Minority Languages allows Ruthenian-speaking persons to use Ruthenian in official contact and submit requests and receive replies in this language.

According to the annex to Governmental Ordinance No. 221/1999 Coll., Ruthenian is used in 68 municipalities in the territory of Slovakia. Ukrainian is used in 18 municipalities in the Slovak Republic. According to law, in these municipalities, persons can submit written or oral requests and receive replies in these languages. One of the municipalities, where Ruthenian-speaking citizens live, is the seat of a district office (Medzilaborce).

Ad paragraph 2

As regards the Slovak Republic's internal legislation, this commitment from the Charter is enacted above all in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, under Article 34 (2) b):

*... "besides the right to master the state language, citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups are also guaranteed, under conditions defined by law,*

*b) the right to use their language in official contact..."*

The specific use of National minority languages on the territory of the Slovak Republic is regulated by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of National Minority Languages.

This Act allows persons living in the territory of municipalities listed in the annex to Governmental Ordinance No. 221/1999 Coll., through which the list of municipalities in which at least 20% of the population of Slovak citizens belong to a national minority is issued:

- to use the language of the national minority in official communication,
- to submit written requests to state administration authorities seated in the municipality or authorities of the municipality's self-government in the language of the national minority and, besides replies in the state language, also receive replies in the language of the national minority, with the exception of public documents (identification cards, driver's licences, passports, etc.),
- upon request, to receive decisions issued in administrative proceedings in a minority language,
- upon request, to receive forms issued by territorial self-government authorities in a minority language,
- with the consent of all participants, to hold sessions of territorial self-government authorities in a minority language,
- members of municipality councils, to use a minority language at the council's sessions; interpreting into the state language is arranged for by the municipality,
- to maintain local chronicles in a minority language,
- to use a minority language to indicate buildings used as the seat of the municipality's self-government or a state administration authority,
- to use a minority language for street names and other local place-names,
- to use a minority language on signs providing important information (warnings, health protection),
- to request state administration authorities and local self-government for information on generally binding legal regulations in a minority language,
- employees of self-government and state administration authorities in 23 municipalities where these institutions are seated, to use a minority language in official communication.

With regard to this Act, the Public Administration Section of the Ministry of the Interior issued within the Operational Instructions Journal for regional and district offices of state administration:

- Guidelines to general internal administration units, small traders' licensing units and fire protection units for the use of minority languages in official communications, Issue No. 12 of 9 September 1999,
- Guidelines for the signing of buildings of state administration bodies in minority languages, Issue No. 10 of 10 May 2000,
- Guidelines for the signing of buildings of local government bodies, Issue No. 203-2001/05692 of 4 May 2001.

The Act No. 191/1994 Coll. on the names and signs of municipalities in minority languages governs the use of traditional place names in minority languages:

- (1) *"Municipalities in which residents belonging to a national minority represent at least 20 per cent of the population are identified in the minority language on separate traffic signposts specifying the limits of the municipality."*
- (2) *"Road signs under (1) shall be placed under road signs displaying the name of the municipality in the state language."*
- (3) *"The list of names of municipalities in national minority languages is stated in the annex to this Act; the names of municipalities have a local character."*

Under this Act the relevant bodies of local state administration, particularly traffic authorities, are obliged to provide for the signing of the municipality in the relevant minority language. This part of the Act came into effect in November 1994. The local state administration bodies comply with this statutory requirement. The municipalities in which national minorities represent at least 20 per cent of the population are identified by means of such signposts.

If necessary and upon request local state administration authorities or social service establishments are able to arrange for interpreting services.

Under § 2 (1) and § 2 (3), Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of National Minority Languages allows Ruthenian-speaking persons to use Ruthenian in official contact and submit requests and receive replies in this language.

Ad paragraphs 3 and 4

Implementation of this commitment of the Charter is ensured in the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Minority Languages, in particular in Section 2 paragraph 3.

*"A citizen of the Slovak Republic, belonging to a national minority shall have the right to submit written applications to a body of state administration and a body of local self-administration (hereinafter "body of public administration") in the municipality under paragraph 1 also in the minority language. The body of public administration in the municipality under paragraph 1 shall provide a reply in the state language and in the minority language, with the exception of public documents."*

If necessary or if requested by citizens, local state administration authorities or social service establishments are able to arrange for interpreting services.

Ad paragraph 5

This Slovakia's undertaking related to the Charter is transposed into Act No. 300/1993 Coll. on first name and surname and Act No. 154/1994 Coll. on registers. In this context, the following provisions of the Act on registers are relevant:

Section 13, sub-section 4: *"Upon the oral notification of a birth, the informant is obliged to prove his/her identity. If the informant... makes such notification in a language of which the registrar does not have a command, the presence of an interpreter is required. Should the interpreter not be an officially appointed interpreter, the interpreter must make an oath, in accordance with a special regulation, before the registrar for whom the interpreter will interpret. The data on interpretation and the interpreter shall be recorded in the Birth Register."*

Section 16: *"The female surname of a person other than Slovak nationality shall be recorded without the grammatical suffix of gender indication according to the Slovak grammatical rules,*

*a) if it is requested by the parents of a female child at the registration of her surname in the Birth Register according to Section 13, sub-section 1, if it is requested by the adoptive parents at the registration of the surname of their adopted child in case of irrevocable adoption;*

*b) if it is requested by a woman at the registration of her marriage in the Marriage Register according to Section 14;*

*c) if it is requested by a woman in relation to the registration of the decision on a change to surname in accordance with a special act."*

Section 19, sub-section 3: *"In the birth certificate of a person other than of Slovak nationality whom this official document concerns and whose name is recorded in the Register in the Slovak equivalent, the person's name shall be recorded in his/her language, if he/she requests so in writing; and such fact shall be recorded in the Register. All further modifications and confirmations shall be made using this form of the name."*

Section 19, sub-section 5: *"In the birth certificate or marriage certificate of a woman whom this official document concerns, her surname shall be recorded without the Slovak gender-identifying suffix, if she requests so in writing; this fact shall be recorded in the Register. All further official extracts and confirmations on data recorded in the Register shall be made*

*using this form of the surname. Any request in writing according to the first sentence above shall be maintained in the Register of documents."*

The Act on first name and surname:

Section 2, sub-section 1: *"A person born on the territory of the SR may have several names given, also foreign ones, according to conditions set out in Section 1..."*



## Article 11 - Media

### Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen:

1. *The Parties undertake, for the users of the regional or minority languages within the territories in which those languages are spoken, according to the situation of each language, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:*

*a iii) to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages*

*b ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis*

*c ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis*

*d) to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the regional or minority languages*

*e i) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages*

*f ii) to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the regional or minority languages.*

2. *The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language. The exercise of the above-mentioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.*

3. *The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of the users of regional or minority languages are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions**

On its 5<sup>th</sup> circuit Slovak Radio broadcasts programmes for national minorities - "National Minority and Ethnic Broadcasting". This programme is provided by a specialised editorial office, which was established through transformation in as early as 1991. The time structure of the broadcasting respects the results of the population census and follows the number of populations of individual communities. For this reason, within the national minority and ethnic broadcasting office, there are separate departments for individual national minorities for broadcasting in Ruthenian, Ukrainian,

German, Czech, Polish and Roma. The broadcasts are aired on medium wave at Prešov 1071 kHz and Stakcín 864 kHz.

Radio broadcasting for the Ukrainian and Ruthenian national minorities is 13.5 hours/weekly and almost 80% of the broadcasts are in Ruthenian, which is spoken by Ruthenians living in Slovakia. Some enduring problems are related to this broadcasting, since the representatives of a smaller section of Ruthenians express the opinion that their language is a dialect of Ukrainian. Representatives of a larger section of persons who affiliate themselves only with the Ruthenian nationality are of the opinion that Ruthenian is a separate language of a separate national minority, which does not form a part of the Ukrainian nation. Unfortunately, these two groups have disputed over the name of the editorial office, broadcasting time for individual communities and the legitimacy of their interest associations' representatives for several years.

Analogically, programmes for individual national minorities are broadcast in Slovak Television as follows:

for the Ukrainian national minority – the Ukrainian national magazine, 12 shows, 5.5 hours  
for the Ruthenian national minority – the Ruthenian national magazine, 7 shows, 3.7 hours  
multiethnic magazine – 1 show, 0.4 hours.

The reception of television and radio signal of numerous television and radio stations (both public and private) from neighbouring countries is also possible in the territory of Slovakia. Besides the electronic media, a number of periodical and non-periodical press publications are annually published in Slovakia with financial support from the state. Access to foreign literature is not restricted in any way.

## **The Constitution**

**Article 34** (1) *"The comprehensive development of persons belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic is guaranteed, particularly the right to develop their own culture, together with other members of the minority or ethnic group, the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, the right to associate in national minority associations, and the right to set up and maintain educational and cultural institutions."*

### **Act No. 308/2000 Coll. on Broadcasting and Retransmission**

Section 16: *"The broadcaster shall: (...)*

*g) ensure at broadcasting of programs and other elements of program service the use of the state language and languages of national minorities in accordance with special regulations"*.

### **Act No. 255/1991 Coll. on Slovak Radio**

Section 6 *"Slovak Radio fulfils the following main tasks:*

*d) By the means of the radio broadcasting it contributes to the development of the national culture and culture of nationalities living in the Slovak Republic, as well as to the mediation of cultural values of other nations."*

### **Act No. 254/1991 Coll. on Slovak Television**

Section 3, sub-section 3 *"The Slovak Television by the means of the television broadcasting in their mother tongue also provides for the exercise of the interests of the nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic."*

Section 6 (j) *"Slovak Television fulfils the following tasks:*

*... it contributes by the means of the television broadcasting to the development of the national culture and cultures of nationalities living in the Slovak Republic, as well as to the mediation of cultural values of other nations."*

The above review demonstrates that, based on public television and radio, very good conditions, comparable with the standards in EU Member States, have been created for the application/implementation of the European Charter in the field of the media.

## **Article 12 - Cultural activities and facilities**

### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

*1. With regard to cultural activities and facilities especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies - the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:*

- a) to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages*
- b) to foster the different means of access in other languages to works produced in regional or minority languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities*
- c) to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities*
- d) to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing*
- e) to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population*
- f) to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities*
- g) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy and presenting or publishing works produced in the regional or minority languages*

*2. In respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.*

*3. The Parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad, for regional or minority languages and the cultures they reflect.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions :**

Within the framework of its powers and responsibilities, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic is engaged in a broad range of efficient co-operation with the organizations representing 12

national minorities living in the Slovak Republic. Political, organisational and financial support provided to their activities and aiming at maintaining and developing the cultures of the national minorities and ethnic groups ensures free use of their languages and respect for their specifics and values.

In this respect, the special Ministry of Culture unit – minority culture section – provides systemic and planned financial support from the state budget to civil associations, i.e. non-governmental organisations of the Hungarian, Roma, Jewish, German, Croatian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Czech, Bulgarian and Moravian nationalities.

In accordance with the Government's Policy Statement and national minority policy, the Ministry of Culture has elaborated an effective, objective and transparent scheme for the provision of finance from the special allocation under the Ministry of Culture budget for individual minority cultures.

**The following are the key elements of this system:**

1/ *The Ministry of Culture Guidelines for the provision and accounting of subsidies* provided from the commitments of the Ministry's budget to civil associations, foundations and professional organizations of legal persons to carry out their cultural activities;

2/ *The Ministry of Culture Guidelines for the provision and accounting of subsidies* provided from the commitments of the Ministry's budget to natural persons – entrepreneurs and non-financial entities – legal persons to support their cultural activities in accordance with Act No. 303/1995 Coll. on budgetary rules.

3/ *Rules of organization and procedure of the Committee for the transfer of purpose-tied funds intended to support the culture of national minorities.* This document sets out rules specifying the powers and responsibilities, procedures and eligibility requirements for committees making decision about the provision of purpose-tied funds – grants to projects submitted by the individual entities representing national minorities.

4/ *The Committee for the transfer of purpose-tied funds intended to support the culture of the national minorities* is an important element in this system. It provides for a high degree of the autonomy of the minorities in the fields of project preparation and application, the specification of their objectives and priorities concerning their culture, periodicals and non-periodicals. The Committee consists of 11 representatives of the national minorities. They are appointed by the Minister of Culture. Only the Secretary of the Committee is an employee of the Ministry. The Committee is an advisory body to the Minister providing him with its conclusions and recommendations in this field. This body representing the national minorities assesses the applications of the individual national minorities for contributions and, based on the principle of majority vote, adopts recommendations and conclusions as to the amounts of subsidies to be granted.

5/ The above-specified Committee has its *sub-committees*, which are formed by the individual national minorities. This means that each national minority has its own sub-committee that makes decisions as to the allocation of funds approved and committed for it by the Committee. Taking into consideration its allocation, each national minority sets out its own priorities and approves projects designed to support cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals.

6/ *Applications for the funding of projects in the fields of cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals.* Each national minority submits structured applications for projects that are valid for the whole of the calendar year.

By applying the above-referred system that has been reviewed and updated in the recent years, the national minorities are provided with purpose-tied funds to carry out cultural activities and publish periodicals and non-periodicals. This system is designed and operated with the intention to fulfil the mission and objectives of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as it provides

for the development and use of the languages of minorities and ethnic groups as symbols of their cultural heritage and linguistic identity.

The table below provides a comprehensive review of the financing of national minority culture in Slovakia in the specified period.

Tab. 3 The provisions of funding for minority cultures in the 1995-2002 period from the special allocation under the Ministry of Culture budget chapter (in SKK)

Nationality	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Hungarian	10 952 000	7 327 200	10 390 000	10 976 000	23 813 935	23 014 000	23 703 000	39 142 300
Roma	4 956 296	4 079 200	3 542 000	3 970 000	7 846 550	6 054 980	4 946 000	7 303 900
Czech	937 802	1 294 000	670 000	590 000	2 078 400	2 081 700	2 201 000	2 599 200
Ruthenian	1 697 585	2 360 000	1 010 000	1 250 000	2 078 400	2 390 000	2 215 000	3 399 000
Ukrainian	3 718 793	4 313 000	4 818 000	3 710 000	2 289 990	2 498 000	2 460 000	2 995 000
Moravian	279 10	503 800	501 000	670 000	972 000	990 000	400 000	1 000 000
German	2 573 080	3 784 100	5 176 000	3 495 000	1 990 200	2 067 500	1 830 000	2 373 000
Croatian	1 275 727	1 200 000	2 242 000	2 190 000	1 153 400	1 320 000	1 700 000	1 879 000
Bulgarian	282 440	360 300	411 000	1 380 000	980 175	900 000	493 000	900 000
Jewish	203 500	400 200	1 820 000	250 000	1 920 200	1 780 000	1 626 000	2 066 400
Polish	108 200	778 000	410 000	250 000	614 200	830 000	726 000	1 300 000
Russian					582 200	580 000	520 000	520 000
others	28 644 200	21 388 000	13 352 000	6 080 000	487 200	1 387 000	990 000	1 993 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>55 628 723</b>	<b>47 787 800</b>	<b>44 342 000</b>	<b>34 811 000</b>	<b>47 135 450</b>	<b>45 893 180</b>	<b>43 810 000</b>	<b>67 470 800</b>

In addition to the aforementioned forms of state support for national minorities culture, there are also the following institutions falling under the competence of the Ministry of Culture: the ensemble Ifjú Szívek [Young Hearts], the Museum of Jewish Culture, Museum of the Culture of Hungarians in Slovakia, Museum of Culture of Carpathian Germans, the Documentation Centre of Croatian Culture seated in Bratislava, Museum of the Ruthenian-Ukrainian Culture seated in Svidník, the Documentation Centre of Czech Culture in Slovakia and Documentation Centre of Roma Culture in Slovakia at the Ethnographic Museum of the Slovak National Museum in Martin.

The following institutions are financed from the budgets of the regional offices of state administration as they were transferred from the Ministry of Culture to them under Act No. 222/1996 Coll.: the Jókai Theatre in the town of Komárno, the Thália Theatre in the city of Košice, the Romathan Theatre in the city of Košice, and the A. Duchnovic Theatre in the town of Prešov, the Museum of the Hungarian Culture and Danube region in Komárno, the Departments for the Roma minority culture of the Vihorlat Museum in the town of Humenne and the Gemer-Malohont Museum in the town of Rimavska Sobota.

Table 4 below provides a clear review of the volume of finance provided to national minorities' cultural institutions.

Tab. 4 Funds provided to the institutions of minority cultures under the competence of the Ministry of Culture and regional offices of state administration in 1999-2002

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
1.	Thália Theatre, Košice	6 405 000	7 550 000	9 803 000	9 755 000
2.	Jókai Theatre, Komárno	8 679 000	9 995 000	15 723 000	22 094 000
3.	Romathan Theatre, Košice	7 048 000	7 078 000	7 595 000	7 544 000
4.	A. Duchnovic Theatre, Prešov	10 875 000	11 513 000	11 869 000	18 078 000
5.	Museum of the Ruthenian-Ukrainian Culture, Svidník	5 849 000	4 895 000	4 998 000	5 776 000
6.	Museum of the Hungarian Culture and Danube Region	4 412 000	4 116 000	3 969 000	6 983 000
7.	Museum of the Culture of Hungarians in Slovakia, Bratislava				10 000 000
8.	Museum of the Jewish Culture, Bratislava	5 460 000	5 290 000	5 430 000	5 650 000
9.	Museum of the Culture of Carpathian Germans, Bratislava	1 950 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 050 000
10.	Ensemble Ifjú Szívek, Bratislava	4 429 000	5 386 000	5 997 000	6 137 000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55 107 000</b>	<b>57 823 000</b>	<b>67 384 000</b>	<b>74 267 000</b>

### **Article 13 - Economic and Social Life**

#### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

*1. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, within the whole country:*

- a) to eliminate from their legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of regional or minority languages in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations*
- b) to prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of regional or minority languages, at least between users of the same language*
- c) to oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities.*

*2. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, in so far as the public authorities are competent, within the territory in which the regional or minority languages are used, and as far as this is reasonably possible:*

- c) to ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the possibility of receiving and treating in their own language persons using a regional or minority language who are in need of care on grounds of ill-health, old age or for other reasons.*

## **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions**

### Ad paragraph 1

No legal regulations or internal guidelines regulating social service facilities contain provisions that would prohibit the use of regional or minority languages.

No complaints, petitions or applications concerning rules directed to the discouragement from the use of regional or minority languages have been recorded in the Slovak Republic.

### Ad paragraph 2

Social care facilities provide for the reception and treatment of their clients in their language. Employees of the facilities have good command of the minority language used by the clients of the facilities. There are meeting rooms for individual minorities, religious services are provided individually for each minority. Bilingual magazines and other publications are published. Clients are allowed to watch television programmes in the languages of their choice. The operation is managed in a way so as to ensure that persons of Slovak nationality are not discriminated even in areas with a larger number of clients and employees speaking a language other than Slovak. Cultural and social events in Ruthenian or Ukrainian, as well as in Slovak, are organised for the clients.

Section 8, sub-section 4 of Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the state language of the Slovak Republic as amended lays down the following:

*"The entire documentation of health care facilities is maintained in the state language. The contact between healthcare personnel and the patients is usually conducted in the state language; if the patient is a citizen or foreigner who does not have command of the state language, it can be conducted in a language that enables communication with the patient."*

According to Act No. 634/1992 Coll. on consumer protection (Section 6, Sections 9 – 20), the prohibition of consumer discrimination and the principle of obligatory information apply in Slovakia. Under the above-referred Act, consumer means "a natural person purchasing products and using services for his/her direct consumption...". In this respect, the law does not differentiate between the nationalities of consumers, however, at the same time in case of technical documents, such as users' guides for products or equipment the seller is obliged to inform the consumer on the properties of the goods sold in a language comprehensible to the consumer.

With regard to health and safety at work, Government Ordinance No. 117/2002 Coll. lays down that the employer is obliged to provide information in a language that is comprehensible to all employees concerned.

## Article 14 - Transfrontier exchanges

### Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen

*The Parties undertake:*

a) *to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education*

*only for Ukrainian language*

b) *for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.*

### Measures taken in order to implement these provisions:

The Slovak Republic has concluded bilateral treaties with its neighbours containing provisions guaranteeing the protection of national minorities and support for transfrontier co-operation.

1/ Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Co-operation between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Hungary of 1995 (Council of Europe Recommendation No. 1201 forms a part of the Treaty)

2/ Treaty between the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and the Republic of Poland on Good Neighbourliness, Solidarity and Friendly Co-operation of 1991

3/ Treaty between the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Co-operation of 1992

4/ Treaty between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic on Good Neighbourliness, Friendly Relations and Co-operation of 1992

**5/ Treaty on Good Neighbourliness, Friendly Relations and Co-operation between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine of 1993.**

### **Ukrainian**

On 5 December 2002, the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cross-border Co-operation was concluded. The Agreement created favourable conditions for the development of closer co-operation between territorial self-governments and local state administrations and provided comprehensive support for contacts between the users of Slovak, Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages in both states in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education.

Based on the Agreement, it has been proposed that a working group for cross-border co-operation be established within the Slovak-Ukrainian Intergovernmental Commission for Scientific and Technical Development.

Slovak-Ukrainian cross-border co-operation is also developing within the framework of the Carpathian Euro-region, which covers the territory of several other states.



The Slovak Ministry of the Interior organised a Council of Europe International Conference on Slovak-Ukrainian Cross-border Co-operation held in the towns of Michalovce (Slovakia) and Uzhhorod (Ukraine) on 30 and 31 May 2002 to promote such co-operation.

## **Language: Hungarian**

### **Article 8 - Education**

#### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

*1. With regard to education, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used, according to the situation of each of these languages, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State:*

- a) to make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages*
- b) to make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages*
- c) to make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages*
- d) to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages*
- e) to make available university and other higher education in regional or minority languages*
- f) to arrange for the provision of adult and continuing education courses which are taught mainly or wholly in the regional or minority languages*
- g) to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language*
- h) to provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs a to g accepted by the Party*
- i) to set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of regional or minority languages and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public.*

#### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions:**

During the discussion and ratification of the Charter important legislation governing education for national minorities or ethnic groups in accordance Part I of the Charter were adopted. The following arrangements were introduced:

- the maintenance of bilingual pedagogical documentation at schools using a national minority language as the language of instruction and the issuance of bilingual school reports;
- secondary school entry exams for pupils from primary schools using a national minority language as the language of instruction for studies at schools using Slovak as the language of instruction on the subject of Slovak and Slovak literature within the scope of the curriculum of the primary school they have attended and another main subject in the language used by the primary school they have attended as the language of instruction;
- the introduction of primary school zero classes into the school education system and the establishment of the pedagogical profession of assistant teacher; the assistants work as pedagogical staff at nursery schools, primary schools and special primary schools and promote the success in school of children and pupils from social and educational environments that provide lack of stimulation;
- the transfer of certain competences in the field of education from state administration authorities to municipalities and higher territorial units, effective from 1 July 2002.

## **Envisaged changes:**

A reform of primary and secondary education will be gradually implemented on the basis of the National Programme for the Development of Education and Training in the Slovak Republic in the coming 15 to 20 years, which was approved by the Slovak Government (Government Resolution No. 1193 of 19 December 2001) and the Parliamentary Committee on education, science, youth and sport (Resolution No. 368 of 7 May 2002).

In its Policy Statement (November 2002) the Slovak Government expressed its intention to deal with the several aspects of minority education, notably:

- to approve a new school law governing the field of education and training,
- to establish a university offering studies to citizens of Hungarian nationality in order to overcome differences in level of education and structure,
- to offer the possibility of choice of teaching in the mother tongue to the Ruthenian and Roma minorities,
- to address the outstanding aspects of public school financing,
- to provide for an open school system – the equality of establishment and development of religious and private schools, etc.
- to enhance the university education of the pedagogues belonging to the nationalities in their mother tongue in terms of certification.

## **The school network in the Slovak Republic in the school year 2001/2002:**

The right of national minorities to education under Article 34 of the Slovak Constitution is facilitated by the educational process in the following types of schools:

### **Hungarian**

- nursery schools (state and church)
- primary schools (state and church)
- secondary schools: gymnasia (state, private and church)
  - secondary vocational schools (state and private)
  - secondary apprentice schools (state and private)
- special schools (state schools for physically or mentally impaired pupils: special schools, primary schools at healthcare establishments, primary schools for the hearing impaired, assistance schools, apprentice schools)
- universities (state) – Department of Hungarian Studies and the Pedagogic Faculty of the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, Department of Hungarian Language and Literature of the Comenius University in Bratislava.

The following is the overview of the schools and school facilities with different languages of instruction in the school year 2001/2002.

## 1. NURSERY SCHOOLS

### a) state

Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	2804	6862	141729
of which schools using Ruthenian as the language of instruction	0	0	8
Hungarian	277	557	9479
Slovak-Hungarian	101		
Ukrainian	22	34	534
Slovak-Ukrainian	3		
Slovak-German	1	1	22
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>3208</b>	<b>7454</b>	<b>151772</b>

### b) other

Founder/Language of instruction	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of pupils
municipality/Slovak	10	25	526
enterprise/Slovak	20	56	1103
private/Slovak	10	16	336
church/Slovak	10	19	408
church/Hungarian	2	2	32
civic association/Slovak	1	1	10
other/Slovak	2	3	45
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>2460</b>

<b>Nursery schools in Slovakia in total</b>	<b>3263</b>	<b>7576</b>	<b>154232</b>
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### Children in nursery schools by nationality

Total number of children in nursery schools	154232
of which Slovak nationals	154028
of which:	
Slovak nationality	140546
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	46
Ukrainian	120
Ruthenian	60
Hungarian	12087
Polish	9

German	25
Roma	1016
other	119
foreigners	204

## 2. PRIMARY SCHOOLS

### a) state

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Pupils
Slovak	2053	25754	582669
of which schools with classes using German as the language of instruction	5	39	941
Hungarian	259	2114	41957
Slovak-Hungarian	29		
Ukrainian	7	53	579
Slovak-Ukrainian	1		
German	1	4	60
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>2350</b>	<b>27925</b>	<b>625265</b>

### b) private

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Pupils
Slovak	2	8	79
Bulgarian	1	8	101
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>180</b>

### c) church

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Pupils
Slovak	82	1088	24498
Hungarian	12	64	1023
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>25521</b>

<b>Total number of primary schools in Slovakia</b>	<b>2447</b>	<b>29093</b>	<b>650966</b>
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### Primary school pupils by nationality

Total number of pupils at primary schools	650966
of which Slovak nationals	650027
of which :	
Slovak nationality	589791
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	1267
Ukrainian	613
Ruthenian	255
Hungarian	52863
Polish	48

German	99
Roma	4654
other	437
foreigners	939

### 3. GYMNASIA

#### a) state

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Students
Slovak	137	2116	63325
Hungarian	11	153	4046
Slovak-Hungarian	8		
Ukrainian	1	6	116
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>2275</b>	<b>67487</b>

#### b) private

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Students
Slovak	15	104	2407
Hungarian	1	7	170
other	1	4	38
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>2615</b>

#### c) church

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Students
Slovak	34	333	10054
Hungarian	4	18	459
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>10513</b>

<b>Total number of gymnasia in Slovakia</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>2741</b>	<b>80615</b>
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#### Students of gymnasia by nationality

Total number of students	80615
of which Slovak nationals	80434
of which:	
Slovak nationality	74104
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	264
Ukrainian	91
Ruthenian	56
Hungarian	5787
Polish	15
German	36
Roma	3

other	78
foreigners	181

#### 4. SECONDARY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

##### a) state

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Students
Slovak	289	2970	81268
Hungarian	6	129	3285
Slovak-Hungarian	14		
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>3099</b>	<b>84553</b>

##### b) private

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Students
Slovak	25	140	3102
Hungarian	1	14	259
Slovak-Hungarian	2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>3361</b>

##### c) church

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Students
Slovak	4	35	862
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>862</b>

<b>Total number of secondary vocational schools in Slovakia</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>3288</b>	<b>88776</b>
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#### Students of secondary vocational schools by nationality

Total number of students	88776
of which Slovak nationals	88701
of which:	
Slovak nationality	81609
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	190
Ukrainian	618
Ruthenian	35
Hungarian	6131
Polish	5
German	13
Roma	62
other	38
foreigners	75

## 5. SECONDARY APPRENTICE SCHOOLS AND APPRENTICES

### a) state

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Students
Slovak	326	4019	96093
Hungarian	5	56	1151
Slovak-Hungarian	22	306	6391
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>4381</b>	<b>103635</b>

### b) private

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Students
Slovak	5	25	425
Hungarian	3	33	683
Slovak-Hungarian	2	13	186
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1294</b>

### c) church

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Students
Slovak	5	39	909
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>909</b>

<b>Total number of secondary apprentice schools and apprentices in Slovakia</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>4562</b>	<b>105838</b>
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### Students of secondary apprentice schools and apprentices by nationality:

Total number of students		105838
of which Slovak nationals		105774
of which:		
Slovak nationality		96309
Czech, Moravian, Silesian		220
Ukrainian		103
Ruthenian		48
Hungarian		8867
Polish		6
German		11
Roma		180
other		30
foreigners		64



## 6. SPECIAL SCHOOLS

### a) state

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	339	3192	29040
Hungarian	14	180	1543
Slovak-Hungarian	17		
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>3372</b>	<b>30583</b>

### b) private

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	2	4	26

### c) church

Language of instruction	Schools	Classes	Number of pupils
Slovak	5	36	258
<b>Total in Slovakia</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>3412</b>	<b>30867</b>

### Pupils in special schools by nationality

Total number of pupils at special schools	30867
of which Slovak nationals:	30855
of which:	
Slovak nationality	26522
Czech, Moravian, Silesian	33
Hungarian	2034
Ukrainian	9
Ruthenian	5
Polish	5
Roma	2240
other	7
foreigners	12

## Article 9 - Judicial authorities

### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

*1. The Parties undertake, in respect of those judicial districts in which the number of residents using the regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below, according to the situation of each of these languages and on condition that the use of the facilities afforded by the present paragraph is not considered by the judge to hamper the proper administration of justice:*

- a) in criminal proceedings, to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language and provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language*
- b) in civil proceedings, to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense and allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations*
- c) in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters, to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense and allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translation*
- d) to take steps to ensure that the application of sub-paragraphs b and c above and any necessary use of interpreters and translations do not involve extra expense for the persons concerned.*

*2. a) The Parties undertake not to deny the validity of legal documents drawn up within the State solely because they are drafted in a regional or minority language.*

*3. The Parties undertake to make available in the regional or minority languages the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of these languages, unless they are otherwise provided.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions:**

Ad paragraph 1.

In Article 47 of the Constitution concerning provisions for the use of a regional or minority language in proceedings before courts, the applicable legal system of the Slovak Republic goes beyond the framework of this provision of the Charter. This is associated with the Parties' commitment to allow users of regional or minority languages to use them in judicial districts located in the territory where they live. Act No. 184/1999 Coll. specifies the 20 percent threshold for the use of a minority language in official communication. However, by referring § 5 (1) of this Act, as regards the use of minority languages in court proceedings, to special legal norms, the validity and subsequent application of which is related to the whole territory of the Slovak Republic, it can be stated that the legal system of the Slovak Republic goes beyond this particular requirement of the Charter. The above means that, based on the application of the law on national minority languages, regional or minority languages can be used in court proceedings even outside judicial districts complying with the 20 percent threshold of population representing a national minority

a) To ensure the application of this provision, the Code of Criminal Procedure in its Section 2, sub-section 14 stipulates the following:

*"Every person is entitled to use his/her mother tongue before authorities involved in criminal proceedings."*

To implement this right, authorities involved in criminal proceedings are required to engage an interpreter in line with Section 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure:

*"If there is a need to translate the content of a statement or a written document or if the accused declares that he does not have a command of the language of the proceedings, an interpreter shall be engaged; the interpreter may also act as the recorder."*

Similarly, the provisions of Section 55, paragraph (3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure is to be taken into consideration as it provides details concerning the principle laid down in Section 7, paragraph 1 of the Act on the state language:

*"Records of oral testimony from a person who does not have command of Slovak shall also be drawn up in Slovak; if a verbatim record of the testimony is necessary, the recorder or the interpreter shall also enter the relevant part of the testimony into the records in the language, in which the testimony was provided."*

The above-quoted provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure apply to all parties to proceedings, which means the accused, the defendant, any party to the case, the injured party, as well as the witness if such a person declares that he/she does not understand the language of the proceedings. The application of these provisions in practice is illustrated by extensive case law:

*R 34/1967: "If the defendant does not have a command of the language of the proceedings, the criminal justice authority is obliged to engage an interpreter under Section 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Failure to engage an interpreter for the proceedings constitutes a curtailment of the right of defence and grounds for the vacation of the judgment."*

*R 28/1981: "If a person who does not have a command of Czech or Slovak testifies before court as a witness, the court must engage an interpreter even if the presiding judge has a command of the language in which the witness gives testimony."*

*R 48/1994: "Under Section 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as amended by Act No. 558/1992 Coll. an interpreter must be also engaged if the accused claims that he/she does not have a command of the language of the proceedings. This is a subjective right of the accused to express himself/herself in his/her mother tongue. The above-specified indicates that the engagement of an interpreter does not depend on the opinion of the criminal justice authorities whether and to what extent the accused has a command of the Slovak language."*

The provisions of Section 2, paragraphs 14 and 28 of the Code of Criminal Procedure are not only applied to the initial phase of criminal prosecution, but also to the period prior to the beginning of criminal prosecution, notably to the lodging of information on crime under Section 59 in connection with Section 158, paragraph 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure:

*Information on the facts indicating the commission of criminal offence shall be filed to prosecutor, investigator or police body; those are obliged to instruct informer on his/her responsibility for giving deliberately false entries. Prosecutor may handover the received information to investigator or police body for further procedures.*

Equally, if any documentary evidence that either supports or refutes the alleged facts related to the criminal offence or the accused is provided in a regional or minority language, its translation is provided in accordance with Section 112, paragraph 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. However, it should be noted that the applicable legislation does not provide for the reverse

procedure, i.e. the provision of translations of adopted decisions as it is indicated by the following adjudication:

*R 42/1976: "Written documents relating to the proceedings before court and issued in the Czech or Slovak languages in the course of criminal proceedings shall be delivered by courts to the parties to proceedings that do not command these languages, without translation into their mother tongue."*

According to Section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the costs of criminal proceedings, including the costs of sentence enforcement proceedings, shall be borne by the State. This provision indicates that in addition to costs related to the individual acts, the State also bears costs related to the engagement of an interpreter.

The above-quoted provisions show that the applicable legal system in the Slovak Republic enshrines the right to use a regional or minority language in criminal proceedings. As this right is guaranteed to any person stating that he/she does not have a command of the language of the proceedings, not limited to the accused, in any phase of criminal proceedings, the Slovak legislation governing this matter goes beyond the framework laid down by the relevant provision of the Charter. It is evident that the exercise of this right does not result in any extra costs to be incurred by such persons. The existing Code of Criminal Procedure thus fully respects the provisions of the Charter, which the Slovak Republic undertook to implement.

b) In its Section 18, the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure lays down the following:

*"The parties shall participate in civil proceedings on an equal footing. They have the right to use their mother tongue in proceedings before court. The court shall have to provide them with equal opportunities to exercise their rights."*

The above-referred provision reflects and lays down details relating to Article 12 of the Slovak Constitution, which governs the equality of participants in civil proceedings. This equality is ensured by means of the right to act before court in one's mother tongue, which means that participants in proceedings have the right to make petitions and other written motions as well as to make oral statements in their mother tongue, and the court is obliged to engage an interpreter to facilitate communication with the participant in his/her mother tongue. Costs relating to the engagement of an interpreter are borne by the State as it is stipulated by Section 141, sub-section 2 of the Code of Civil Judicial Procedure:

*"The costs of evidence that are not covered by the advance payment, as well as cash expenses incurred by the appointed counsel, who is not an attorney-at-law, and costs related to the use of the party's mother tongue in the proceedings shall be borne by the State."*

The fact that this provision is applied in practise is well documented by case law:

*R 21/1986: "The duty to reimburse the costs of the engagement an interpreter so that a participant in civil judicial proceedings could act in his/her mother tongue must not be imposed on the participant. The same applies to an interpreter appointed by court to facilitate communication with a deaf-mute participant in proceedings."*

The above means that the existing legal system and legislation in the Slovak Republic allow for the use of a regional or minority language in civil proceedings before courts, to provide evidence and documents in regional and minority languages without any additional costs to be borne by those parties and thus this provision of the Charter is fully respected.

c) The provisions related to proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters form an integral part of the Code of Civil Procedure. The special regulations related to this area of law are

dealt with in Section V of the Code of Civil Procedure. This means that the general provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, including the right to use one's mother tongue in court actions, are analogically applicable to proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters. For further details, see Article 9 (1) b) of the Charter.

d) As the above analysis of the relevant provisions of the Slovak Republic's legal order shows, the cost of interpreting or translations, related to the application by a party of the right to use a regional or minority language in civil court proceedings and proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters, is borne by the state. For further details, see Article 9 (1) b) and c) of the Charter.

Ad paragraph 2.

As regards the Slovak Republic's commitment not to deny the validity of legal documents drawn up within the State solely because they are drafted in a regional or minority language, it must be underlined that this may only concern documents drafted by natural or legal persons in the form of requests, submissions, proposals, etc. This arises particularly from Article 6 of the Constitution, as well as Section 7 of the law on the state language, because state authorities of the Slovak Republic issue decisions in the state language and therefore a legal document drawn up by a state authority cannot be in a language other than Slovak, with the exception of public administration decisions under the law on national minority languages. Based on the act, state administration and territorial self-government authorities can, upon request, issue a decision in a national minority language, along with the Slovak version. Yet, this only applies to municipalities where the population of members of the national minority is at least 20%. But it should be emphasised, that unless it is requested that they also be issued in a national minority language, these decisions are only issued in Slovak. This means that the parties cannot use state authorities' decisions only in a national minority language in a court proceeding.

With this regard if these legal documents (e.g. requests, testaments, proposals, letters of attorney, etc.) are submitted by natural or legal persons in a regional or minority language in court proceedings, the validity of these documents is not denied a priori. Following legal assessment of the importance or relevance of the submitted legal documents, justified by the submitting party of the proceedings, the court shall request translation of such a document with the aim of getting acquainted with the facts stated in it, assessing it and subsequently deciding.

Ad paragraph 3.

As regards the Slovak Republic's commitment to make available in the regional or minority languages the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of these languages, under point C of Governmental Resolution No. 27/2001 the Deputy Prime Minister for human and minority rights and regional development was assigned the task of elaborating a comprehensive report on the legislative, financial and other measures adopted to ensure the fulfilment of the Slovak Republic's commitments arising from the adopted provisions of the Charter. This report should specify the necessary measures related to the implementation of the Charter in practice, including Article 9 (3) of the Charter, the application of which will undoubtedly require the allocation of a significant amount of finance from the state budget.

## **Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services**

### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

1. *Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible:*

a) *ii – to ensure that such of their officers as are in contact with the public use the regional or minority languages in their relations with persons applying to them in these languages; or*

2. *In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:*

a) *the use of regional or minority languages within the framework of the regional or local authority*

b) *the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages*

c) *the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages*

d) *the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages*

f) *the use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State*

g) *the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.*

3. *With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible:*

b) *to allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request and receive a reply in these languages; or*

a) *translation or interpretation as may be required*

c) *compliance as far as possible with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of a regional or minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.*

5. *The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions:**

The commitment of the Slovak Republic stipulated in Article 10 of the Charter is respected by the country according to the adopted international documents as well as according to internal legislation regulating this issue.

#### **The international documents covering this issue are mainly:**

- UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities of 1992 Article 2 paragraph 1.
- Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension, Article 32.1.

- The Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.
- Treaty on Good Neighbourly Relations and Friendly Cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the Hungarian Republic, Article 15 paragraph 2 subparagraph g).

Ad paragraph 1.

In 501 municipalities, where the Hungarian language is used, the staff of municipal authorities has a knowledge of the Hungarian language and use it in contacts with persons addressing them in Hungarian language. In 23 municipalities, which are the seats of district authorities and their detached units (according to information of respective regional offices) the heads of the regional offices and the mayors of the municipalities particularly since 1998 arranged the operation of the offices so as in each department at least one officer has command of Hungarian.

In some districts (e.g. Komárno, Levice, Nové Zámky, Šála etc.) there are 20-50 % of population speaking Hungarian. Social services facilities have competence over the whole state territory and are used by clients speaking Slovak and Hungarian. In retirement homes, social care facilities, orphanages, care facilities for pensioners the staff also communicate in Hungarian. The clients have the possibility to attend religious services, cultural activities, social events, watch TV programmes, read books and daily press in Slovak and in Hungarian.

Ad paragraph 2.

As regards the Slovak Republic's internal legislation, this commitment from the Charter is enacted above all in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, under Article 34 (2) b):

*... "besides the right to master the state language, citizens belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups are also guaranteed, under conditions defined by law,*

*b) the right to use their language in official contact..."*

The specific use of national minority languages on the territory of the Slovak Republic is regulated by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of National Minority Languages.

Persons living in municipalities listed in the Annex to Government regulation No. 221/1999 Coll., issuing a list of municipalities, where Slovak citizens belonging to a national minority constitute at least 20 % of the population, are entitled by the law to:

- use the national minority language in official communications,
- submit written applications to a state authority, located in the municipality and a self-administration body of the municipality also in the national minority language and receive a reply in the state language and the national minority language, with the exception of public documents (identity card, driving licence, passport etc.),
- receive, upon request, a decision issued in administrative proceedings also in the minority language,
- receive, upon request, forms, issued under the competence of the self-administration body also in the minority language,
- conduct a session of a local self-government also in the minority language with the consent of all present,
- use a minority language by the members of municipality councils at the council's sessions; interpreting into the state language is arranged for by the municipality,
- maintain local chronicles in a minority language,
- use a minority language to indicate buildings used as the seat of the municipality's self-government or a state administration authority,
- use a minority language for street names and other local place-names,

- use a minority language on signs providing important information (warnings, health protection),
- request state administration authorities and local self-government for information on generally binding legal regulations in a minority language,
- use a minority language in official communication by employees of self-government and state administration authorities in 23 municipalities where these institutions are seated.

With regard to this Act, the Public Administration Section of the Ministry of the Interior issued and published within the Operational Instructions Journal for regional and district offices of state administration:

- Guidelines to general internal administration units, small traders' licensing units and fire protection units for the use of minority languages in official communications, Issue No. 12 of 9 September 1999.
- Guidelines for signing of buildings of state administration bodies in minority languages, Issue No. 10 of 10 May 2000
- Guidelines for the signing of buildings of local government bodies, Issue No. 203-2001/05692 of 4 May 2001.

The Act No. 191/1994 Coll. on the names and signs of municipalities in minority languages governs the use of traditional place names in minority languages:

Section 1 of the Act:

- (1) *Municipalities in which residents belonging to a national minority represent at least 20 per cent of the population are identified in the minority language on separate traffic signposts specifying the limits of the municipality."*
- (2) *Road signs under (1) shall be placed under road signs displaying the name of the municipality in the state language."*
- (3) *The list of names of municipalities in national minority languages is stated in the annex to this Act; the names of municipalities have a local character.*

Under this Act the relevant bodies of local state administration, particularly traffic authorities, are obliged to provide for the signing of the municipality in the relevant minority language. This part of the Act came into effect in November 1994. The local state administration bodies comply with this statutory requirement. The municipalities in which national minorities represent at least 20 per cent of the population are identified by means of such signposts.

In some districts there are areas, with approximately 50% of Slovak speaking and 50 % of Hungarian speaking citizens. In oral communication the minority language is used routinely and also in written communication, when necessary. The users of a regional or minority language may submit oral or written requests in the regional languages. A request in the minority language is replied to in the minority language. Requests in minority languages appear only sporadically.

The necessary documents, announcements, methodological guidelines on generally binding legal regulations and minutes from meetings with the persons living in social service facilities are submitted in the state language and also in the regional or minority language.

The social service facilities in ethnically mixed areas provide their clients – applicants for social aid with forms (applications), explanations, recommendations and suggestions in bilingual version or in the minority language.

In official meetings the state language is used, but regional or minority language is not excluded. In case of need translation or interpretation are provided. The regional and local press publishes articles, interviews on social aid also in minority languages.



Ad paragraph 3.

Implementation of this commitment of the Charter is ensured in the Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Minority Languages, in particular in Section 2 paragraph 3:

*"A citizen of the Slovak Republic, belonging to a national minority shall have the right to submit written applications to a body of state administration and a body of local self-administration (hereinafter "body of public administration") in the municipality under paragraph 1 also in the minority language. The body of public administration in the municipality under paragraph 1 shall provide a reply in the state language and in the minority language, with the exception of public documents."*

The use of a regional or a minority language is possible in all areas of activity, social services facilities, with at least 20 % of inhabitants of Hungarian nationality.

Clients of the social service facilities may submit their requests in the minority language, replies to such requests are provided by the employees of these facilities also in that language. As yet no complaints relating to the use of minority languages were registered.

Ad paragraph 4.

Translation and interpretation in those facilities are provided by the staff speaking the minority language, enabling the clients to use this language. Social service facilities hire staff according to the qualification criteria and skills - in regions with Hungarian speaking population some 20% of the staff speak the regional minority language.

Ad paragraph 5.

This Slovakia's undertaking related to the Charter is transposed into Act No. 300/1993 Coll. on first name and surname and Act No. 154/1994 Coll. on registers. In this context, the following provisions of the Act on registers are relevant:

*Section 13, sub-section 4: "Upon the oral notification of a birth, the informant is obliged to prove his/her identity. If the informant... makes such notification in a language of which the registrar does not have a command, the presence of an interpreter is required. Should the interpreter not be an officially appointed interpreter, the interpreter must make an oath, in accordance with a special regulation, before the registrar for whom the interpreter will interpret. The data on interpretation and the interpreter shall be recorded in the Birth Register."*

*Section 16: "The female surname of a person other than Slovak nationality shall be recorded without the grammatical suffix of gender indication according to the Slovak grammatical rules,*

*a) if it is requested by the parents of a female child at the registration of her surname in the Birth Register according to Section 13, sub-section 1, if it is requested by the adoptive parents at the registration of the surname of their adopted child in case of irrevocable adoption;*

*b) if it is requested by a woman at the registration of her marriage in the Marriage Register according to Section 14;*

*c) if it is requested by a woman in relation to the registration of the decision on a change to surname in accordance with a special act."*

*Section 19, sub-section 3: "In the birth certificate of a person other than of Slovak nationality whom this official document concerns and whose name is recorded in the Register in the Slovak equivalent, the person's name shall be recorded in his/her language, if he/she requests*

*so in writing; and such fact shall be recorded in the Register. All further modifications and confirmations shall be made using this form of the name. "*

*Section 19, sub-section 5: "In the birth certificate or marriage certificate of a woman whom this official document concerns, her surname shall be recorded without the Slovak gender-identifying suffix, if she requests so in writing; this fact shall be recorded in the Register. All further official extracts and confirmations on data recorded in the Register shall be made using this form of the surname. Any request in writing according to the first sentence above shall be maintained in the Register of documents."*

The Act on first name and surname:

- Section 2, sub-section 5: *"A person born on the territory of the SR may have several names given, also foreign ones, according to conditions set out in Section 1..."*

The users of regional or minority language may submit oral or written requests in their language. Most of registrars in linguistically mixed areas speak not only the state but also the Hungarian language. Some registrars (approximately 10 %) in this area are of Hungarian nationality. Civilian marriage ceremonies in linguistically mixed areas are carried out by the Register Offices in both languages.

## **Article 11 - Media**

### **Paragraph and Sub-paragraph chosen**

*1. The Parties undertake, for the users of the regional or minority languages within the territories in which those languages are spoken, according to the situation of each language, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:*

*a iii) to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages;*

*b ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;*

*c ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;*

*d) to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the regional or minority languages;*

*e i) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority languages;*

*f i) to cover the additional costs of those media which use regional or minority languages, wherever the law provides for financial assistance in general for the media.*

*2. The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language. The exercise of the above-mentioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or*

*penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interest of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.*

*3. The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of the users of regional or minority languages are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions:**

Slovak Radio provides a separate broadcast for Hungarian national minority. It broadcasts by the Main editor's office of the Hungarian Broadcasting. This unit consists from 44 staff members out of who 34 are editors, preparing 56 hours and 10 minutes of broadcasts per week. In 2002 it came to 2.480 hours, in the first six months of 2003 it made 1660 hours. There are all kinds of broadcast, news, documentary, music and drama programmes. Dominant position is held by the journalist programme Pulz. Broadcasts such as Denná kronika (Daily Chronicle), Ozveny (Echoes), Z týždna na týžden (From one week to another), Turmix, Literárna mozaika (Literary mosaic), U nás doma (At our home) are also widely followed.

In the Slovak Television the programs are broadcasted for the Hungarian national minority by the editor's office of the Hungarian Broadcasting in Bratislava as follows:

News	211 x 5 minutes = 1055 minutes = 17,58 hours yearly
Magazines	113 x 26 minutes = 2678 minutes = 44,63 hours yearly
Total	62,21 hours yearly.

It is also possible to receive in the SR the TV and radio signal of numerous TV and radio networks (public and private) from neighbouring countries. Apart from the electronic media, numerous titles of periodic and non-periodic press are published each year in the SR, with the financial support of the state. There are no barriers to access to foreign literature.

### **Constitution of the SR**

Article 34 paragraph 1: *"The comprehensive development of persons belonging to national minorities or ethnic groups in the Slovak Republic is guaranteed, particularly the right to develop their own culture, together with other members of the minority or ethnic group, the right to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue, the right to associate in national minority associations, and the right to set up and maintain educational and cultural institutions."*

#### **Act No. 308/2000 Coll. on Broadcasting and Retransmission**

Section 16: *"The broadcaster shall: (...)*

*g) ensure at broadcasting of programs and other elements of program service the use of the state language and languages of national minorities in accordance with special regulations"*.

#### **Act No. 255/1991 Coll. on Slovak Radio:**

Section 6 *"Slovak Radio fulfils the following main tasks:*

*d) By the means of the radio broadcasting it contributes to the development of the national culture and culture of nationalities living in the Slovak Republic, as well as to the mediation of cultural values of other nations."*

## **Act No. 254/1991 Coll. on Slovak Television:**

Section 3, sub-section 3 *"The Slovak Television by the means of the television broadcasting in their mother tongue also provides for the exercise of the interests of the nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic."*

Section 6 indent j *"Slovak Television fulfils the following tasks:*

*... it contributes by the means of the television broadcasting to the development of the national culture and cultures of nationalities living in the Slovak Republic, as well as to the mediation of cultural values of other nations."*

The above review demonstrates that, based on public television and radio, very good conditions, comparable with the standards in EU Member States, have been created for the application/implementation of the European Charter in the field of the media.

## **Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities**

### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen:**

*1. With regard to cultural activities and facilities – especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies - the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:*

- a) to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;*
- b) to foster the different means of access in other languages to works produced in regional or minority languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling activities;*
- c) to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling activities;*
- d) to ensure that the bodies responsible for organizing or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;*
- e) to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organizing or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population;*
- f) to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;*
- g) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the regional or minority languages;*

2. *In respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies so, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.*

3. *The Parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad, for regional or minority languages and the cultures they reflect.*

**Measures taken in order to implement these provisions :**

Within the framework of its powers and responsibilities, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic is engaged in a broad range of efficient co-operation with the organizations representing 12 national minorities living in the Slovak Republic. Political, organisational and financial support provided to their activities and aiming at maintaining and developing the cultures of the national minorities and ethnic groups ensures free use of their languages and respect for their specifics and values.

In this respect, the special unit of the Ministry of Culture – minority culture section– provides systemic and planned financial support from state budget to civil associations, i.e. non-governmental organisations of the Hungarian, Roma, Jewish, German, Croatian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, Czech, Bulgarian and Moravian nationalities.

In accordance with the Government's Policy Statement and national minority policy, the Ministry of Culture has elaborated an effective, objective and transparent scheme for the provision of finance from the special allocation under the Ministry of Culture budget for individual minority cultures.

**The following are the key elements of this system:**

1/ *The Ministry of Culture Guidelines for the provision and accounting of subsidies* provided from the commitments of the Ministry's budget to civil associations, foundations and professional organizations of legal persons to carry out their cultural activities;

2/ *The Ministry of Culture Guidelines for the provision and accounting of subsidies* provided from the commitments of the Ministry's budget to natural persons – entrepreneurs and non-financial entities – legal persons to support their cultural activities in accordance with Act No. 303/1995 Coll. on budgetary rules.

3/ *Rules of organization and procedure of the Committee for the transfer of purpose-tied funds intended to support the culture of national minorities.* This document sets out rules specifying the powers and responsibilities, procedures and eligibility requirements for committees making decision about the provision of purpose-tied funds – grants to projects submitted by the individual entities representing national minorities.

4/ *The Committee for the transfer of purpose-tied funds intended to support the culture of the national minorities* is an important element in this system. It provides for a high degree of the autonomy of the minorities in the fields of project preparation and application, the specification of their objectives and priorities concerning their culture, periodicals and non-periodicals. The Committee consists of 11 representatives of the national minorities. They are appointed by the Minister of Culture. Only the Secretary of the Committee is an employee of the Ministry. The Committee is an advisory body to the Minister providing him with its conclusions and recommendations in this field. This body representing the national minorities assesses the applications of the individual national minorities for contributions and, based on the principle of majority vote, adopts recommendations and conclusions as to the amounts of subsidies to be granted.

5/ The above-specified Committee has its *sub-committees*, which are formed by the individual national minorities. This means that each national minority has its own sub-committee that makes

decisions as to the allocation of funds approved and committed for it by the Committee. Taking into consideration its allocation, each national minority sets out its own priorities and approves projects designed to support cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals.

6/ *Applications for the funding of projects in the fields of cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals.* Each national minority submits structured applications for projects that are valid for the whole of the calendar year.

By applying the above-referred system that has been reviewed and updated in the recent years, the national minorities are provided with purpose-tied funds to carry out cultural activities and publish periodicals and non-periodicals. This system is designed and operated with the intention to fulfil the mission and objectives of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as it provides for the development and use of the languages of minorities and ethnic groups as symbols of their cultural heritage and linguistic identity.

The table below provides a comprehensive review of the financing of national minority culture in Slovakia in the specified period.

Table 5: The provisions of funding for **minority cultures in the 1995-2002 period** from the special allocation under the Ministry of Culture budget chapter (in SKK)

Nationality	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Hungarian	10 952 000	7 327 200	10 390 000	10 976 000	23 813 935	23 014 000	23 703 000	39 142 300
Roma	4 956 296	4 079 200	3 542 000	3 970 000	7 846 550	6 054 980	4 946 000	7 303 900
Czech	937 802	1 294 000	670 000	590 000	2 078 400	2 081 700	2 201 000	2 599 200
Ruthenian	1 697 585	2 360 000	1 010 000	1 250 000	2 078 400	2 390 000	2 215 000	3 399 000
Ukrainian	3 718 793	4 313 000	4 818 000	3 710 000	2 289 990	2 498 000	2 460 000	2 995 000
Moravian	279 10	503 800	501 000	670 000	972 000	990 000	400 000	1 000 000
German	2 573 080	3 784 100	5 176 000	3 495 000	1 990 200	2 067 500	1 830 000	2 373 000
Croatian	1 275 727	1 200 000	2 242 000	2 190 000	1 153 400	1 320 000	1 700 000	1 879 000
Bulgarian	282 440	360 300	411 000	1 380 000	980 175	900 000	493 000	900 000
Jewish	203 500	400 200	1 820 000	250 000	1 920 200	1 780 000	1 626 000	2 066 400
Polish	108 200	778 000	410 000	250 000	614 200	830 000	726 000	1 300 000
Russian					582 200	580 000	520 000	520 000
others	28 644 200	21 388 000	13 352 000	6 080 000	487 200	1 387 000	990 000	1 993 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>55 628 723</b>	<b>47 787 800</b>	<b>44 342 000</b>	<b>34 811 000</b>	<b>47 135 450</b>	<b>45 893 180</b>	<b>43 810 000</b>	<b>67 470 800</b>

In addition to the aforementioned forms of state support for national minorities culture, there are also the following institutions falling under the competence of the Ministry of Culture: the ensemble Ifjú Szívek [Young Hearts], the Museum of Jewish Culture, Museum of the Culture of Hungarians in Slovakia, Museum of Culture of Carpathian Germans, the Documentation Centre of Croatian Culture seated in Bratislava , Museum of the Ruthenian-Ukrainian Culture seated in Svidník, the Documentation Centre of Czech Culture in Slovakia and Documentation Centre of Roma Culture in Slovakia at the Ethnographic Museum of the Slovak National Museum in Martin.

The following institutions are financed from the budgets of the regional offices of state administration as they were transferred from the Ministry of Culture to them under Act No. 222/1996 Coll.: the Jókai Theatre in the town of Komárno, the Thália Theatre in the city of Košice, the Romathan Theatre in the city of Košice, and the A. Duchnovic Theatre in the town of Prešov, the Museum of the Hungarian Culture and Danube region in Komárno, the Departments for the Roma minority culture of the Vihorlat Museum in the town of Humenne and the Gemer-Malohont Museum in the town of Rimavska Sobota.

The following table shows the levels of funds provided to minority cultural institutions:

Table 6: Funds provided to the institutions of minority cultures under the competence of the Ministry of Culture and regional offices of state administration in 1999-2002

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
1.	Thália Theatre, Košice	6 405 000	7 550 000	9 803 000	9 755 000
2.	Jókai Theatre, Komárno	8 679 000	9 995 000	15 723 000	22 094 000
3.	Romathan Theatre, Košice	7 048 000	7 078 000	7 595 000	7 544 000
4.	A. Duchnovic Theatre, Prešov	10 875 000	11 513 000	11 869 000	18 078 000
5.	Museum of the Ruthenian-Ukrainian Culture, Svidník	5 849 000	4 895 000	4 998 000	5 776 000
6.	Museum of the Hungarian Culture and Danube Region	4 412 000	4 116 000	3 969 000	6 983 000
7.	Museum of the Culture of Hungarians in Slovakia, Bratislava				10 000 000
8.	Museum of Jewish Culture, Bratislava	5 460 000	5 290 000	5 430 000	5 650 000
9.	Museum of the Culture of Carpathian Germans, Bratislava	1 950 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 050 000
10.	Ensemble Ifjú Szívek, Bratislava	4 429 000	5 386 000	5 997 000	6 137 000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55 107 000</b>	<b>57 823 000</b>	<b>67 384 000</b>	<b>74 267 000</b>

### Article 13 – Economic and Social Life

#### Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen

1. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, within the whole country:

a) to eliminate from their legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of regional or minority languages in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations;

b) to prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of regional or minority languages, at least between users of the same language;

c) to oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities;

2. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, in so far as the public authorities are competent, within the territory in which the regional or minority languages are used, and as far as this is reasonably possible:

c) to ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the possibility of receiving and treating in their own language persons using a regional or minority language who are in need of care on grounds of ill-health, old age or for other reasons;

## **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions:**

### Ad paragraph 1

No legal regulation or internal guidelines regulating social service facilities contain provisions that would prohibit the use of regional or minority languages.

No complaints, suggestions or petitions for proceedings were lodged in the Slovak Republic that would aim at discouraging the use of regional or minority language or at preventing the use of Hungarian language or rejecting an application in this language.

### Ad paragraph 2

Social care facilities provide for the reception and treatment of their clients in their language. Employees of the facilities have good command of the minority language used by the clients of the facilities. There are meeting rooms for individual minorities, religious services are provided individually for each minority. Bilingual magazines and other publications are published. Clients are allowed to watch television programmes in the languages of their choice. The operation is managed in a way so as to ensure that persons of Slovak nationality are not discriminated even in areas with a larger number of Hungarian speaking clients and employees. Cultural and social events in Hungarian, as well as in Slovak, are organised for the clients.

According to Act No. 270/1995 Coll. On the state language of the Slovak Republic as amended:

*"The entire documentation of health care facilities is maintained in the state language. The contact between healthcare personnel and the patients is usually conducted in the state language; if the patient is a citizen or foreigner who does not have command of the state language, it can be conducted in a language that enables communication with the patient."*

According to Act No. 634/1992 Coll. On Consumer Protection (Section 6, Sections 9-20) the prohibition of consumer discrimination and the principle of obligatory information apply in Slovakia. Consumer is a "natural person purchasing products and using services for his/her direct consumption...". In this respect the law does not differentiate between the nationalities of consumers, however at the same time, in case of technical documents, such as users' guides for products or equipment the seller is obliged to inform the consumer on the characteristics of the goods sold in a language comprehensible to the consumer.

As regards the protection of life and health of employees under Government regulation No. 117/2002 Coll. the employer is obliged to provide information in a language that is comprehensible to all employees concerned.

## **Article 14- Transfrontier exchanges**

### **Paragraphs and Sub-paragraphs Chosen**

*1. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, within the whole country:*

*a) to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education;*



b) *for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.*

### **Measures taken in order to implement these provisions**

This issue is covered by the Treaty on Good Neighbourly Relations and Friendly Cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the Hungarian Republic that entered into force on 15 May 1996 (No. 115/1997 Coll.), Article 7.

*"The Contracting Parties shall create conditions to develop various forms of economic cooperation in the border areas at regional and local level, including cooperation between natural persons and legal entities."*

*"The Contracting Parties attach importance to the cooperation between second-level self-administration entities, cities and municipalities according to their competencies while applying the subsidiarity principle."*

According to the stipulations of Article: 15 paragraph 6 of the Treaty on Good Neighbourly Relations and Friendly Cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Hungary of 1995 (hereinafter the Basic Treaty) and on the basis of the Protocol between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary of 24 November 1998 on the creation of a mechanism helping the implementation of the Basic Treaty, eleven Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commissions were established.

- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Military and Other Security Policy Issues
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Economic Cooperation
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for the Protection of Nature and Environment
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Transport, Communications and Their Infrastructure
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Agriculture, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Care
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Culture and Press
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Education, Science, Sport and Youth
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Health Care, Health Insurance and Social Care
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Cooperation in Areas in the Competence of the Ministry of Interior
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minorities
- Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration or Other Foreign Policy Issues

On 23 April 2001 the Prime Ministers signed the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Cross-border Cooperation between Territorial Units or Administrative Bodies. Upon signing the agreement conditions were created for the development of cooperation between neighbouring border areas, cities, municipalities and their associations and contacts between speakers of the Slovak and the Hungarian languages were encouraged in both countries in the area of culture, education, information, vocational training and lifelong learning.

According to Article 8 of the Agreement an Intergovernmental Joint Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Cross-Border Cooperation was established.

An international conference of the Council of Europe on Slovak-Hungarian cooperation was organised by the Slovak Ministry of Interior in Lucenec (Slovakia) and Salgótarján (Hungary) in September 1999 to support such cooperation.

The Slovak – Hungarian cross-border cooperation develops well, as it is demonstrated by the fact that many international associations - "Euroregions" were established recently on either side of the border (some of them involving several countries): Euroregion Karpaty, Euroregion Slaná – Rimava, Euroregion Neogradiensis, Ipel Euroregion, Euroregion Váh – Danube – Ipel, Euroregion of the Danubian Tripartite; also so-called micro-regions are established, comprising several neighbouring border villages of either country.

### Overview of funding provided for the culture of national minorities in 1999 - 2002

Funding provided for cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals from the transfer Minority Culture in 1999

Nationality	Cultural activities	%	Periodicals	%	Non-periodicals	%	Total	%
Bulgarian	488 175	2,7	432 000	2,1	60 000	0,8	<b>980 175</b>	2,1
Czech	661 000	3,6	970 000	4,7	447 400	5,6	<b>2 078 400</b>	4,4
Croatian	1 153 400	6,3	0	0	0	0	<b>1 153 400</b>	2,4
Hungarian	7 848 135	42,6	9 770 000	47,1	6 195 800	77,2	<b>23 813 935</b>	50,5
Moravian	762 000	4,2	210 000	1,0	0	0	<b>972 000</b>	2,1
German	978 200	5,4	883 000	4,3	120 00	1,5	<b>1 990 200</b>	4,2
Polish	350 175	1,9	264 025	1,3	0	0	<b>614 200</b>	1,3
Roma	2 787 750	15,2	4 908 800	23,6	150 000	1,9	<b>7 846 550</b>	16,6
Ruthenian	625 000	3,4	1 775 000	8,6	0	0	<b>2 400 000</b>	5,1
Russian	204 200	1,1	385 000	1,9	0	0	<b>589 200</b>	1,3
Ukrainian	1 119 990	6,1	1 136 000	5,5	34 000	0,4	<b>2 289 990</b>	4,9
Jewish	910 000	5,0	0	0	1 010 200	12,6	<b>1 920 200</b>	4,1
others	487 200	2,7	0	0	0	0	<b>487 200</b>	1,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 384 225</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20 733 825</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8 017 400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47 135 450</b>	100

Funding provided for cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals from the transfer Minority Culture in 2000

Nationality	Cultural activities	%	Periodicals	%	Non-periodicals	%	Total	%
Bulgarian	500 000	2,5	400 000	2,5	0	0	<b>900 000</b>	2,0
Czech	981 700	4,9	1 100 000	6,7	0	0	<b>2 081 700</b>	4,5
Croatian	965 000	4,8	0	0	355 000	3,7	<b>1 320 000</b>	2,9
Hungarian	9 631 000	48,1	6 543 000	40,1	6 840 000	71,4	<b>23 014 000</b>	50,0
Moravian	590 000	2,9	400 000	2,5	0	0	<b>990 000</b>	2,2
German	1 267 500	6,3	800 000	4,9	0	0	<b>2 067 500</b>	4,5
Polish	610 000	3,0	220 000	1,3	0	0	<b>830 000</b>	1,8
Roma	2 728 980	13,6	2 843 000	17,4	483 000	5,0	<b>6 054 980</b>	13,2
Ruthenian	647 000	3,2	1 573 000	9,7	170 000	1,8	<b>2 390 000</b>	5,2
Russian	180 000	0,9	400 000	2,5	0	0	<b>580 000</b>	1,3
Ukrainian	715 000	3,6	1 540 000	9,4	243 000	2,5	<b>2 498 000</b>	5,4
Jewish	210 000	1,0	70 000	0,4	1 500 000	15,6	<b>1 780 000</b>	3,9
others	978 350	4,9	408 650	2,5	0	0	<b>1 387 000</b>	3,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 004 530</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16 297 650</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9 591 000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45 893 180</b>	100

Funding provided for cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals from the transfer Minority Culture in 2001

Nationality	<b>Cultural activities</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Periodicals</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Non-periodicals</b>	<b>%</b>	<u>Total</u>	<b>%</b>
Bulgarian	493 000	2,48	0	0	0	0	<b>493 000</b>	1,12
Czech	1 095 000	5,52	1 106 000	6,95	0	0	<b>2 201 000</b>	5,02
Croatian	1 346 000	6,79	0	0	354 000	4,38	<b>1 700 000</b>	3,88
Hungarian	10 540 000	53,18	7 504 000	47,15	5 695 000	70,52	<b>23 703 000</b>	54,1
Moravian	0	0	400 000	2,51	0	0	<b>400 000</b>	0,91
German	1 130 000	5,7	700 000	4,4	0	0	<b>1 830 000</b>	4,17
Polish	445 000	2,24	281 000	1,76	0	0	<b>726 000</b>	1,65
Roma	2 408 000	12,15	2 150 000	13,51	388 000	4,8	<b>4 946 000</b>	11,29
Ruthenian	580 000	2,93	1 500 000	9,42	135 000	1,67	<b>2 215 000</b>	5,05
Russian	105 000	0,53	415 000	2,6	0	0	<b>520 000</b>	1,19
Ukrainian	787 000	3,97	1 460 000	9,17	213 000	2,64	<b>2 460 000</b>	5,61
Jewish	379 000	1,91	50 000	0,31	1 197 000	14,82	<b>1 626 000</b>	3,71
others	512 000	2,58	348 000	2,19	130 000	1,61	<b>990 000</b>	2,25
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 820 000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15 914 000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8 076 000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43 810 000</b>	100

Funding provided for cultural activities, periodicals and non-periodicals from the transfer Minority Culture in 2002

Nationality	<b>Cultural activities</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Periodicals</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Non-periodicals</b>	<b>%</b>	<u>Total</u>	<b>%</b>
Bulgarian	660 000	2,13	240 000	1,17	0	0	<b>990 000</b>	1,47
Czech	1 304 800	4,22	1 294 000	6,33	0	0	<b>2 599 200</b>	3,85
Croatian	1 629 000	5,27	0	0	250 000	1,55	<b>1 879 000</b>	2,78
Hungarian	14 743 300	47,74	11 650 000	57,0	12 749 000	78,9	<b>39 142 300</b>	58
Moravian	325 000	1,05	400 000	1,95	275 000	1,7	<b>1 000 000</b>	1,48
German	1 553 000	5,0	820 000	4,0	0	0	<b>2 373 000</b>	3,51
Polish	900 000	2,91	400 000	1,95	0	0	<b>1 300 000</b>	1,93
Roma	5 313 900	17,2	1 750 000	8,57	240 000	1,48	<b>7 303 900</b>	10,83
Ruthenian	1 386 000	4,48	1 723 000	8,4	290 000	1,79	<b>3 399 000</b>	5,03
Russian	114 000	0,37	406 000	1,99	0	0	<b>520 000</b>	0,77
Ukrainian	940 000	3,04	1 445 000	7,07	205 000	1,27	<b>2 590 000</b>	3,84
Jewish	264 000	0,85	100 000	0,49	1 701 900	10,53	<b>2 066 400</b>	3,06
others	1 725 000	5,58	198 000	0,97	70 000	0,43	<b>1 993 000</b>	2,95
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 883 500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20 426 400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16 160 900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>67 470 800</b>	100

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC ACT**

**of 10 July 1999**

**on National Minority Languages Use**

The National Council of the Slovak Republic,

pursuant to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and international instruments binding on the Slovak Republic,

respecting the protection and development of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Slovak Republic who are persons belonging to national minority,

taking into account the existing legal acts in force which govern the use of national Minority Languages,

recognising and appreciating the importance of mother tongues of the citizens of the Slovak Republic who are persons belonging to national minority as an expression of the cultural wealth of the State,

having in mind establishing of a democratic, tolerant and prosperous society in the context of an integrating European Community,

realising that the Slovak language is the State Language in the Slovak Republic, and that it is desirable to regulate the use of the languages of the citizens of the Slovak Republic who are persons belonging to national minority,

hereby passes the following Act:

**Section 1**

A citizen of the Slovak Republic who is a person belonging to a national minority has the right to use, apart from the State Language, his or her national Minority Language (hereinafter referred to as "Minority Language"). The purpose of this Act is to lay down, in conjunction with specific legal acts, the rules governing the use of Minority Languages also in official communication.

**Section 2**

(1) If the citizens of the Slovak Republic who are persons belonging to a national minority constitute according to the last census at least 20 % of the inhabitants of a municipality, they may use a Minority Language in official communication within that municipality.

(2) The list of the municipalities referred to in paragraph 1 shall be determined by a regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

(3) A citizen of the Slovak Republic who is a person belonging to a national minority shall have, in the municipality referred to in paragraph 1, the right to address written filings to the Governmental Agencies and self-government bodies (hereinafter

referred to as "the Body of Public Administration") also in a Minority Language. The Body of Public Administration in the municipality referred to in paragraph 1 shall reply, apart from in the State Language, also in the Minority Language, with exception of public documents.

(4) The decision made in an administrative proceeding<sup>1</sup> by the Body of Public Administration in the municipality referred to in paragraph 1 shall be issued, except in the State Language also in a Minority Language in the form of a counterpart. In the event of any doubts, the text of the decision in the State Language shall apply.

(5) The name of a Body of Public Administration displayed on buildings in a municipality referred to in paragraph 1 shall be given also in a Minority Language.

(6) The body of local self-government in a municipality referred to in paragraph 1 shall provide the citizens with official forms issued within its competence in the State Language and, upon request, also in a Minority Language.

### Section 3

(1) A session of the local self-government body in the municipality referred to in Section 2 paragraph 1 may be held also in a Minority Language, subject to the consent of all present persons.

(2) A member of the municipal council in the municipality referred to in Section 2 paragraph 1 shall have the right to use at the meetings of that body a Minority Language. Interpretation shall be secured by the municipality.

(1) A session of the local self-government body in the municipality referred to in Section 2 paragraph 1 may be held also in a Minority Language, subject to the consent of all present persons.

### Section 4

(1) A session of the local self-government body in the municipality referred to in Section 2 paragraph 1 may be held also in a Minority Language, subject to the consent of all present persons.

(2) In the municipality referred to in Section 2 paragraph 1, important information, in particular warnings, cautions and health information shall be displayed in publicly accessible places apart from the State Language also in a Minority Language.

(3) The Body of Public Administration in the municipality referred to in Section 2 paragraph 1 shall, within the scope of its competence, provide information on the generally binding legal provisions upon request apart from the State Language also in a Minority Language.

### Section 5

(1) The right to use a Minority Language in a proceeding before court and in other spheres is regulated by specific legal acts.<sup>2/</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Act No. 71/1967 Coll. on Administrative Proceedings (Administrative Procedure Code) as amended.

(2) The provisions of Section 2 paragraph 1 shall not apply to the pre-school education, system of primary and secondary schools or culture. The use of national Minority Languages in these areas is regulated by specific legal acts.<sup>2</sup>

#### Section 6

In application of this Act, the use of the Czech language in official communication shall be deemed to fulfil the requirement of basic understanding with the State Language unless an international instrument binding on the Slovak Republic provides otherwise.

#### Section 7

(1) A Body of Public Administration and its employees are obliged to use the State Language in official communication<sup>1/</sup> and, under conditions provided for under this Act and specific legal acts, they may use also a Minority Language. The Body of Public Administration and its employees shall not be required to have a command of a Minority Language.

(1) A Body of Public Administration and its employees are obliged to use the State Language in official communication<sup>1/</sup> and, under conditions provided for under this Act and specific legal acts, they may use also a Minority Language.

#### Section 8

Section 10 of the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic is hereby cancelled.

#### Section 9

This Act shall enter into effect on 1 September 1999.

President of the Slovak Republic

Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

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<sup>2</sup> E.g., Section 3 paragraph 1 and Section 3a of Act No. 29/1984 Coll. on the System of Primary and Secondary Schools (School Act) as amended, Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 279/1993 Coll. on Educational Establishments as amended by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 222/1996 Coll.

## ANNEX NO. 3

List

**of municipalities, where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the Hungarian national minority constitute at least 20 % of the population according to the results of the census of**

**26 May 2001**

Region	District	Municipality	
Bratislava	Senec 20,4	1.Senec	22,1
		2. Boldog	70,3
		3.Hamuliakovo	55,6
		4. Hrubá Borša	31,7
		5. Hrubý Štúr	74,3
		6. Kalinkovo	37,1
		7. Kostolná pri Dun.	68,8
		8. Malinovo	50,6
		9. Nová Dedinka	28,7
		10.Reca	44,1
		11.Tomášov	55,4
		12.Turen	77,0
		13.Velký Biel	41,4
		14.Vlky	77,4
Trnava	Dunajská Streda 83,3	1. Dunajská Streda	79,7
		2. Báb	67,2
		3. Baka	92,5
		4. Balon	94,0
		5. Bellova Ves	45,1
		6. Blahová	52,1
		7.Blatná na Ostrove	87,9
		8. Bodíky	96,5
		9. Bohelov	97,8
		10.Cakany	86,3
		11.Cenkovec	90,9
		12.Ciližská Radvan	95,4
		13.Dobrohošť	91,4
		14.Dolný Bar	82,6
		15.Dolný Štál	94,2
		16.Dunajský Klatov	93,9
		17.Gabcíkovo	90,4
		18.Holice	96,0
		19.Horná Potôň	93,9
		20.Horné Mýto	97,2
		21.Horný Bar	89,2
		22.Hubice	77,2
		23.Hviezdoslavov	45,1
		24.Jahodná	94,0
		25.Janíky	90,3
		26.Jurová	94,1
		27.Klúcovec	98,1



	28.Kostolné Kracany	92,8
	29.Kralovicove Krac.	90,2
	30.Kútники	87,4
	31.Kvetoslavov	46,0
	32.Kyselica	78,9
	33.Lehnice	68,9
	34.Lúc na Ostrove	95,7
	35.Macov	56,8
	36.Mad	95,7
	37.Malé Dvorníky	92,5
	38.Medvedov	87,3
	39.Mierovo	82,3
	40.Michal na Ostrove	89,0
	41.Nový Život	85,3
	42.Narad	95,1
	43.Ohrady	95,3
	44.Okoc	92,5
	45.Oldza	93,8
	46.Orechová Potôň	93,5
	47.Padán	94,4
	48.Pataš	89,7
	49.Povoda	78,6
	50.Rohovce	87,7
	51.Sap	96,3
	52.Šamorín	66,6
	53.Štvrtok na Ostrove	82,8
	54.Topolníky	93,0
	55.Trhová Hradská	94,6
	56. Trnávka	81,3
	57. Trstená na Ostrove	93,2
	58.Velká Paka	55,6
	59. Velké Blahovo	86,0
	60. Velké Dvorníky	95,8
	61. Velký Meder	84,5
	62. Vieska	89,9
	63.Vojka nad Dunajom	87,7
	64. Vrakún	92,7
	65. Vydrany	85,4
	66. Zlaté Klasy	67,7
Galanta	38,6	
	1.Galanta	36,8
	2.Cierna Voda	92,4
	3.Cierny Brod	90,2
	4. Dolné Saliby	78,0
	5. Dolný Chotár	93,3
	6.Horné Saliby	67,0
	7. Jánovce	33,0
	8. Jelka	68,4
	9. Kajal	70,9

			10. Košúty	60,7
			11. Králov Brod	83,5
			12. Matúškovo	64,1
			13. Mostová	88,1
			14. Sládkovicovo	38,5
			15. Tomášikovo	88,0
			16. Topolnica	53,3
			17. Trstice	93,7
			18. Váhovce	77,1
			19. Veľká Maca	84,8
			20. Veľké Ulany	71,1
			21. Vozokany	83,0
Nitra	Komárno	69,1	1. Komárno	60,1
			2. Bajc	56,8
			3. Bátorové Kosihy	83,4
			4. Bodza	92,9
			5. Bodzianske Lúky	95,1
			6. Brestovec	96,3
			7. Búc	93,6
			8. Calovec	73,0
			9. Cicov	91,5
			10. Dedina mládeže	66,6
			11. Holiare	92,9
			12. Hurbanovo	50,2
			13. Chotin	87,1
			14. Imel	46,5
			15. Iža	72,8
			16. Kamenická	78,6
			17. Kližská Nemá	92,2
			18. Kolárovo	80,8
			19. Kravany nad Dunajom	81,0
			20. Marcelová	88,5
			21. Martovce	90,6
			22. Moca	92,0
			23. Modrany	85,3
			24. Nesvady	59,0
			25. Okolicná na Ostrove	88,6
			26. Patince	91,4
			27. Pribeta	76,6
			28. Radvan nad Dunajom	91,5
			29. Sokolce	91,4
			30. Svätý Peter	73,6
			31. Tôň	88,0
			32. Trávník	91,3

	33. Velké Kosihy	85,6
	34. Virt	67,5
	35. Vrbové /Váhom	89,2
	36. Zemianska Olca	89,8
	37. Zlatná na Ostrove	90,5
Levice	27,9	
Levice mesto	12,2	
	1. Bajka	26,7
	2. Beša	40,2
	3. Bielovce	91,6
	4. Bory	45,6
	5. Cata	68,6
	6. Demnadice	32,3
	7. Dolné Semerovce	59,3
	8. Farná	76,8
	9. Hokovce	46,6
	10.Hontianska Vrbica	36,9
	11.Horná Sec	23,1
	12.Horné Semerovce	54,3
	13.Horné Turovce	68,0
	14.Horný Pial	52,2
	15.Hrkovce	57,8
	16.Hronovce	48,0
	17.Ipelský Sokolec	86,3
	18.Ipelské Ulany	89,2
	19.Jur nad Hronom	41,8
	20..Ket	93,2
	21.Hrubánovo	78,2
	22.Kukucinov	32,6
	23.Lontov	70,9
	24.Málaš	51,4
	25.Malé Ludince	82,8
	26.Mýtne Ludany	45,7
	27.Nýrovce	72,9
	28.Ondrejovce	35,7
	29.Pastovce	73,6
	30.Plaštovce	69,2
	31.Pohronský Ruskov	61,6
	32.Sazdice	61,5
	33.Sikenica	40,4
	34.Slatina	56,0
	35.Šahy	62,2
	36.Šalov	72,6
	37.Šarovce	46,0
	38.Tehla	21,3
	39.Tekovské Lužany	35,4
	40.Tekovský Hrádok	56,4
	41.Tupá	34,4
	42.Turá	60,6

	43. Velké Ludince	82,6
	44. Velké Turovce	60,7
	45. Výškovce nad Iplom	79,4
	46. Vyšné nad Hronom	62,1
	47. Zalaba	85,9
	48. Zbrojníky	32,1
	49. Želiezovce	51,2
	50. Žemliare	71,8
Nitra 6,7	1. Bobindol	30,4
	2. Branc	30,7
	3. Cechynce	53,7
	4. Cifáre	43,0
	5. Dolné Obdokovce	69,5
	6. Hostová	82,5
	7. Jelenec	36,6
	8. Klasov	43,1
	9. Kolínany	59,5
	10. Nitrianske Hrnčiarovce	32,7
	11. Pohranice	59,3
	12. Velké Chyndice	24,9
	13. Velký Cetín	79,7
	14. Žirany	62,2
Nové Zámky 38,3	1. Nové Zámky	27,5
	2. Andovce	66,8
	3. Bajtava	91,3
	4. Bardonovo	38,6
	5. Belá	76,5
	6. Bešenov	80,1
	7. Bina	89,6
	8. Bruty	90,7
	9. Dubník	64,4
	10. Dvory nad Žitavou	71,4
	11. Gbelce	74,3
	12. Chlaba	86,8
	13. Kamenica nad Hronom	78,2
	14. Kamenín	89,9
	15. Kamenný most	90,0
	16. Komoca	84,4
	17. Lela	86,6
	18. Lubá	86,9
	19. Malá nad Hronom	93,8
	20. Malé Kosihy	97,1
	21. Mužla	84,7

		22.Nána	75,0
		23.Nová Vieska	88,0
		24.Obid	88,1
		25.Pavlová	94,8
		26.Pozba	77,0
		27.Rúban	85,3
		28.Salka	93,1
		29.Sikenicka	92,0
		30.Strekov	88,8
		31.Svodin	77,0
		32.Šarkan	85,7
		33.Štúrovo	68,7
		34.Tvrdošovce	71,3
		35.Velký Kýr	64,3
		36.Zemné	74,7
	Šala	1.Diakovce	71,5
		2.Dlhá nad Váhom	71,5
		3.Králová nad Váhom	83,1
		4.Neded	62,4
		5.Selice	59,4
		6.Tešedíkovo	82,8
		7.Trnovec nad Váhom	23,9
		8.Vlcany	72,4
		9.Žihárec	75,4
Banská Bystrica	Zlaté Moravce	1.Ladice	43,7
	Lucenec	1.Belina	90,4
	Lucenec mesto	2.Biskupice	77,6
		3.Bolkovce	25,3
		4.Bulhary	84,3
		5.Cakanovce	71,9
		6.Camovce	78,1
		7.Filakkovo	64,4
		8.Filakovské Kováče	55,0
		9.Holiša	55,7
		10.Jelšovec	34,2
		11.Kalonda	63,6
		12.Mikušovce	26,7
		13.Mucín	29,4
		14.Nitra nad Iplom	38,5
		15.Panické Dravce	46,1
		16.Pleš	51,3
		17.Prša	90,8
		18.Radzovce	72,1
		19.Rapovce	44,4
		20.Šávol	84,1

		21.Šíd	72,0
		22.Šurice	89,8
		23.Trebelovce	25,3
		24.Trenc	30,1
		25.Velká nad Iplom	51,0
		26.Velké Dravce	73,3
Poltár		1.Nové Hony	21,5
		2.Pinciná	48,3
Revúca	22	1.Držkovce	68,8
		2.Gemer	83,1
		3.Gemerská Ves	67,5
		4.Gemerský Sad	53,8
		5.Hucin	26,5
		6.Chvalová	39,0
		7.Leváre	84,6
		8.Levkuška	79,8
		9.Licine	57,9
		10.Otrocok	72,4
		11.Polina	71,7
		12.Rašice	94,3
		13.Skerešovo	46,4
		14.Tornala	62,1
		15.Višnové	52,7
		16.Žiar	74,1
Rimavská Sobota	41,3	1.Rimavská Sobota	35,3
		2.Abovce	66,3
		3.Barca	85,5
		4.Bátka	72,3
		5.Belín	32,6
		6.Blhovce	76,9
		7.Cakov	84,4
		8.Cíž	71,4
		9.Dolné Zahorany	93,7
		10.Dražice	65,0
		11.Drna	79,4
		12.Dubno	97,1
		13.Dubovec	82,9
		14.Dulovo	29,9
		15.Figa	43,7
		16.Gemercek	83,8
		17.Gemerské Dechtáre	96,8
		18.Gemerské Michalovce	78,4
		19.Gemerský Jablonec	89,7
		20.Gortva	55,4
		21.Hajnácka	86,3
		22.Hodejov	64,2

23.Hodejovec	55,0
24.Hostice	87,0
25.Hubovo	88,3
26.Husiná	77,6
27.Chanava	88,2
28.Chrámec	66,2
29.Ivanice	95,1
30.Janice	96,2
31.Jesenské	56,8
32.Jestice	91,6
33.Kaloša	77,5
34.Kesovce	67,8
35.Konrádovce	77,6
36.Král	69,6
37.Lenartovce	78,0
38.Lenka	63,9
39.Martinová	67,8
40.Neporadza	52,6
41.Nová Bašta	90,3
42.Oždany	26,1
43.Paradovce	52,2
44.Pavlovce	54,3
45.Petrovce	96,3
46.Radnovce	84,9
47.Rakytník	87,8
48.Riecka	84,1
49.Rimavská Sec	88,5
50.Rimavské Janovce	41,3
51.Rumince	66,4
53.Stará Bašta	94,2
54.Stránske	45,2
55.Studená	84,0
56.Sútor	56,8
57.Šimonovce	92,1
58.Širkovce	86,0
59.Štrkovec	84,6
60.Tachy	96,1
61.Tomášovce	74,2
62.Uzovská Panica	63,6
63.Valice	60,9
64.Vcelince	66,4
65.Vecelkov	95,6
66.Velký Blh	69,0
67.Vieska nad Blhom	96,0
68.Vlkyna	96,2
69.Vyšné Valice	87,6
70.Zádor	83,2

		71.Žip	85,3
	Velký Krtíš 27,4	1.Balog nad Iplom	87,9
		2.Bátorová	29,1
		3.Bušince	40,2
		4.Cebovce	72,0
		5.Celáre	35,5
		6.Dolinka	96,7
		7.Durkovce	63,5
		8.Glabušovce	52,3
		9.Chrastince	21,3
		10.Ipelské Predmostie	76,8
		11.Kamenné Kosihy	70,2
		12.Kiarov	73,8
		13.Klenany	92,3
		14.Koláre	80,8
		15.Kosihovce	34,7
		16.Kosihy	85,3
		nad Iplom	
		17.Kováčovce	66,1
		18.Lesenica	41,2
		19.Mula	29,7
		20.Nenince	77,8
		21.Olováry	74,6
		22.Opatovská Nová Ves	70,1
		23.Secianky	87,6
		24.Selany	54,1
		25.Širákov	76,1
		26.Trebušovce	80,8
		27.Velká Calomija	66,0
		28.Velká Ves nad Iplom	80,9
		29.Velké Zlievce	24,1
		30.Vinica	87,9
		31.Vrbovka	83,4
		32.Želovce	22,0
Košice	Košice-okolie 13,2	1.Buzica	63,5
		2.Cestice	47,2
		3.Cecejovce	35,7
		4.Debrat	69,1
		5.Drienovec	33,5
		6.Dvorníky- Vceláre	68,1
		7.Háj	85,0
		8.Hostovce	90,1
		9.Chorváty	76,3
		10.Janík	63,8
		11.Komárovce	84,3
		12.Milhost	41,9



	13.Mokrance	35,4
	14.Moldava nad Bodvou	43,7
	15.Nižný Lánec	51,4
	16.Peder	81,2
	17.Perin-Chym	34,1
	18.Rešica	90,5
	19.Turna nad Bodvou	43,6
	20.Turnianska Nová Ves	90,9
	21.Zádiel	86,6
	22.Žarnov	74,9
Michalovce 11,7	1.Beša	92,6
	2.Budince	68,2
	3.Cicarovce	93,6
	4.Drahnov	58,3
	5.Ižkovce	92,5
	6.Kapušianske Klacany	73,6
	7.Krišovská Liesková	78,6
	8.Malé Raškovce	50,8
	9.Matovské Vojkovce	85,7
	10.Oborin	69,3
	11.Ptrukša	95,2
	12.Ruská	93,7
	13.Velké Kapušany	57,0
	14.Velké Raškovce	83,6
	15.Velké Slemence	97,0
	16.Vojany	70,3
	17.Zemplínske Kopcany	36,2
Rožnava 30,6	1.Rožnava	26,8
	2.Ardovo	69,5
	3.Bohúnovo	87,2
	4.Bôrka	53,8
	5.Bretka	81,9
	6.Brztotín	40,0
	7.Coltovo	70,5
	8.Cucma	48,8
	9.Dlhá Ves	86,7
	10.Drnava	71,3
	11.Gemerská Hôrka	63,1
	12.Gemerská Panica	46,8
	13.Hrhov	90,1
	14.Hrušov	88,6
	15.Jablonov nad	86,7

	Turnou	
	16.Jovice	77,3
	17.Kecovo	91,9
	18.Kováčová	89,5
	19.Krásnohorská	87,7
	Dlhá Lúka	
	20.Krásnohorské	47,2
	Podhradie	
	21.Kružná	81,1
	22.Kunova Teplica	41,2
	23.Lipovník	85,6
	24.Lúcka	87,7
	25.Meliata	74,4
	26.Pašková	75,5
	27.Pešívec	49,2
	28.Rudná	41,8
	29.Silica	89,0
	30.Silická Brezová	73,4
	31.Silická Jablonica	97,2
	32.Slavec	62,7
Trebišov 29,3	1.Backa	96,3
	2.Bara	69,9
	3.Biel	75,5
	4.Bol	86,2
	5.Borša	50,3
	6.Botany	71,9
	7.Brehov	43,5
	8.Cernocho	77,2
	9.Cierna	89,6
	10.Cierna nad Tisou	60,1
	11.Dobrá	85,2
	12.Klin nad Bodrogom	60,0
	13.Kráľovský Chlmec	76,9
	14.Ladmovce	86,8
	15.Leles	75,5
	16.Malé Trakany	87,9
	17.Malý Horeš	95,6
	18.Malý Kamenec	94,0
	19.Polany	83,0
	21.Pribeník	78,9
	22.Rad	75,9
	23.Simik	24,1
	24.Solnicka	87,6
	25.Somotor	69,2
	26.Strážne	92,1
	27.Streda nad	60,0
	Bodrogom	
	28.Svätá Mária	87,5

29.Svātuša	95,4
30.Svinice	89,0
31.Velké Trakany	83,0
32.Velký Horeš	84,1
33.Velký Kamenec	88,7
34.Vinicky	62,6
35.Vojka	86,9
36.Zatin	84,1
37.Zemplín	64,2

**List**  
**of municipalities, where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the Roma national**  
**minority constitute at least 20 % of the population according to the results of the census of**  
**26 May 2001**

**Nitra region**

District Levice:

1. Dolné Semerovce. 20.0%

**Banská Bystrica region**

District Brezno

1. Valkovna 34.1 %

District Revúca

1. Držkovce 22.2 %

2. Hucín 50.1%

3. Rybník 31.5 %

District Rimavská Sobota

1. Dulovo 65.2%

2. Neporadza 24.6%

3. Pavlovce 25.9%

District Veľký Krtíš

1. Celovce 24.7%

**Prešov region**

District Bardejov

1. Nižný Tvarožec 25.3%

District Kežmarok

1. Jurské 84.0%

2. Malý Slavkov 21.7%

3. Podhorany 54.5%

4. Rakúsy 27.6%

5. Stráne pod Tatrami 20.3%

6. Toporec 30.5%

7. Veľká Lomnica 22.1%

District Prešov

1. Červenica 31.2%

2. Hermanovce 21.3%

3. Mirkovce 61.2%

4. Svinia 27.1%

District Sabinov

1. Olejníkov 37.8%

2. Ostrovany 43.9%

District Stropkov

1. Miková 27.7%

District Svidník

1.Kružlová 21.0%

District Vranov nad Toplou

1.Banské 23.1%

2.Caklov 31.3%

3. Cicava 48.8 %

4. Hlinné 21.5 %

5 .Prosacov 41.5%

6.Sol 22.7%

**Košice region**

District Gelnica

1.Nálepko 27.6%

2.Richnava 26.3%

3.Závadka 22.3%

**Košice II**

1.Luník IX 44.0%

**Košice surroundings**

1.Hacava 28.2%

2.Kecerovce 61.8%

3.Nižný Lanec 24.9%

4.Velká Ida 31.6%

5.Vtáčkovce 50.8%

District Michalovce

1.Budince 23.4%

2.Inacovce 31.8%

3.Laškovce 42.1%

4.Pavlovce nad Uhom 23.5%

District Rožnava

1.Bôrka 32.3%

2.Henckovce 20.4%

3.Krásnohorské

Podhradie 28.1%

District Spišská Nová Ves

1.Arnutovce 29.1%

2.Letanovce 20.5%

3.Porác 23.8%

4.Žehra 26.3%

District Trebišov

1.Egreš 24.3%

2.Lastovce 37.7%

3.Zbehnov 26.7%

**Croatian national minority**  
**according to the results of the census of 26 May 2001**  
**– main areas of residence Croatian national minority according to the census of the**  
**inhabitants of houses and flats of 26 May 2001**

District, municipality and	Persons with permanent Residence - total	Croatian	%
Slovak Republic	5,379,455	890	<i>0.02</i>
Bratislava - Devínska Nová Ves	15,502	46	<i>0.3</i>
Bratislava - Karlova Ves	32,843	27	<i>0.1</i>
Bratislava - Cunovo	911	148	<i>16.2</i>
Bratislava - Jarovce	1,199	244	<i>20.4</i>

**German national minority  
according to the results of census of 26 May 2002  
– main areas of residence**

District, municipality	Persons with permanent residence total	German	%
Slovak Republic	5,379,455	5405	0.1
Bratislava - Staré Mesto	44,798	245	0.5
Bratislava - Ružinov	70,004	237	0.5
Bratislava - Nové Mesto	37,418	110	0.3
Bratislava - Dúbravka	35,199	74	0.2
Bratislava - Karlova Ves	32,843	84	0.3
Bratislava - Petržalka	117,227	219	0.2
<b>District Prievidza</b>			
Handlová	18,018	86	0.5
Klacno	1,094	61	5.6
Malinová	867	79	9.1
Nitrianske Pravno	3,134	94	3
Prievidza	53,097	153	0.3
Tužina	1,214	65	5.4
<b>District Turčianske Teplice</b>			
Brieštie	170	25	14.7
Horná Štubna	1,606	82	5.1
Sklené	816	27	3.3
Turcek	716	93	13
Turčianske Teplice	7,031	26	0.4
<b>District Žiar nad Hronom</b>			
Janova Lehota	850	20	2.4
Kopernica	429	22	5.1
Krahule	144	35	24.3
Kremnica	5,822	69	1.2
Kremnické Bane	250	26	10.4
Kunešov	244	45	18.4
<b>District Kežmarok</b>			
Kežmarok	17,383	74	0.4
<b>District Poprad</b>			
Poprad	56,157	119	0.2

**District Stará Lubovna**

Chmelnica	914	107	11.7
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**District Košice I**

Košice - Sever	20,309	76	0.4
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Košice - Staré mesto	22,171	72	0.3
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**District Košice II**

Košice - Západ	40,870	93	0.2
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**District Košice - okolie**

Medzev	3,667	497	13.6
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**List**  
**of municipalities, where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the Ruthenian national**  
**minority constitute at least 20 % of the population according to the results of the census of**  
**26 May 2001**

District, municipality	Persons with permanent residence total	Ruthenian nationality	<i>in</i>
		number	%
a	1	7	22

**District Bardejov**

Becherov	274	133	48.5
Chmelová	405	166	41.0
Jedlinka	86	29	33.7
Mikulášová	153	50	32.7
Ondavka	37	18	48.6
Regetovka	14	8	57.1
Šarišské Cierne	345	73	21.2
Vyšná Polianka	124	45	36.3
Vyšný Tvarožec	136	61	44.9

**District Humenné**

Nechválova Polianka	135	36	26.7
Nižná Jablonka	180	37	20.6
Pritulany	67	55	82.1
Ruská Kajna	150	34	22.7
Ruská Poruba	285	178	62.5
Vyšná Jablonka	84	32	38.1
Závada	84	60	71.4

**District Medzilaborce**

Brestov nad Laborcom	68	49	72.1
Cabalovce	349	150	43.0
Cabiny	430	195	45.3
Certižné	421	273	64.8
Habura	497	308	62.0
Kalinov	312	126	40.4
Krásny Brod	405	234	57.8
Medzilaborce	6,741	2 303	34.2
Nagov	431	356	82.6

Olka	351	202	57.5
Olšinkov	41	16	39.0
Palota	183	64	35.0
Radvan nad Laborcom	602	139	23.1
Repejov	173	87	50.3
Rokytovce	191	119	62.3
Roškovce	237	48	20.3
Sukov	153	54	35.3
Svetlice	175	46	26.3
Valentovce	42	24	57.1
Volica	347	98	28.2
Výrava	144	72	50.0
Zbojné	214	59	27.6
Zbudská Belá	161	99	61.5

#### **District Snina**

Cukalovce	143	82	57.3
Hostovice	378	85	22.5
Kalná Roztoka	630	172	27.3
Klenová	535	176	32.9
Osadné	233	58	24.9
Parihuzovce	28	11	39.3
Pcoliné	621	167	26.9
Runina	91	62	68.1
Ruská Volová	139	66	47.5
Topola	226	94	41.6
Ubla	881	176	20.0
Ulic	1,078	227	21.1

#### **District Stará Lubovna**

Circ	1,118	373	33.4
Ruská Vola nad Popradom	115	32	27.8
Stránany	207	51	24.6
Údol	431	121	28.1

#### **District Stropkov**

Brusnica	351	112	31.9
Bystrá	38	18	47.4
Havaj	406	144	35.5
Jakušovce	58	14	24.1
Kožuchovce	67	20	29.9
Malá Polana	121	57	47.1
Miková	173	66	38.2
Potôcky	75	19	25.3
Staškovce	281	59	21.0
Vladica	75	40	53.3
Vojtovce	116	32	27.6

**District Svidník**

Belejovce	18	11	61.1
Cigla	88	19	21.6
Dobroslava	41	14	34.1
Dubová	243	69	28.4
Havranec	10	4	40.0
Jurkova Vola	84	34	40.5
Keckovce	230	56	24.3
Korejovce	70	19	27.1
Krajná Bystrá	335	72	21.5
Krajná Porúbka	58	40	69.0
Krajné Cierno	84	34	40.5
Medvedie	62	21	33.9
Mirola	85	17	20.0
Nižná Jedlová	80	32	40.0
Nižná Pisaná	98	23	23.5
Nižný Mirošov	249	66	26.5
Nižný Orlík	260	71	27.3
Nová Polianka	62	17	27.4
Pstriná	70	29	41.4
Roztoky	294	69	23.5
Šarbov	9	4	44.4
Vagríneec	134	30	22.4
Vápeník	52	24	46.2
Vyšná Jedlová	173	87	50.3
Vyšná Pisaná	80	41	51.3
Vyšný Mirošov	604	185	30.6

**List**

**of municipalities, where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to the Ukrainian national minority constitute at least 20 % of the population according to the results of the census of 26 May 2001**

District, municipality	persons with permanent residence total		
		Ukrainian nationality	%
a	1	8	23

**District Bardejov**

Ondavka	37	9	24.3
Šarišské Cierne	345	93	27.0

**District Medzilaborce**

Olšínkov	41	16	39.0
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**District Snina**

Runina	91	23	25.3
Ruský Potok	161	39	24.2

**District Stará Lubovna**

Jarabina	834	243	29.1
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