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# SIXTH EVALUATION REPORT ON ARMENIA

Committee of Experts of  
the European Charter  
for Regional or  
Minority Languages

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Adopted on 11 June 2025

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages provides for a control mechanism to evaluate how the Charter is applied in a state party with a view to, where necessary, making recommendations for improving its legislation, policy and practices. The central element of this procedure is the Committee of Experts, set up under Article 17 of the Charter. Its principal purpose is to report to the Committee of Ministers on its evaluation of compliance by a party with its undertakings, to examine the real situation of regional or minority languages in the state and, where appropriate, to encourage the party to gradually reach a higher level of commitment.

To facilitate this task, the Committee of Ministers adopted, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, an outline for periodical reports that a party is required to submit to the Secretary General. This outline requires the state to give an account of the concrete application of the Charter, the general policy for the languages protected under Part II and, in more precise terms, all measures that have been taken in application of the provisions chosen for each language protected under Part III of the Charter. The Committee of Experts' first task is therefore to examine the information contained in the periodical report for all the relevant regional or minority languages on the territory of the state concerned. The periodical report shall be made public by the state in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2.

The Committee of Experts' role is to evaluate the existing legal acts, regulations and real practice applied in each state for its regional or minority languages. It has established its working methods accordingly. The Committee of Experts gathers information from the respective authorities and from independent sources within the state, in order to obtain a fair and just overview of the real language situation. After a preliminary examination of a periodical report, the Committee of Experts submits, if necessary, a number of questions to each party to obtain supplementary information from the authorities on matters it considers insufficiently developed in the report itself. This written procedure is usually followed up by an on-the-spot visit by a delegation of the Committee of Experts to the state in question. During this visit the delegation meets bodies and associations whose work is closely related to the use of the relevant languages and consults the authorities on matters that have been brought to its attention. This information-gathering process is designed to enable the Committee of Experts to evaluate more effectively the application of the Charter in the state concerned.

Having concluded this process, the Committee of Experts adopts its own report. Once adopted by the Committee of Experts, this evaluation report is submitted to the authorities of the respective state party for possible comments within a given deadline. A confidential dialogue may, at this stage, be requested by this state party. The final evaluation report is made public, together with the comments, if any, which the authorities of the state party may have made. This document is then transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for the adoption of its recommendations to the state party, on the basis of the proposals for recommendations contained in the evaluation report.

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## Executive Summary

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages entered into force in Armenia in 2002. Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian and Yezidi languages receive protection under both its Part II and Part III, whereas German and Ukrainian only under Part II.

During the monitoring period Armenia developed a “Cultural Diversity” programme for schools, aiming at fostering respect for different cultures, promoting co-operation among pupils of different ethnic backgrounds. As part of the programme, the teaching and learning of minority languages, through open classes, performances, song and dance presentations were promoted throughout 2024 in approximately 170 schools across the country. All interlocutors met during the on-the-spot visit of the Committee of Experts confirmed the importance of the initiative, its impact, including its significance in raising awareness among all pupils in Armenian schools. The programme also contributed to the establishment or strengthening further relations between schools.

There continues to be, however, little awareness of the Charter among authorities at all levels and minority language speakers in general. The amount of state financing of national minority associations remained unchanged for years until 2025, when it was slightly increased.

Teaching in and of Russian continues to be available at all levels of education. Teaching of minority languages in primary and secondary schools has been strengthened for Kurdish and Yezidi, and teaching material is available free of charge through the support of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport. The teaching of Assyrian on the other hand is still limited to primary and secondary schools where Russian-language curriculum exist. Greek is taught neither in pre-school nor in primary and secondary school education. German is taught in both primary and secondary schools, whereas Ukrainian continues to be only taught in Sunday schools. The lack of qualified language teachers is persistent. Representatives of speakers underlined the urgent need to step up efforts to establish chairs of Assyrian, Ukrainian and Yezidi studies at the university level and to provide dedicated studies for training teachers of all protected minority languages. Efforts to create more pre-schools where a substantial part of the instruction is given in minority languages need to be equally stepped up.

The Armenian legislation still does not guarantee the right to use minority languages before judicial authorities if the minority language speaker has a command of Armenian. This remains not in conformity with Article 9 of the Charter as ratified by Armenia.

Assyrian, Kurdish and Yezidi representatives of municipalities confirmed the use of their language in debates in their assembly, as well as the possibility to submit oral applications. In the case of Russian, the submission of both oral or written communication is possible in certain municipalities. Greek is not used in contacts with authorities. Some municipalities have official names in minority languages, but there is no general policy or a proactive approach in place to promote the use of such names in addition to Armenian. The ongoing administrative territorial reform includes merging of several communities into bigger entities, which can have a negative impact on the protection of minority languages.

The Armenian Public Radio continues to broadcast programmes in Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian and Yezidi. There are no programmes in minority languages broadcast on the Armenian Public Television, only information programmes about national minorities in Armenian. The presence of German and Ukrainian in public broadcasting is still not sufficient. Except for German, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport continues to support, also financially monthly publications in all recognized minority languages. However, only Russian has daily, or weekly newspapers published.

Cultural events, seminars, and celebrations of national holidays in minority communities are regular and are actively supported, also financially, by the Armenian Government.

Russian is the only minority language which is commonly used in economic and social life and a more strategic and targeted approach is needed to achieve results in this area for the other minority languages.

The Armenian authorities are currently finalising the Draft Law on National Minorities, which, in view of the Committee of Experts presents an important opportunity to provide for the explicit protection and promotion of minority languages and to align relevant legislation with, inter alia, Armenia's obligations under the Charter.

The sixth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts' on-the-spot visit to Armenia in March 2025.

## Chapter 1 The situation of the regional or minority languages in Armenia – Recent developments and trends

1. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereafter referred to as “the Charter”) is a treaty of the Council of Europe putting obligations on its states parties to protect and promote the country’s traditional minority languages in all fields of public life: education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and transfrontier exchanges. Upon accession to the Council of Europe, the Republic of Armenia undertook to sign and ratify the Charter by 25 January 2002. The Charter was signed on 11 May 2001 and entered into force in respect of Armenia on 1 May 2002. It applies to the following languages: Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian and Yezidi are covered by Parts II and III, whereas German and Ukrainian are covered under Part II.

2. States parties are required to submit reports every five years<sup>1</sup> on the implementation of the Charter. On 22 April 2024, the authorities of Armenia submitted their sixth periodical report.<sup>2</sup> This sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts is based on the information contained in the periodical report, additional information received from the authorities and statements made by representatives of the speakers of the minority languages during the on-the-spot visit (3-7 March 2025) and/or submitted in written form pursuant to Article 16.2 of the Charter. During the on-the-spot visit and the present reporting cycle the gender equality aspect was taken into account.

3. Chapter 1 of this evaluation report focuses on general developments and trends regarding the regional or minority languages in Armenia and the overall situation of these languages. It examines in particular the measures taken by the Armenian authorities to respond to the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers at the end of the fifth monitoring cycle and also highlights new issues. Chapter 2 provides a detailed overview of the state of implementation of each undertaking of Armenia in respect of the given language as well as the recommendations addressed to the Armenian authorities. On the basis of its evaluation, the Committee of Experts proposes, in Chapter 3, recommendations to the Committee of Ministers to be addressed to the Government of Armenia, as provided in Article 16.4 of the Charter. The Committee of Experts encourages the Armenian authorities to translate this report into the regional or minority languages with a view to supporting the authorities, organisations, advisory bodies and persons concerned in the process of fully implementing the Charter, in accordance with Articles 6 and 7.4.

4. This report is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts’ on-the-spot visit to Armenia in March 2025. This evaluation report was adopted by the Committee of Experts on 11 June 2025.

### 1.1 General developments in policies, legislation and practice concerning the minority languages in Armenia

5. According to the data shared by the Armenian authorities on the 2022 population census, 31 079 persons declared themselves as Yezidis (concentrated mainly in Yerevan and in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Ararat and Kotayk provinces), among which 25 430 declared Yezidi as the language of their “nationality”;<sup>3</sup> 14 076 as Russians (concentrated mainly in Yerevan, and in Lori and Shirak provinces), among which 13 146 declared Russian as the language of their nationality; 2 755 as Assyrians (concentrated mainly in Ararat and Kotayk provinces), among which 2 213 declared Assyrian as the language of their nationality; 1 663 as Kurds (concentrated mainly in Aragatsotn province), among which 529 declared Kurdish as the language of their nationality; 1 005 as Ukrainians (concentrated mainly in Yerevan), among which, 673 declared Ukrainian as the language of their nationality, and 364 as Greeks (concentrated mainly in Yerevan and in Lori province), among which 88 declared Greek as the language of their nationality.<sup>4</sup> The questionnaire also contained a question about the second language that the citizens of Armenia are fully proficient in. According to it, as many as 1 893 181 Armenian citizens speak fluently Russian, 3 940 German, 3 450 Yezidi, 2 872 Assyrian, 1 276

<sup>1</sup> Article 15.1 of the Charter provides that states parties submit periodical reports every three years. However, following the entry into force of the reform of the monitoring mechanism of the ECRML on 1 July 2019, states parties are now to submit their reports every five years instead of every three years. See Committee of Ministers Decisions “Strengthening the monitoring mechanism of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages” (CM/Del/Dec(2018)1330/10.4e, paragraph 1.a.).

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://rm.coe.int/armeniapr6-en/1680af6e84>.

<sup>3</sup> The terms nationality and ethnicity are used interchangeably in Armenia. At the time of the adoption of this report, the term “national minority” is not legally defined in Armenia. However, in their [first state report submitted in the context of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities \(FCNM\)](#) (paragraph 19.), Armenian authorities state that it refers to “nationals of the Republic of Armenia permanently living in the Republic of Armenia who are different from the basic population by its ethnic origin”. See also: [Opinion of the Advisory Committee of FCNM \(ACFC/INF/OP/I\(2003\)001\)](#) (paragraph 17). The 2022 census questionnaire also addressed the “Mother tongue”, under which two options were proposed: “Language of nationality” and “Other language”.

<sup>4</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report of the Republic of Armenia](#); Annex 1. Tables 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3.

Ukrainian, 777 Greek and 561 Kurdish.<sup>5</sup> A questionnaire of this type completes the general picture of the competence in minority languages by representatives of the majority as well as other minorities, which is important for understanding the further need to improve the accessibility of these languages in public life.

6. The coordination of the reporting on the implementation of the Charter falls within the authority of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (hereinafter “the MoESCS”). The Committee of Experts welcomes the timely submission of the information document on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action based on the fifth monitoring cycle and the sixth periodical report. However, during the on-the-spot visit the representatives of the speakers informed that they were not consulted on the sixth periodical report, nor were they aware of the procedure. The Committee of Experts would like to reiterate that, in conformity with Articles 6 and 7.4 of the Charter, it is necessary to inform the speakers concerned of the draft to be submitted and to take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by them in the periodical report.<sup>6</sup> It also calls on the Armenian authorities to update their dedicated website<sup>7</sup> regularly, and upload on it both their sixth periodical report, and this sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts, so that speakers are aware of its evaluation and recommendations. The Committee of Experts also calls on the Armenian authorities to take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the speakers during both the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee of Ministers, and by the Committee of Experts and the related reporting. Finally, it invites the Armenian authorities to regularly communicate on their website on matters relevant to the protection of its minority languages.

### ***Legal framework for the implementation of the Charter and current reforms***

7. The Committee of Experts was informed that following the adoption of the Joint Opinion on the Draft Law on National Minorities adopted by the European Commission for Democracy Through Law of the Council of Europe (Venice Commission) at its 139<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session on 21-22 June 2024,<sup>8</sup> the Draft Law on National Minorities is being reviewed by the Armenian authorities.<sup>9</sup> The representatives of the national minorities at all levels confirmed of being involved in the consultation on the draft law. The Ministry of Justice aims at presenting the revised draft to the Government by the summer of 2025, following which it shall be submitted to the National Assembly of Armenia. Optimally, the Law on National Minorities could be adopted by the end of 2025.<sup>10</sup> The Committee of Experts takes note of these developments. It recalls its concerns expressed on the original draft law in its fifth evaluation report,<sup>11</sup> and invites the state authorities of Armenia to seize this opportunity to appropriately reflect Armenia's relevant international obligations under the Charter in this legislative procedure, including by amending, wherever needed, the corresponding laws or national strategies and policies.

8. In this respect, the Committee of Experts would like to recall its concerns expressed during its previous evaluation report regarding certain aspects of the draft Law on National Minorities.<sup>12</sup> With regard to education, Article 10.1 of the previous draft of the law provided that the education of children belonging to national minorities can be organised in their “mother tongue” in preschool and public education institutions (i.e. primary and secondary schools). The Committee of Experts warned that the reference to national minorities and to “mother-tongue” speakers could exclude from opportunities for minority language education those students who belong to the Armenian majority population or to other national minorities. As far as the reference to the “mother tongue” is concerned, it needs to be borne in mind that many students belonging to national minorities in Armenia don't consider the minority language as their “mother tongue” (see paragraph 5). In general, the concept of “mother tongue” could give rise to different interpretations and should for the sake of legal clarity be replaced with “minority language”.

9. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts indeed observed that there is a link between ethnic belonging and the possibility of learning in or of the desired minority language. Assyrian speakers highlighted that the Assyrian language, which is taught in Russian-language schools only, is reserved to children who are of Assyrian nationality.<sup>13</sup> Due to the currently existing legal limitations, children who are not of Assyrian nationality and whose parents would like them to access Assyrian classes cannot do so. Representatives of Russian speakers also informed that according to the current practice, it is not possible to receive education in Russian, unless the child is of Russian nationality, or has spent at least five years abroad.

<sup>5</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report of the Republic of Armenia](#); Annex 1. Table 1-4.

<sup>6</sup> See also: [Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' fifth evaluation report on Armenia](#) (MIN-LANG(2021)17), paragraph 10.

<sup>7</sup> See: [Staff - Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs - The Government of the Republic of Armenia](#).

<sup>8</sup> See: [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2024\)019-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2024)019-e).

<sup>9</sup> Relevant state authorities however were not in the position to share a draft as it currently stands with the Committee of Experts.

<sup>10</sup> Information received during the meeting with the Ministry of Justice on 7 March 2025.

<sup>11</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraphs 9-12.

<sup>12</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraph 10.

<sup>13</sup> See: Paragraph 5 and fn. 3 of this report.



The Committee of Experts reminds that the Charter does not deal with minority languages as the “vehicle of a particular social or ethnic group”,<sup>14</sup> but as part of the cultural heritage of the whole country (Article 7.1.a). Therefore, it calls on the Armenian authorities to clarify, in the draft law, that teaching in or of minority languages is open to everyone at all levels of education.<sup>15</sup> It equally invites the Armenian authorities to amend the Law on General Education to ensure that it is in line with Armenia's obligations under the Charter.

10. In its previous evaluation report, the Committee of Experts equally expressed concerns regarding the provision according to which a minority language may only be used orally and in writing in communication with authorities of municipalities if those belonging to the national minority concerned make up at least 20% of the local population. Representatives of the Ministry of Justice informed that while relevant provisions of the Draft Law on National Minorities as it currently stands still foresee a 20% threshold, they are aware that this might be too high for many national minorities. This issue is currently being addressed also in the Standing Committee on the Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs of the National Assembly of Armenia. Contacts with the representatives of national minorities take place in order to reflect better their situation.<sup>16</sup> The Committee of Experts reiterates its views on the thresholds hampering the use of minority languages in administration.<sup>17</sup> It points out that a threshold might limit the application of the Charter and constitute an insurmountable obstacle for linguistic groups.

11. In their sixth periodical report the Armenian authorities state that the “administrative territorial reforms in the Republic of Armenia continued from 2020 to 2022. During this period, the government remained committed to the policy adopted towards communities inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities.”<sup>18</sup> While the Committee of Experts welcomes the mentioned commitment and acknowledges the positive aspects of administrative territorial reforms, in line with paragraph 10, it draws the attention of the authorities of the negative effects of such reforms on the use of regional or minority languages in practice.<sup>19</sup> The Committee of Experts emphasises that the merging<sup>20</sup> of certain municipalities or villages with a substantial number of minority language speakers threatens the right to use of the protected minority language in communication with local authorities.<sup>21</sup> Representatives of the Assyrian speakers confirmed such negative impact in the case of Dimitrov (merged with 36 other villages into Artasahat in the Ararat Province) and Nor Artagers (merged with 30 other villages into Metsamor in the Armavir province). Due to the threshold in place, the use of the Assyrian language is no longer guaranteed at local level. The Committee of Experts would like to remind the Armenian authorities that Article 7.1.b of the Charter requires them to “ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of regional or minority languages”. Moreover, the Committee of Experts calls on the Armenian authorities to ensure that the ongoing administrative and territorial reform does not impact negatively the number of minority language speakers compared to the previously existing thresholds,<sup>22</sup> and as a result, the right to use the protected regional or minority languages.<sup>23</sup> The Committee of Experts therefore invites the relevant state authorities and the representatives of the speakers at all levels to enter into dialogue in order to address the protection and promotion of Assyrian in Dimitrov and Nor Artagers as undertaken by Armenia under the Charter (Articles 10.1.ai, 10.1.b, 10.2.b,f and g).

12. The Committee of Experts was informed that the administrative territorial reform might also trigger the merger of schools. Such possibility was raised by speakers of Greek in Yaghdan, a small village of Lori province, traditionally inhabited by Pontic Greek minority. Yaghdan has the only school in the region, where concrete plans exist to introduce teaching of the Greek language in the school curricula as of 2026. The representatives of the speakers recalled the case of Madan village, with a very active Greek presence in the

<sup>14</sup> See: [Explanatory Report](#), para. 17.

<sup>15</sup> See also: [Joint Opinion on the Draft Law on National Minorities](#) adopted by the European Commission for Democracy Through Law of the Council of Europe (Venice Commission), paragraph 51.

<sup>16</sup> See also: [Joint Opinion on the Draft Law on National Minorities](#) adopted by the European Commission for Democracy Through Law of the Council of Europe (Venice Commission), paragraphs 46 and 47.

<sup>17</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraph 11. See also e.g. 1st Report of the Committee of Experts on the Slovak Republic, ECRML(2007)1, para. 592-593; 1st Report of the Committee of Experts on Romania, ECRML(2012)3, para. 35, 37; 3rd Report of the Committee of Experts on Montenegro, ECRML(2015)3, para. 21; 2nd Report of the Committee of Experts on Poland, ECRML(2015)7, para. 91; 3rd Report of the Committee of Experts on Serbia, ECRML(2016)1, para. 15-17; 2nd Report of the Committee of Experts on Bosnia and Herzegovina, ECRML(2016)3, para. 24-31; 6th Report of the Committee of Experts on Hungary, ECRML(2016)6, para. 21; 4th Report of the Committee of Experts on Armenia, CM(2017)49, para. 14-15; 3rd Report of the Committee of Experts on Ukraine, CM(2017)97, para. 25, see also: [Report by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the Parliamentary Assembly on the Application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages \(2021-2022\)](#), paragraph 19.

<sup>18</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report of the Republic of Armenia](#), paragraph 15.

<sup>19</sup> See also: [Fifth opinion of the Advisory Committee on Armenia](#), paragraph 123.

<sup>20</sup> In the Armenian legislation, the term “consolidation” is used in the context of the administrative territorial reform to merge municipalities, administrative units and individual villages with the aim of more efficient, including cost-efficient functioning.

<sup>21</sup> See also: [Fifth opinion of the Advisory Committee on Armenia](#), paragraph 123.

<sup>22</sup> See: Footnote 13 and [Fifth opinion of the Advisory Committee on Armenia](#), Territorial and administrative reform (Article 16) page 34.

<sup>23</sup> See also: [Joint Opinion on the Draft Law on National Minorities](#) adopted by the European Commission for Democracy Through Law of the Council of Europe (Venice Commission), paragraph 46.



past. As a result of closing the village school as part of the consolidation, many Greek-speaking inhabitants left the village to settle in cities or villages with a school. The Committee of Experts was also informed by speakers of plans to merge schools of the eleven Kurdish speaking villages in the Aragatsotn province, where Kurdish is taught as a subject. In addition to the potential negative effect on learning the language, children might have difficulties to access schools in neighbouring villages due to the harsh weather and road conditions in the winter. The Committee of Experts calls on the Armenian authorities to engage in a dialogue with the representatives of the speakers on matters relating to territorial or administrative reform, ensure prior and meaningful consultation before any future consolidation and, if possible, exempt schools teaching minority languages from the consolidation process.<sup>24</sup>

### ***Resolute action to promote the minority languages***

13. The National Centre for Educational Development and Innovations of the MoESCS has developed the “Cultural Diversity” programme for schools, aimed at fostering respect for different cultures among pupils, promoting co-operation between children of different ethnic backgrounds and creating an atmosphere of cultural diversity, tolerance and mutual respect. As part of this programme, around 170 schools across the Republic of Armenia have conducted events and awareness-raising activities. Focus was also given to the teaching and learning of minority languages, through open classes, performances, song and dance presentations and arts education. All interlocutors met during the on-the-spot visit of the Committee of Experts confirmed the importance of the initiative and its impact, including its significance in raising awareness among all pupils in Armenian schools. The project also contributed to the establishment or further strengthening of relations between schools. It will continue in the course of 2025, focusing on specific sports linked to different national minorities. Events are planned to take place in Yerevan to achieve more visibility and accessibility for the Armenian public in general. The Committee of Experts welcomes this successful initiative. It invites the MoESCS to build on its success together with the relevant schools and the representatives of speakers, and to continue to actively engage in and support similar awareness-raising projects, including also financially.

14. The Committee of Ministers previously recommended that Armenia adopts “**a proactive attitude regarding the protection and promotion of Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi in public life ...**”.<sup>25</sup> While there have been efforts to raise awareness on the Charter, the Committee of Experts observed during the on-the-spot visit that the majority of the speakers met in municipalities are still not aware either of the Charter, or of their rights with regard to the use of their language as ratified by Armenia. Not contradicting the principle of subsidiarity and the role and responsibility municipalities are granted, the Committee of Experts emphasises the proactive role national governments have to play in guaranteeing that the effective implementation of such policies are in line with the international obligations undertaken in the framework of the Charter. A more structured approach, with systematic awareness raising and adequate financing is needed to achieve results for the protection and promotion of Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi, as well as German and Ukrainian. The Committee of Experts takes note of Armenia’s 2023-2027 strategy and action plan of implementation for the preservation, development and popularisation of the culture of the Republic of Armenia,<sup>26</sup> however it invites the Armenian authorities to adopt a structured approach for the preservation and promotion of the minority languages, in co-operation with the speakers, including representatives of youth.

15. State financing of national minority associations continues, its amount however did not change since the last monitoring cycle.<sup>27</sup> According to the sixth periodical report, from the 20 million Armenian Drams (AMD, app. €45 489.44) annually allocated to national minorities by the state budget AMD 8 998 000 (app. € 20 465.70) are equally distributed between the organisations representing eleven national minorities in the National Minorities Affairs Council. AMD 10 million (app. €22 744.72) is distributed according to the most important initiatives and programmes presented by organisations representing national minorities regardless of whether they are members of the National Minorities Affairs Council, or not. The financial support, however, has to be approved by the Council, where priority is given to organisations representing large national minorities (such as Yezidi, Assyrian, Kurds). The remaining AMD 1 002 000 (app. €2 279.02) is given to one of the member organisations of the Council suggested by the Council. In 2024 the NGO “Union of Greek Communities” received this amount to implement joint programmes of the Council.<sup>28</sup> During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that in 2025 the financial support annually allocated to national minorities will be increased by AMD 5 000 000 (app. €11 372.36). While the Committee of Experts welcomes the presented news on the increase of the financial support in 2025, it assesses that it is still insufficient and reiterates the need for adequate, predictable and long-term financial support of the minority language speakers

<sup>24</sup> See also: [Fifth opinion of the Advisory Committee on Armenia](#), paragraph 193.

<sup>25</sup> See: [CM recommendation CM/RecChL\(2017\)2](#).

<sup>26</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 58.

<sup>27</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraph 7.

<sup>28</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 85.

and their associations. The Committee of Experts reiterates that such financial support should be available to all protected regional or minority languages, irrespective of their status (covered under Part II. or Part III.).<sup>29</sup>

### ***Awareness raising***

16. In 2021, the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia decided, with an overwhelming majority, to dedicate a special day to its national minorities and declared the first Sunday of October each year as the Day of National Minorities.<sup>30</sup> While not an official public holiday, the Day of National Minorities is marked each year with public statements, events and celebrations, drawing attention to Armenia's rich cultural and linguistic diversity.

17. In addition to the "Cultural Diversity" programme (see paragraph 13.),<sup>31</sup> on 21 February 2025, marking the International Mother Language Day,<sup>32</sup> an exhibition was held at the initiative of the MoESCS, dedicated to the culture and languages of national minorities of Armenia.<sup>33</sup> The event featured a project work created by pupils, aiming at presenting, raising awareness and understanding better the language and culture of national minorities living in Armenia.

18. The programme series "Aravot Luso" broadcast regularly, highlights the social and cultural life of the national minorities of Armenia. In addition, as mentioned earlier, the Armenian Public Television Company produces and broadcasts programmes about the national minorities, their lives and cultures. There are also television programmes in Armenian and Russian, highlighting events and celebrations, in the context of which, at the request of journalists, the representatives of national minorities use their minority language. In 2020, 2021 and 2023, within the audiovisual programme "First News Channel", three programme series dedicated to the national minorities in Armenia, specifically, "Side by side", "National flavours" and "Ethno-colours" were filmed and broadcast. The "Ethno-colours" programme series has been translated and broadcast in minority languages. Cultural events are regularly organised with the support of the Armenian authorities about, or with the involvement of national minorities, where minority languages might also be used.

19. The Armenian authorities inform of the important role the Brusov State University plays in developing and promoting of the languages of national minorities, as well as in the establishment and reinforcement of cultural ties. It hosts both the Greek and the Russian Language and Culture Centres. The university also regularly organizes events, lectures and seminars dedicated to the history, literature, culture, national holidays and other significant events of the national minorities.<sup>34</sup>

20. The Committee of Experts was informed by the representatives of the Yezidi speakers that two streets in Yerevan, a lecture room at the Military Academy, as well as one of the auditoriums at the Yerevan State Medical University were named after famous Yezidis recently. However, the signages are all in Armenian. The Committee of Experts acknowledges these decisions and considers them important in both recognition and awareness raising. It invites the relevant Armenian authorities in co-operation with the Yezidi speakers to include the names also in Yezidi script in addition to the Armenian, in order to raise awareness and promote further the language (see paragraph 37.).

### ***Use of the minority languages in education***

21. In the previous monitoring round, the Committee of Ministers recommended Armenia **"to favour the provision of at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi"**, as a matter of priority.<sup>35</sup> State authorities underline the existence of a legal framework,<sup>36</sup> but explained that organising pre-school education in minority languages remains a challenge, due to the decreasing number of pre-school aged children, or the lack of initiative by the representatives of speakers themselves. They point out that "the issue of pre-school education for Yezidi and Kurdish children residing in Armenia is frequently deliberated with the pertinent local self-governing entities of the corresponding locales".<sup>37</sup> The MoESCS has announced an annual grant programme for local authorities to establish alternative cost-effective pre-schools

<sup>29</sup> See: The Committee of Experts equally reminds of the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to **"provide adequate funding for cultural activities and to the national minority associations to ensure the promotion of the regional or minority languages"**.

<sup>30</sup> [The Prime Minister sends a congratulatory message on the occasion of the National Minorities Day of Armenia - Press releases - Updates - The Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.](#)

<sup>31</sup> Five school-wide events are planned under the "Cultural Diversity" programme, focusing on the following topics: "National Culture Palette", "Book Bridge Between Cultures", "Online Bridge of Cultures", "Intercultural Dialogue", "Research Project".

<sup>32</sup> [International Mother Language Day | United Nations.](#)

<sup>33</sup> <https://escs.am/am/news/27530>.

<sup>34</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 48 and 147.

<sup>35</sup> See: Recommendation (CM/RecChL(2020)6) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Armenia.

<sup>36</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 69.

<sup>37</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 89.

to provide pre-school education services in sparsely populated areas. Despite the fact that the programme has been implemented since 2021, as of today only Ferik submitted an application to become a beneficiary among the Yezidi municipalities. The Committee of Experts visited Ferik, where the pre-school, primary and secondary schools are in the same area. The language of instruction is Yezidi alongside with Armenian, so that children are prepared for the primary school, where the teaching is in Armenian, and Yezidi is taught as a subject. The Committee of Experts was informed during the on-the-spot visit that a trilingual Assyrian-Russian-Armenian kindergarten also exists in Arzni, where Assyrian is used. The opening of a pre-school is also planned in Alagyaz (where Kurdish and Yezidi speakers live). The Committee of Experts notes these developments, however, reiterates its calls on the state authorities, in co-operation with the local authorities concerned, to “favour and/or encourage” the provision of at least a substantial part of pre-school education in the minority languages in different municipalities traditionally inhabited by these speakers. It reminds the Armenian authorities that this provision (Article 8.1.aiv) is not in contradiction with providing pre-school education also in Armenian, but the use of minority languages in pre-school education forms the basis for a comprehensive knowledge of the language.<sup>38</sup> In addition, it calls on the Armenian authorities to proactively engage, in co-operation with the local authorities and representatives of the speakers, in informing parents about the offer of pre-school education in minority languages and encouraging them to enrol their children in the kindergartens concerned.

22. Armenian legislation provides that the “public education of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia can be organised in their native or national language, with compulsory instruction of Armenian”.<sup>39</sup> The sixth periodical report states that a curriculum of the general education of national minorities has been developed, under which the subject “Native language and literature” of national minorities refers to the teaching of the protected minority languages. Minority language and literature is allocated weekly in grades 1-12,<sup>40</sup> four hours a week in primary school and three hours a week in secondary schools, in accordance with the existing curricula.<sup>41</sup> In the 2024–2025 academic year three hours per week is allocated to Assyrian in both primary and secondary education, whereas Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi are allocated four hours per week in primary, and three hours per week in secondary education. Teaching in and of Russian is available in both primary and secondary education and Russian is also taught as subject in all schools of Armenia for six hours per week in primary and four hours per week in secondary education. Five schools offer Assyrian and Kurdish, and 16 schools Yezidi as a subject. Assyrian language and literature are taught only in primary and secondary schools where Russian-language curriculum exists (see paragraph 9.). Some primary and secondary schools offer intensive teaching of German. Greek and Ukrainian are not taught in primary or secondary education.

23. In addition to the teaching of minority languages as a subject, in areas where the number of speakers is small, there is also the possibility for learning Yezidi in group sessions. These are however extra curriculum activities and not obligatory. In total, there are currently eleven schools organising such group lessons.<sup>42</sup>

24. The sixth periodical report does not refer to technical or vocational education. However, the Committee of Experts was informed during the on-the-spot visit that only German, Greek and Russian is available in technical and vocational education, as a foreign language. Assyrian, Kurdish, Ukrainian and Yezidi are still not taught at this level.

25. German, Greek, Kurdish and Russian continue to be available as subjects at university level, but this is no longer the case for Ukrainian. The continuous absence of study and research of Assyrian and Yezidi at university level is not only resulting in the non-fulfilment for years of the relevant obligations undertaken by Armenia, but it is also contributing to the lack of teachers, with proper university education for these languages.

26. In its previous evaluation report, the Committee of Experts called on the Armenian authorities to take comprehensive steps to improve the training of teachers of the minority languages. In its subsequent recommendation the Committee of Ministers also emphasised the need to “**improve minority language teaching in primary and secondary education by extending the number of weekly lessons, promoting teacher training and producing modern teaching materials**”.<sup>43</sup> The fifth evaluation report also identified a number of necessary steps to achieve results, such as an increase in the salaries of teachers, the use of long-term contracts for them, improved learning of languages and teaching methodology at university, and the proactive recruitment of graduates of relevant studies as language teachers. During the on-the-spot visit, the

<sup>38</sup> [Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' seventh evaluation report on the Netherlands](#) (MIN-LANG (2024)14), paragraph 10.

<sup>39</sup> Article 4, “On State Policy in the Field of Public Education” and part 10 of the Law “On Public Education” of the Republic of Armenia.

<sup>40</sup> In Armenia, grade 1-4 refers to primary-, grade 5-9 to middle- and grade 10-12 to high-school level.

<sup>41</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 86.

<sup>42</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), annex 2.

<sup>43</sup> See: Recommendation (CM/RecChL(2020)6) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Armenia.

Committee of Experts was informed that since the last monitoring cycle, the MoESCS introduced a voluntary attestation scheme, which allows teachers to pass a test of proficiency. The successful passing of the test results in a significant salary increase. In addition, there is a general scheme, based on a decree of the MoESCS, covering also minority languages education; specialists seconded to state educational institutions in border or highland settlements receive compensation for transportation, housing and utility costs, as well as a 30 percent salary increase. This could be seen as an incentive for teachers of minority languages, as some of the schools, in which these languages are taught, are located in remote areas. While the voluntary attestation scheme was acknowledged by all interlocutors met, representatives of the speakers emphasise the importance of finding a long-term and more sustainable solution to respond to the continuous shortage of teachers with appropriate, high-level professional education.

27. In this context, representatives of the speakers at all levels called for the creation of chairs for Assyrian, Kurdish and Yezidi languages at university as there is no relevant specialisation offered in higher education in Armenia. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was also informed that Ukrainian studies are no longer available at the university level. In their meeting with the Committee of Experts, the Armenian authorities also acknowledged the persistence of a lack of professional language teachers and the need to provide dedicated studies for language teachers in higher education. Yerevan State University is currently considering starting Assyrian as part of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. In addition, the Committee of Experts was informed that consideration is given to create chairs of minority languages at the Pedagogical University. It also learned that a methodology is currently being developed for minority language teaching, which would allow the provision of methodology courses in teaching minority languages. In general, the Armenian authorities pointed out that the number of teachers has been increased in the recent years and that they are working on making the teaching profession attractive. The Committee of Experts welcomes these considerations, however, believes that a more strategic approach is needed to achieve tangible results. In this context, and in line with its previous recommendations, it calls on the Armenian authorities to step up efforts to create chairs for Assyrian, Kurdish and Yezidi languages at university or equivalent level of higher education. It also calls on the state authorities to reestablish the chair for Ukrainian at the university level. Moreover, it points out the possibility of training minority language teachers through transnational co-operation, bearing in mind the possibility of such studies abroad. The Committee of Experts invites the MoESCS to facilitate such co-operation between universities or other higher level educational institutions and support these initiatives also financially. It also encourages the authorities to ratify the relevant provision of the Charter concerning teacher training (Art. 8.1.h).

28. The publication of textbooks intended for classes of primary and secondary schools of national minorities is carried out with the financing of the MoESCS.<sup>44</sup> Electronic versions of textbooks and subject programmes have been placed on the "Resources Repository" sub-site of the "Armenian Educational Environment" portal.<sup>45</sup> During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that textbooks are available for Kurdish and Yezidi and are provided by the MoESCS free of charge. In the case of Assyrian, even though some textbooks are provided by the MoESCS, most of them are produced abroad and provided by the church. The representatives of the MoESCS acknowledged the need to provide quality language teaching material with appropriate country-specific content, however, they also pointed out that it is difficult to find experts who are qualified to properly check the content.

29. Minority language teaching also takes place in the form of Sunday schools organised by associations of the national minorities themselves and supported by the Armenian authorities. Such Sunday schools are operated for German, Greek and Ukrainian languages and are available for both adults and non-speakers of all age groups. Speakers expressed the need for more financial support to better equip the Sunday schools with proper modern teaching material and with the possibility to hire more language teachers should the interest in participation increase. The Committee of Experts recalls that, in order to support modern language teaching, it invited the Armenian authorities to begin the production of the aforementioned teaching materials and consider at least transitional licensing of teaching materials from other countries.<sup>46</sup>

30. Apart of these Sunday schools, there are no regular minority language courses offered to adults and non-speakers and supported by the state. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the Yezidi speakers expressed a strong wish for the organisation of language courses for adults. The Committee of Experts recalls its previous evaluation report and underlines that minority language courses for adults and non-speakers are

<sup>44</sup> Order No. 81 of the MoESCS, adopted on 29 November 2021. See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 104.

<sup>45</sup> See: <https://lib.armedu.am/>.

<sup>46</sup> [Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' fifth evaluation report on Armenia](#) (MIN-LANG(2021)17), paragraph 24 and 48.



important elements in the preservation and promotion of the language.<sup>47</sup> It calls on the Armenian authorities to step up efforts in this respect in line with its obligation under Articles 7.1.g, and 8.1.fiii of the Charter.

### ***Use of the minority languages by judicial authorities***

31. As has been the case during the previous monitoring cycle, in their sixth periodical report the Armenian authorities refer to the Constitutional Law on the Judicial Code of Armenia, which provides that “[e]veryone shall have the right to act in the procedure in the language they prefer if they provide proper interpretation into Armenian” (Art. 12.3). Furthermore, “[a] court shall provide services of an interpreter, at the expense of the state funds, to an accused in a criminal case who has no command of Armenian, unless the accused wishes to provide the interpretation at his or her own expense” (Art. 12.5). In addition, “[a] court shall provide services of an interpreter, at the expense of state funds, to participants of administrative procedure, to persons participating in civil cases and to victims in criminal cases where he or she is unable to communicate in Armenian and proves that he or she does not have sufficient means for providing paid interpretation services” (Art. 12.6).<sup>48</sup>

32. Pursuant to Article 16.3 of the Civil Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia, those participating in the case shall have the right to act in court in the language they prefer as long as they ensure provision of interpretation into Armenian. Article 16.4 of the Civil Procedure Code provides that the court shall provide interpretation services, at the expense of the state funds, to anyone participating in a case, experts appointed upon its initiative, specialists or witnesses invited upon its motion, if the respective person has no command of Armenian and the person participating in the case proves that he or she does not have sufficient means for providing paid interpretation services. Pursuant to Article 16.2, persons participating in a case shall submit all the procedural documents in Armenian or in another language with proper Armenian translation. Should they fail to comply with this requirement, the court shall not consider or allow the procedural documents and, in cases provided for by the Civil Procedure Code, shall return to the person who submitted them.<sup>49</sup>

33. The relevant provisions of the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia (Article 9, paragraphs 1-3) correspond *mutatis mutandis* to the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code described above.<sup>50</sup>

34. The Armenian authorities inform that the new Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia<sup>51</sup> provides that “by the decision of the body conducting the proceedings, the accused who does not speak the language of proceeding is given an opportunity, with the help of an interpreter, to present his or her rights, prescribed by the Code, in the language he or she has a command of (Art. 27.2). Furthermore, the copies of the procedural documents to be delivered shall also be given to the person in the language he or she is proficient in and is lacking command of the language of proceedings (Art 27.3).<sup>52</sup>

35. The Committee of Experts strongly reiterates that the relevant provisions of the Constitutional Law on the Judicial Code still do not comply with the undertakings of Armenia under the Charter. It reminds the Armenian authorities that the Charter guarantees the accused the right to use Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian or Yezidi in criminal proceedings if they so wish, regardless of whether they are fluent in Armenian or not (Article 9.1.iii).<sup>53</sup> The Committee of Experts also invites the Armenian authorities to promote awareness of the relevant provisions of the Charter both among the judicial authorities and among the speakers themselves.

36. The Committee of Experts concludes that the Armenian legislation pertaining to the use of minority languages before judicial authorities in these proceedings is still not in conformity with Armenia’s undertakings under the relevant provisions of Article 9.1 of the Charter. The Committee of Experts therefore reiterates its call expressed in its previous evaluation report on the Armenian authorities to amend the relevant laws so as to make it unambiguously clear that minority language speakers living in the judicial districts where their language is traditionally spoken may use it in criminal, civil and procedures concerning administrative matters even if they have a command of Armenian, and that they do not incur additional expense if interpretation or translation is provided.<sup>54</sup> In line with its previous evaluation report, the Committee of Experts recalls that the command/lack of command of Armenian is not relevant for the application of the Charter undertakings in

<sup>47</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraph 21.

<sup>48</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 152.

<sup>49</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 154.

<sup>50</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 153.

<sup>51</sup> Adopted on 30 June 2021 in the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and came into force on 1 July 2022. See: [www.arlis.am](http://www.arlis.am).

<sup>52</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 155.

<sup>53</sup> See also: [Joint Opinion on the Draft Law on National Minorities](#) adopted by the European Commission for Democracy Through Law of the Council of Europe (Venice Commission), paragraphs 27 and 56.

<sup>54</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraph 32.

question. In accordance with the Committee of Experts' standard interpretation, these guarantees apply irrespective of whether the person concerned speaks the official language or not.

37. As far as the use of the minority languages before judicial authorities in practice is concerned, the Armenian authorities informed that there is no preserved information pertaining to translations carried out in minority languages in the course of 2022. For 2023 the Committee of Experts received information regarding Kurdish, in the case of which, translation was provided in 13 court cases. In 2024 translations from/into Russian have been made in 857 judicial proceedings, translations from/into German in 22, Kurdish in 14, Ukrainian in ten, Greek in four and Yezidi in two judicial proceedings.<sup>55</sup> Assyrian has not been used before judicial authorities in the period 2020-2024. The Armenian authorities also informed that translation services are provided to the Judicial Department of the Republic of Armenia by two private organisations during 2022-2024.

38. In line with Article 9.3 of the Charter, the Committee of Experts underlines the importance of translating all relevant legislation into Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, and Yezidi. It emphasises, in general, the added value of Article 9.3, among which the developing of legal terminology in the minority languages remains an important element.

### ***Use of the minority languages by administrative authorities***

39. The Committee of Experts visited the municipalities of Arzni (Kotayk region, relevant to Assyrian), Ferik (Armavir region, relevant to Yezidi), Alagyaz (Aragatsotn region, relevant to Kurdish), Lori Berd (Lori region, relevant to Greek) and Lermontovo (Lori region, relevant to Russian). Members of the municipalities confirmed the use of their minority languages in the debates in their assemblies. They equally confirmed the possibility and the practice of submitting applications orally to both the local authorities and to public service providers. In general, the Committee of Experts noted that the use of minority languages is guaranteed in practice in municipalities, which are exempted from merging (see paragraph: 11.). It is not always the case for local branches of the national authorities (provincial authorities), or in the case of merged municipalities, where personnel might only speak Armenian and/or is not aware of the possibility to use the minority languages by and before the administrative authorities. This specific negative consequence of merging municipalities was signalled in the case of Nor Artagers (Armavir province) and Dimitrov (Ararat province) by the representatives of Assyrian speakers.<sup>56</sup> Speakers of Assyrian informed that following the merging of Dimitrov, Assyrians are no longer represented in the local government staff, and it is no longer possible to submit documents in the Assyrian language. There was a general agreement among minority language speakers that being exempted from merging is the guarantee to keep their national minority identity, including their language.

40. In their sixth periodical report, Armenian authorities state that speakers of minority languages may submit applications in their languages to local and regional authorities. In such cases, the replies would be given in Armenian, except for cases when the applicant indicates that he or she expects to receive the reply in the minority language.<sup>57</sup> The Armenian authorities claim however that minority language speakers mostly have no command of their written languages and prefer to use the state language in their communication with the authorities.<sup>58</sup>

41. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that, except for Russian, the submission of written applications and/or documents continues to be mostly in Armenian. Moreover, the official documents are not available in minority languages. In addition, as was the case during the previous on-the-spot visit,<sup>59</sup> the Committee of Experts noted a low level of awareness about Armenia's obligations under the Charter concerning the use of minority languages in contacts with the administrative authorities, both among officials of local authorities and minority language speakers. Representatives of local authorities continued to emphasise that most persons belonging to national minorities have a command of Armenian and they are "more at ease" in communicating with authorities in that language. The Committee of Experts also noted a reluctance guided by the possible misunderstanding that the use of the minority language with the administrative authorities is not legal and/or inappropriate as it might endanger the (primacy of the) state language. The Committee of Experts therefore reiterates its call on the Armenian authorities to raise awareness of the Charter and explain its relevant provisions also in the context of local authorities. It equally reiterates its call on the Armenian authorities to develop a structured policy promoting the oral and written use of Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian and Yezidi in contacts with, and by authorities at local and regional levels.<sup>60</sup> The Committee of Experts underlines that minority languages need to be used in practice in the

<sup>55</sup> No information was given of the exact numbers of criminal, or civilian, or administrative cases.

<sup>56</sup> See also paragraph 11 of this report.

<sup>57</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 161.

<sup>58</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 162.

<sup>59</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraph 36.

<sup>60</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraph 39.

domains covered by the treaty, as a way to ensure that they remain fully functional languages and continue to be present in public life in the areas where they are spoken. It reminds the Armenian authorities that the implementation of the undertakings under Article 10 requires a proactive and targeted approach led by the state authorities explaining that the use of minority languages in all domains of public life aims at maintaining these languages as living and fully functional. The Committee of Experts also points out that state authorities need to support local authorities to take practical measures at organisational level, in order to facilitate the use of minority languages within the administration (e.g. recruitment of officials who can speak the relevant minority language, training of existing staff, translation), as well as steps to encourage the minority language speakers to avail themselves of the possibility to use their language in contacts with the authorities, without the impression of being perceived as “trouble-makers” or disadvantaged in any way.<sup>61</sup>

42. The use of topographical signs, place and street names in minority languages are allowed by law.<sup>62</sup> During the on-the-spot visit and in particular the visit to the above-mentioned municipalities and villages, the Committee of Experts noted, however, that place and street names are randomly used in minority languages, and except for Russian and Assyrian, they are very seldom written in their original scripts. In their sixth periodical report, authorities inform that some minority language speaking municipalities were offered to install signboards in minority languages but found it needless pointing out the fact that they also speak Armenian.<sup>63</sup> Based on its meetings with both the representatives of the local authorities and the speakers, the Committee of Experts sometimes noted a misunderstanding regarding the use of the place and street names in the minority languages, as it was understood to replace the signage in Armenian, instead of adding the name in the minority language. It confirmed that there is a lack of knowledge among the speakers and the local authorities about the relevant undertaking of Armenia under the Charter (Article 10.2.g). In line with the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to “**promote the use or adoption of place names in the minority languages in the municipalities concerned**” expressed in the previous monitoring cycle,<sup>64</sup> as well as its own previous recommendations,<sup>65</sup> the Committee of Experts calls on the Armenian authorities to step up efforts to take positive action by informing the local authorities concerned of this obligation and encouraging them to adopt bilingual or multilingual place names and promote the inclusion of place names in minority languages in relevant municipalities. It equally calls on the Armenian authorities to facilitate the appropriate procedures and provide financial support to municipalities to the effective implementation.

### *Use of the minority languages in the media*

43. In 2020 the Law on “Audiovisual Media” entered into force replacing the Law on “Television and Radio”. According to the new law, public broadcasters are obliged to develop and “[i]mplement a programme policy with the objective of broadcasting non-nighttime programme about the culture and life of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia, ensuring a weekly airtime of 30 minutes on the public television and 2 hours on the public radio”.<sup>66</sup>

44. In relation to radio, programmes in Assyrian and Greek are still broadcast for 15 minutes daily, and in Kurdish for 30 minutes daily on the public radio of Armenia. On working days, a 15-minute analytical news programme continues to be broadcast daily in Russian. On the other hand, there has been a 45-minute increase in the case of Yezidi since the last monitoring cycle, making the daily broadcast time 75 minutes. Corresponding sections in all the minority languages are available on the website of the public radio, allowing speakers to follow these news items also in written format.<sup>67</sup> A nonstop online radio-station dedicated to Yezidi folk music also operates on this website. In addition, the public radio digitised and restored approximately 1000 Yezidi and Kurdish folk music samples and uploaded in its archives, which is also available on the website of the radio archive and through a mobile application. The Committee of Experts welcomes the increase in broadcast time in the Yezidi language as a proactive step to respond to the request expressed by the speakers during the previous on-the-spot visit.<sup>68</sup> It once again calls on the Armenian authorities to increase the broadcast

<sup>61</sup> See for example: See [Evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action contained in the sixth evaluation report](#) (MIN-LANG(2022)3), paragraph 15, [Sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Croatia](#) (MIN-LANG(2019)18), paragraph 48. and [Seventh evaluation report on Croatia](#) (MIN-LANG(2024)5), paragraph 75.

<sup>62</sup> Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Local Self-Government” (Article 18.1.22) and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Local Self-Government in the City of Yerevan” (Article 12.1.23); see: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 52.

<sup>63</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 53.

<sup>64</sup> See: Recommendation (CM/RecChL(2020)6) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Armenia.

<sup>65</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), and [Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts’ fifth evaluation report on Armenia](#) (MIN-LANG(2021)17).

<sup>66</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 164: the Law on “Audiovisual Media” (Article 22. Part 6.3 sub-point “e”).

<sup>67</sup> See: [Public Radio of Armenia – Official Website](#).

<sup>68</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraph 48.



time relevant to Assyrian, Greek and Kurdish, which has regrettably remained unchanged over multiple monitoring cycles.

45. The members of the Public Broadcasting Council informed of the creation of specific posts for Assyrian and Yezidi language speakers in public radio. Even though media experience was not conditional for application, no application was received from speakers. Members of the Public Broadcasting Council are interested to continue their outreach also in the future and pointed out that they are happy to provide professional training (journalism) for those candidates who speak the minority language fluently. In the interest to implement Armenia's relevant obligations under the Charter, pending significant state funding, members of the Public Broadcasting Council expressed a longer-term wish to set up a special studio for producing videos on demand in minority languages. They emphasised, however, that to be successful, not only the appropriate financial support, but the proficiency in the minority language, the interest and engagement of the speakers are equally essential.

46. In relation to television, Armenia has ratified Article 11.1.iii which requires the authorities to make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer television programmes in the minority languages. In the last monitoring cycle, the Committee of Ministers recommended that Armenia **"introduce the broadcasting of a public television programme in Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi on a regular basis and of a sufficiently long duration"** as a matter of priority.<sup>69</sup> As of today, there are no television programmes available in national minority languages broadcast by the public television of Armenia. Programmes about national minorities exist, presenting their lives and culture, highlighting events and celebrations, in the context of which, at the request of journalists, the representatives of national minorities use their minority language. In 2020, 2021 and 2023, within the audiovisual programme "First News Channel", three programme series dedicated to the national minorities in Armenia, specifically, "Side by side", "National flavours" and "Ethno-colours" were filmed and broadcast. The "Ethno-colours" programme series continues to be broadcast once a week for 30 minutes and concentrates on a different theme each year. The series are being translated into all minority languages and are available on the webpage of the Armenian state television.<sup>70</sup> A television programme called "News in Yezidi" was broadcast every Saturday, but it was suspended. In their meeting with the Committee of Experts, representatives of the Public Broadcasting Council explained that they have started a short news item on television and in all protected minority languages, but viewers were unhappy with having their television programmes cut by short non-Armenian speaking news. The Public Broadcasting Council is currently looking for alternative option with a view to contribute to the implementation of Armenia's relevant obligation under the Charter. It is currently working on making available its programmes about the national minorities also in minority languages on the website of the public television, similar to the one already available for the radio programmes. The Committee of Experts welcomes every effort to implement Armenia's relevant obligations under the Charter. It recalls, however, its previous evaluation report and emphasises the necessity to broadcast individual programmes in Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi on public television and to ensure adequate broadcasting duration and regularity.<sup>71</sup> In addition, the Committee of Experts underlines the importance of television programmes for children in minority languages in order to support language transmission.

47. The MoESCS provides yearly funding in support of the printed press of the national minorities. Within the framework of the "State Support to the Non-State Press" budgetary programme, ten printed publications in minority languages received such funding between 2019 and 2023. The majority of the national minorities continue to print newspapers in Armenian or Russian (bilingual or, in certain cases, trilingual).<sup>72</sup> Measures are being taken to ensure the continuity of the digitisation of periodicals in minority languages published with the support of the MoESCS. All the periodicals published by the national minorities are recorded in the repository "Armenian Press" along with the digital versions of most of them being installed. It is planned that all MoESCS-supported papers will be available electronically. Where there is no internet access, printed papers will continue to be available. At the Typography Museum of the National Library of Armenia, national minority press is on display, including the periodicals of Kurdish, Ukrainian and Yezidi national minorities. The Committee of Experts welcomes these efforts. It recalls, however, that in accordance with its standard interpretation, a "newspaper" in the sense of Article 11.1.e has to be published at least weekly. In Armenia only newspapers in Russian fall in this category, all other newspapers in minority languages are monthly. The Committee of Experts considers that the Armenian authorities should, in co-operation with representatives of the speakers, including the youth, encourage the creation of newspapers in Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi to be published at least weekly, including online when appropriate, as well as facilitate and support it financially.

<sup>69</sup> See: Recommendation (CM/RecChL(2020)6) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Armenia.

<sup>70</sup> See: [Side by side](#); [National flavours](#); [Ethno-colours](#).

<sup>71</sup> See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts](#) (MINLANG(2020)3), paragraph 49.

<sup>72</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), annex 3.

48. Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi are not used in private radio and television programmes. The Committee of Experts calls on the Armenian authorities to encourage and facilitate the use of these languages by private (commercial) broadcasters, for example through financial incentives or license requirements. As far as Russian is concerned, the Committee of Experts is aware that most private radio and television broadcasters in Armenia broadcast films and some programmes in Russian, which are watched and/or listened to by the entire population regardless of ethnic or linguistic affiliation.

49. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed by representatives of the minority language speakers that there are no obstacles to the reception of radio and television broadcasts in the minority languages from abroad. However, Yezidi speakers informed that such television programmes broadcast from Russia are not free of charge.

50. No member of the Commission on Television and Radio of the Republic of Armenia specifically represents speakers of minority languages. In addition, there is no mechanism ensuring that the interests of the minority language speakers are taken into account within the Commission, as required by Article 11.3.

### ***Use of the minority languages in cultural activities and facilities***

51. Supported by the Armenian Government, a fully equipped cultural centre in Yerevan is at the disposal of the national minorities. It hosts cultural events, language classes and other activities aiming at promoting minority culture and languages. All national minorities of Armenia have access to the premises. During the on-the-spot visit, the representatives of the speakers confirmed the importance and added value of the centre in their life.

52. Continuous efforts are made by the Armenian authorities in co-operation with the minority language speakers to record elements of intangible cultural heritage and including these in the state archive.<sup>73</sup> In 2021, the NGO “Yezidi National Union” and the representatives of Assyrian speakers participated in this exercise, resulting in the update of the list of intangible cultural heritage of the Republic of Armenia by elements of “Yezidi wedding ritual” and “The New Year celebration of Assyrians”. The process is ongoing. Equally, in 2021, the NGO “The Union of Greek Communities of Armenia” participated in the inventory of intangible cultural heritage “in need of urgent safeguarding”, as a result of which the relevant list was updated to include the element of “The Pontic Dialect of the Greek Population of Armenia”.

53. Popular also among the majority population, the festival “Under One Roof: Armenia” took place on 6 October 2024 at the Arno Babajanyan Concert Hall in Yerevan, with the participation of minority language speakers.<sup>74</sup> The MoESCS sponsored a series of music festivals between 2020 and 2023 with the participation of all the national minorities both in Yerevan and in the provinces. Concerts, exhibitions and training programmes of painting for children were also held in this framework.

54. During the Pan-Armenian Festival of Arts and Crafts “Cultural Renaissance,” organised in September 2022 in Dilijan (Tavush province), the Yezidis and Assyrians of Arzni presented their respective national minorities by displaying traditional dishes, through national songs and dances and culture.

### ***Use of the minority languages in economic and social life***

55. The Committee of Experts was not made aware during the on-the-spot visit of practices actively discouraging the use of minority languages in connection with economic or social activities. On the other hand, representatives of the speakers did not inform of any proactive policy to promote the use of the minority languages in economic and social life. In their sixth periodical report, the Armenian authorities have not reported on any activities organised by them with a view to facilitating and/or encouraging the use of minority languages in these domains, including in the public sector.

56. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts observed that, while Russian is used orally and in writing in economic life, Assyrian, Kurdish and Yezidi are only used orally in places where a high proportion of the population use these languages. Greek is not used in economic life. Assyrian, Kurdish and Yezidi are not used in writing, and there is generally still a lack of awareness about the right to use these languages in economic and social life. Furthermore, neither the speakers, nor the authorities are aware that the use of these languages by the private sector could make an important contribution to maintaining them as languages with functions in all fields of daily life. The Committee of Experts reiterates its recommendation to the Armenian

<sup>73</sup> See also in the context of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage ([ICH - UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage](#)).

<sup>74</sup> See: [UNDER ONE ROOF: ARMENIA](#).

authorities made in the context of the fifth evaluation report, to consider, in co-operation with the representatives of the national minorities, a strategy and an action plan concerning the promotion of the use of Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi in economic life. These measures should extend to both the private sector and to the public sector and complement the measures taken with respect to Article 10.3.c.

57. In their meeting with the Committee of Experts representatives of the Ministry of Health confirmed that all state policy, including healthcare is guided by the principle of non-discrimination stemming from the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and that everyone has equal right to medical care. Interlocutors also ensured the Committee of Experts that in case of problems, there will always be speakers of minority languages among medical staff.<sup>75</sup> However, during the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the speakers reported that apart from Russian, no minority language is used in practice in social care facilities. The presence of staff who also speak languages such as Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi is a result of coincidence and not of a specific recruitment policy. The Committee of Experts recalls Armenia's obligation to ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of minority languages (13.2.c) in areas where these languages are traditionally used. It reminds the state authorities that this provision is not limited in case of problems or about the fact that minority language speakers speak Armenian or not. It therefore reiterates its recommendation formulated in its fifth evaluation report that the Armenian authorities should adopt a pro-active approach concerning the implementation of this undertaking. To this end they should identify the social care facilities located in the areas where the minority languages are used, foresee the recruitment and/or linguistic training of a sufficient number of staff (e.g. doctors, nurses), actively inform speakers of these languages of the possibilities to use them and encourage the speakers to avail themselves of these possibilities. The Committee of Experts also calls on the Armenian authorities to include, in line with their obligation under Article 8.1.div of the Charter, the teaching of minority languages in the vocational education relevant to social life.

### ***Use of the minority languages in transfrontier exchanges***

58. Based on a bilateral agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Hellenic Republic on Co-operation in the Fields of Education, Culture and Science signed on 16 December 1994, a number of transfrontier exchanges and events for the benefit of the Greek language took place in the field of education and culture. The promotion and the teaching of the language and culture of the other country, the facilitation of the exchange of knowledge and experience at all levels of education, the creation of favourable conditions for the study, as well as the dissemination of knowledge of the language, literature and history of the other country are part of the agreement. Bilateral agreement is in place between Armenia and Cyprus, including in the fields of culture and education. An evolving co-operation exists with Iraq, where Kurds, Assyrians and Yezidis live. Efforts are ongoing to expand this further in trade, tourism, education and cultural exchanges. Representatives of the speakers of Russian confirmed during the on-the-spot visit that Russian is promoted in official co-operation with the Russian Federation. Moreover, according to their representatives, the Greek, German and Ukrainian minorities co-operate with related minorities living outside of Armenia and their "kinstate". Representatives of both Assyrian and Kurdish speakers informed of regular contacts with Assyrian or Kurdish language speakers abroad, through the civil society organisations they represent or in their personal capacities.

59. The sixth periodical report does not provide any information on steps taken by the Armenian authorities to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders between regional or local authorities in whose territory Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian and Yezidi are used (Article 14.b). During the on-the-spot visit, Assyrian minority language speakers informed of existing transfrontier co-operation at both municipality and civil society levels. Greek speakers confirmed of existing and active co-operation with municipalities<sup>76</sup> in Cyprus and Greece. Greek minority associations informed of maintaining regular contacts with authorities in Greece which finance activities of the Greek minority in Armenia.

## **1.2 The situation of the individual minority languages in Armenia**

### **Assyrian – Part II and Part III language**

60. **Assyrian** is taught in primary and secondary schools as a subject three times per week where Russian-language curriculum exists.<sup>77</sup> The Committee of Experts visited the school in Arzni (Kotayk province), where 110 Assyrian children learn the Assyrian language. In the primary school three times 45 minutes, in the secondary school, two times 45 minutes is dedicated to the language and 45 minutes to Assyrian literature in

<sup>75</sup> See also: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 201.

<sup>76</sup> Yerevan, Alaverdi and Gyumri (both known for their Greek population) have twin cities in Greece.

<sup>77</sup> Assyrian is taught in five schools as a subject. See: [Sixth periodical report](#), annex 2.

Assyrian. In the past, textbooks of Assyrian were published in Yerevan, but according to the speakers there are no experts to develop new and modern teaching materials. Some of the textbooks used in the school are printed in Germany with the support of UNICEF and purchased through the Assyrian church abroad. However, more textbooks would be needed, including Assyrian literature. There is a serious shortage of trained teachers of Assyrian, with both appropriate language knowledge and having a specific professional education, as there is no relevant specialisation offered by higher education institutions in Armenia.<sup>78</sup> Speakers emphasised the need to create a chair at the university and to carry out research and study of Assyrian at university level, for example as part of the Faculty of Oriental Studies in the Yerevan State University. Contacts with universities having such a profile shall be established, facilitated and supported by the Armenian authorities. In addition to Verin Dvin (the place with the highest number of Assyrians in Armenia, located in Ararat province), Arzni has also an Armenian-Assyrian-Russian trilingual kindergarten group where Assyrian children are enrolled, and the Assyrian language is used.<sup>79</sup> Assyrian was not used in judicial proceedings during the reporting period. Assyrian can be used before the administrative authorities and public services in areas which were exempted from merging. Assyrian is used in public signage in two villages (Arzni and Verin Dvin) where Assyrian is traditionally spoken. Programmes in Assyrian are still broadcast for 15 minutes daily on public radio, but there is no programme in Assyrian on public television. With the funding of the MoESCS, the Assyrian minority issues a monthly bilingual publication, called "Assyrskie Novosti". Built with the financial support of the Armenian Government, a sport and cultural centre accommodates cultural activities, including its two Assyrian dance ensembles. Cultural activities are organised regularly in Arzni and in neighbouring municipalities by and with the involvement of the Assyrian speakers, popular among both the other national minorities, as well as the Armenian population.<sup>80</sup> Ongoing transfrontier co-operation exists between Armenia's leading research institution, dedicated to preserving and studying ancient manuscripts, the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (Matenadaran) and the Assyrian Heritage Museum on the restoration of Assyrian manuscripts. Each year, the sports team of the "Atur" Assyrian Union of Armenia participates in the Pan-Assyrian Sports Games held in the Islamic Republic of Iran, within the framework of the State grant programme. Representatives of the speakers also informed of regular contacts with Assyrian speakers abroad, through the civil society organisations they represent or in their personal capacities.

## German – Part II language

61. **German** continues to be used in two pre-schools and taught intensively (up to six hours weekly) by several primary and secondary schools mostly in Yerevan,<sup>81</sup> also attended by children who are descendants of the traditional German minority of Armenia. In addition, the teaching of German as a foreign language is offered in primary and secondary education in different parts of Armenia. The association of the German minority receives regular funding from the Armenian Government. It organises language courses at its Sunday school in Yerevan available for all age groups. German is also taught at a number of university or higher education institutions, which also carry out research on this language. With the funding of the MoESCS, the German minority association has published various books about the history of the Germans in Armenia and the Caucasus since the 19th century. Newspapers in German are available in specialised shops and libraries in Yerevan. As regards transfrontier exchanges, in 2022-2023, three members of the German community participated in seminars for women in Tbilisi (Georgia). In the context of the bilateral co-operation between Armenia and Germany, focus is given, among others to intensify cultural and social exchange, as well as promoting German as a foreign language. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA) and the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) have offices in Armenia, and the Goethe-Institut operates a Goethe-Zentrum in the country. There are almost 50 co-operation arrangements between German and Armenian higher education institutions. A large number of students and researchers benefit from scholarships and exchange programmes. An active town twinning partnership has also been in place between Halle (Saale) and Gyumri since 2023.<sup>82</sup>

## Greek – Part II and Part III language

62. Greek is currently not taught in public education in pre-school, primary or secondary school level. Children's camps organised by speakers or associations exist in Alaverdi, Gyumri, Noyemberyan, Stepanavan, Yaghdan and Yerevan. Teaching of Greek in these camps is free. The teachers are paid by the Greek Government, whereas the Armenian Government finances the camps. Greek is also taught in Sunday schools,

<sup>78</sup> There was only one teacher for Assyrian in the school of Arzni in the time of the on-the-spot visit. Another teacher would be expected following the termination of her studies in the Yerevan State University.

<sup>79</sup> Children sing songs or look at cartoons in Assyrian. The teacher is an Assyrian, who time and again speaks to the children in Assyrian. The level of their language knowledge is very good, according to the speakers.

<sup>80</sup> See for example the two-day celebration of the Pledge of the Assyrian Community: [Sixth periodical report](#), paragraph 195.

<sup>81</sup> German is taught as a foreign language, not as a minority language.

<sup>82</sup> [Germany and Armenia: Bilateral relations - Federal Foreign Office](#).



operated in areas where Greek speakers live.<sup>83</sup> They are available for all ages and financed partly by the Greek Embassy in Armenia and the MoESCS. They operate up to three times a week, pending on the availability of the teacher. Greek was taught in Yerevan, in School 74 in the past as a subject,<sup>84</sup> and in School 12 as an extracurricular class. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts visited Yaghdan, a small Pontic Greek community in Lori Province, where efforts are made to introduce the teaching of Greek as a subject two times per week in the local school.<sup>85</sup> All 54 pupils currently enrolled flagged interest in attending these classes. With the help of a Greek speaking teacher the school also participated in the awareness raising project initiated by the MoESCS. Textbooks come from Greece, financed by the Greek Government, which also provides teaching materials for the Sunday schools and children camps. Speakers agree that the biggest problem of introducing Greek as a subject is not the lack of interest, but the lack of professional language teachers. Efforts are also ongoing to revitalise Pontic Greek. To this end, recording started based on oral tradition in Yaghdan, through interviews with the elderly who still speak Pontic Greek. The Research Centre of Greek Studies of Yerevan State University organises eight-month courses of Greek for beginners, open for anyone interested. The Yerevan Brusov State University hosts the Centre of the Greek Language and Culture. While Greek can be studied at university, representatives of the speakers pointed out the added value to include also research on Pontic Greek at the university. The MoESCS provides financial support for the monthly publication “Ilios” appearing in Greek, Armenian and Russian. The public television broadcast programmes on the Greek language and culture. Greek NGOs also operate websites in Greek, and a Facebook page, called “The Greeks in Armenia”. An extensive collection of books in Greek is kept at the national library. Greek was used in four judicial proceedings during the reporting period. Greek is not used before the administrative authorities and public services, and only to a very limited extent in debates in the local authorities. Greek is only used to a limited extent in public signage, however, not in topographical signs. On 12 October 2022, Armenia and Greece celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of their bilateral diplomatic relations.<sup>86</sup> In the context of the co-operation between the two countries, cultural events, exchanges and competitions take place.<sup>87</sup> An active twinning programme exists between Yerevan and Athens.<sup>88</sup> Alaverdi and Gyumri (both known for their Greek population) have also twin cities in Greece. In the reporting period, members of Greek civil society organisations affiliated with the Union of Greek Communities of Armenia, as well as community-based artistic groups participated in festivals and competitions held in Georgia and Bulgaria, as well as in three study visits to Athens, organised with the support of the Embassy of Greece.

## Kurdish – Part II and Part III language

63. Kurdish is taught in five primary and secondary schools three to four hours per week.<sup>89</sup> The Committee of Experts visited the school in Alagyaz (Aragatsotn province), the largest Kurdish-populated municipality in Armenia, where 98 children are enrolled. The school has one Kurdish language teacher. Textbooks are available free of charge and of good quality, supplied by the MoESCS.<sup>90</sup> According to plans, a kindergarten is opening in September 2025 where Kurdish might be used. Kurdish is not taught in vocational education. Kurdish can be studied at the Faculty of Oriental Studies at the Yerevan State University where research on the language is also carried out. However, higher education institutions in Armenia do not offer a specialisation for the training of teachers of Kurdish. There are no adult education courses of Kurdish. The monthly newspaper “Rya Taza” is issued in Kurdish and the quarterly “Zagros” is issued in Kurdish and Armenian with the financial support of the MoESCS. Kurdish was used in 27 judicial proceedings during the reporting period. Kurdish can be used before the local authorities and public services, as well as in debates at local level in areas where Kurdish speakers traditionally live. Kurdish is only used to a very limited extent in public signage. Programmes in Kurdish continue to be broadcast for 30 minutes daily on public radio, but there is no programme in Kurdish on public television. In 2023, the Yerevan State University published a Kurdish language textbook designed for orientalists, linguists, and specialists with an interest in Iranian languages who are studying Kurdish at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of the Yerevan State University, as well as in other

<sup>83</sup> Mostly concentrated in Lori and Shirak provinces and in Yerevan.

<sup>84</sup> Part of the curricula as a foreign language. The teaching stopped in 2006.

<sup>85</sup> Started from 2024 Greek language and Greek songs are currently taught on Saturdays.

<sup>86</sup> [The solemn event in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Greece was held in the building of the Journalists Union of Athens Daily Newspapers - Embassy of Armenia to the Hellenic Republic.](#)

<sup>87</sup> During 2023–2024, children from the Pontic Greek community in Armenia achieved notable success in [the Minoan Robotports Competition \(MRC\)](#) Global Olympiad and the MRC 2024 educational and cultural summer camp. In 2024, the “First Conference of Diaspora Greek Youth” was organised by the Diaspora Office of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2024, Greek language teachers from Armenia participated in an online seminar-conference on “Greek Language Teaching Methods,” organised by the Institute of Greek Language at Aristotle University.

<sup>88</sup> See: [yerevan.am | Official website | Partner cities.](#)

<sup>89</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), annex 2.

<sup>90</sup> Between 2020 and 2024, 457 copies of Kurdish textbooks (including literature) were published and distributed to pupils. “Kurdish Alphabet” are published annually. In addition, methodological manuals and didactic materials are also published. The textbooks remain valid for a period of three to seven years.

educational institutions and scientific centres. Books in Kurdish are available in the National Library of Armenia. Transfrontier co-operation has been established and is being strengthened in the framework of the bilateral co-operation between Armenia and Iraq, including in the area of economic co-operation and education. Representatives of Kurdish speakers informed of regular contacts with Kurdish speakers abroad, through the civil society organisations they represent or in their personal capacities.

## Russian – Part II and Part III language

64. Teaching in and of **Russian** continues to be provided at all levels of education in Armenia. The Committee of Experts visited Lermontovo (Lori province) a traditional Russian (Molokan) village. There are 12 children enrolled in the kindergarten, where Russian is the only language of communication. 161 children are enrolled in the primary and secondary school of Lermontovo, out of which 128 attend the Russian classes.<sup>91</sup> Textbooks come from Russia supported by the Russian Embassy. The education respects the Armenian curricula. All subjects are covered even though there are currently five vacant positions, however teachers are overburdened. Recruitment is only possible with a very good competence in Russian. Higher education for teachers is possible at the Vanadzor State University, and scholarships in Russia are also accessible with the support of the Russian Embassy. The Russian Embassy also organises trainings for teachers. Russian is widely taught as a foreign language in all parts of Armenia. It's offered in technical and vocational education and also as adult education course. Study and research on Russian are carried out in several educational and research institutions. To a certain extent Russian history, culture and literature are also integrated in the school curriculum. Speakers of Russian are active in promoting their traditions, both regionally and also in Yerevan. The Committee of Experts visited a recently opened Russian minority (Molokan) house in Fioletovo,<sup>92</sup> presenting the traditions, life and history of this national minority. Russian was used in judicial proceedings during the reference period. It is widely present in the public space and can be used in economic and social life. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts met with the representatives of the municipality of Lermontovo, who informed of the possibility of using Russian in official procedures, including by submitting a request to public service providers. Newspapers and literature in Russian are commonly available in dedicated shops and libraries. Many cultural events are organised regularly in Russian. All interlocutors confirmed that the transfrontier co-operation is ongoing and active. A number of events, exchanges and competitions related to education and culture were organised in the reference period.<sup>93</sup>

## Ukrainian – Part II language

65. Ukrainian is only taught in Sunday school in Yerevan and Vanadzor, operating once a week, where both children and adults can learn the language. Both teaching materials and teachers are available and are financed with the support of the MoESCS. Since the previous monitoring cycle, Ukrainian studies are no longer available at the university level. The association of the Ukrainian minority receives regular funding from the Armenian Government. The Ukrainian community has a very active cultural life, including the "Dnipro" choral club, a national dance group called "Sevan" and the "Dzvnochky" children's ensemble operating in Yerevan, and the "Verbychenka" vocal ensemble in Vanadzor. Furthermore, associations of the Ukrainian minority organise concerts and events. A monthly magazine "Dnipro-Slavutych" is published in Ukrainian and Armenian, financed by the MoESCS.<sup>94</sup> A museum in the Taras Shevchenko State School (No. 42) in Yerevan is devoted to the Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko whose statue was also inaugurated, supported by the Armenian Government. Cultural events are also organised dedicated to this famous poet, with the participation of the Ukrainian speakers and the representatives of the Ukrainian Embassy. Transfrontier co-operation takes place based on a number of bilateral agreements between the Republic of Armenia and Ukraine, including trade and economic co-operation also at the regional level. Twinning programme also exists between Odesa and Yerevan. Ukrainians in Armenia have strong ties with the Ukrainian diaspora worldwide and continue to be actively engaged in events organised in this context.

<sup>91</sup> The school operates both Russian and Armenian classes. Among the 161 pupils, there are also 29 Armenian and four Yezidi children. The Yezidi children are enrolled in the Russian classes. Russian is taught also in the Armenian classes. A similar school with the Russian language instruction exists in the neighbouring Russian (Molokan) village Fioletovo, where 140 students are enrolled.

<sup>92</sup> [Armenia welcomes first-ever Molokan Heritage Museum in the region - CIVILNET](#).

<sup>93</sup> Such as the International School of Russian Compatriots "Young Leader" (16-17 years old) held in Mugan, Kazakhstan in 2023; the III Eurasian Meeting of Russian Compatriots in New Delhi, India and the meeting of the members of the Regional Council of Near Abroad in Khujand, Tajikistan in 2024.

<sup>94</sup> 30 % of the news are also translated in Armenian, as requested by the MoESCS.

## Yezidi – Part II and Part III language

66. One Yezidi pre-school operates in Ferik, where Yezidi is the language of instruction alongside with Armenian.<sup>95</sup> Yezidi is taught as a subject in 16 primary and secondary schools three to four hours per week as part of the school curricula, in municipalities where Yezidis make up a larger share of the population.<sup>96</sup> Yezidi is also taught in eleven schools in group classes, organised in limited hours and on a voluntary basis in areas where Yezidis live. The Committee of Experts visited the school of Ferik (a 500 people village in the Armavir province) in which 47 children are enrolled. A pre-school also operates in the school building for two years. There are currently ten children enrolled. Representatives of Yezidi speakers informed that shortage of language teachers persists, and as a result, there are still areas where Yezidis traditionally live, but there are no Yezidi language teachers in schools. In addition, teachers of Yezidi do not have appropriate professional education as there is no relevant specialisation offered in higher education in Armenia. The voluntary attestation programme launched by the MoESCS is ongoing and has some result in training (knowledge) and motivating (teachers having a certificate receive significantly higher salary) is a welcoming development, however a long-term, sustainable solution is needed to achieve results. Yezidi is not taught in technical and vocational education, neither at university. The Committee of Experts was informed by the representatives of speakers that plans exist to create a chair of Yezidi studies at the university. Teaching materials are available, and teachers are satisfied with both its quality and the quantity provided.<sup>97</sup> Co-operation with other schools exist. Yezidi was used in two judicial proceedings during the reporting period. Yezidi can be used before the administrative authorities and public services in areas where Yezidi speakers live and in debates at local level. Yezidi is only used to a limited extent in public signage. Broadcast time in Yezidi on public radio was increased during the reporting period, but there is no programme in Yezidi on public television. With the funding of the MoESCS, the Yezidi minority issues in Yezidi and Armenian a monthly publication, called “Lalysh” and in Yezidi, Armenian and Russian a quarterly publication called “Ezdikhana”. Yezidis organise their cultural activities (e.g. national holidays) mainly in the rural municipalities with Yezidi population. Multiple Yezidi dance groups exist, both for children and adults. Various cultural events such as exhibitions, film presentations, workshops and seminars are also organised by the Yezidi speakers, supported by the state. The NGO “Yezidi National Union” received financial support (AMD 700 000, app. €1 592.13) to organise cultural programmes aiming at presenting, preserving and promoting the Yezidi intangible cultural heritage during the reporting period. Transfrontier co-operation has been established and is being strengthened in the framework of the bilateral co-operation between Armenia and Iraq. The opening of the world biggest Yezidi temple in Aknalich, Armenia in 2019 allowed the strengthening of religious ties between Yezidis from around the world who travel to Armenia, especially during important religious festivals.

<sup>95</sup> Alongside Yezidi, Armenian is the language of instruction so as children, who only speaks Yezidi are better prepared for the primary school.

<sup>96</sup> See: [Sixth periodical report](#), annex 2.

<sup>97</sup> Between 2020 and 2024, 8,469 copies of Yezidi textbooks (including literature) were published and distributed to schools. The textbooks “Yezidi Alphabet” is published annually. In addition, methodological manuals and didactic materials are published. The textbooks remain valid for a period of three to seven years.



## Chapter 2 Compliance of Armenia with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and recommendations

### 2.1 Assyrian

#### 2.1.1 Compliance of Armenia with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Assyrian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Assyrian <sup>98</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
<b>Part II of the Charter</b> <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>					
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>					
7.1.a	recognition of Assyrian as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Assyrian		↘		
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Assyrian		=		
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Assyrian, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Assyrian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Assyrian at all appropriate stages		↗		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Assyrian to learn it				↘
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Assyrian at universities or equivalent institutions				=
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Assyrian		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Assyrian	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Assyrian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Assyrian among their objectives	↗			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Assyrian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Assyrian	=			
<b>Part III of the Charter</b> <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
<b>Art. 8 – Education</b>					
8.1.aiv	favour and/or encourage the provision of pre-school education in Assyrian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Assyrian		↗		
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Assyrian, a substantial part of primary education in Assyrian or teaching of Assyrian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient		↗		
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in Assyrian, a substantial part of secondary education in Assyrian or teaching of Assyrian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient		↗		
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Assyrian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Assyrian or teaching of Assyrian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.eiii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Assyrian or of facilities for the study of Assyrian as an university or higher education subject				=
8.1.fiii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Assyrian as a subject of adult and continuing education				=

<sup>98</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/> (treaty No. 148).

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Assyrian <sup>98</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
<b>Art. 9 – Judicial authorities</b>					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Assyrian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			=	
9.1.a.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Assyrian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			=	
9.1.a.iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Assyrian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			=	
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Assyrian in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.c.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Assyrian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.c.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Assyrian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Assyrian and the related use of documents and evidence in Assyrian, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned			=	
9.3	make available in Assyrian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Assyrian			=	
<b>Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services</b>					
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Assyrian may submit oral or written applications in Assyrian to local branches of the national authorities			=	
10.1.av	ensure that users of Assyrian may validly submit a document in Assyrian to local branches of the national authorities <sup>99</sup>				
10.1.b	make available widely used national administrative texts and forms in Assyrian or in bilingual versions			=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Assyrian to submit oral or written applications in Assyrian to the regional or local authority		=		
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Assyrian in debates in their assemblies	=			
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Assyrian		=		
10.3.c	allow users of Assyrian to submit a request in Assyrian to public service providers		✓		
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Assyrian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used		=		
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Assyrian		=		
<b>Art. 11 – Media</b>					
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Assyrian		= 100	= 101	
11.1.b.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Assyrian on a regular basis			=	
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Assyrian on a regular basis			=	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Assyrian			=	
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Assyrian <sup>102</sup>				
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Assyrian	=			

<sup>99</sup> Armenia has ratified Articles 10.1.a.iv and 10.1.av which constitute alternative options. Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.av.

<sup>100</sup> Public radio.

<sup>101</sup> Public television.

<sup>102</sup> Armenia has ratified Article 11.1.e which covers two alternative options (ei and eii). Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 11.1.eii.

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Assyrian <sup>98</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Assyrian</li> <li>ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Assyrian</li> </ul>				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Assyrian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=
<b>Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities</b>					
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Assyrian		=		
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Assyrian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Assyrian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=			
12.2	In territories other than those in which Assyrian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Assyrian	=			
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Assyrian and the culture it reflects				=
<b>Art. 13 – Economic and social life</b>					
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Assyrian	=			
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Assyrian in connection with economic or social activities	=			
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Assyrian in economic and social life				=
13.2.b	in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of Assyrian in economic and social life				=
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Assyrian				=
<b>Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges</b>					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Assyrian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Assyrian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education				✓
14.b	for the benefit of Assyrian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Assyrian is used in identical or similar form		↗		

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

67. Due to the ongoing administrative territorial reforms in the Republic of Armenia, Dimitrov and Nor Artagers were merged, and as a result, the use of Assyrian is no longer guaranteed at local level. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.1.b only partly fulfilled. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed of the existence of pre-school education, where Assyrian is used, and that Assyrian is taught in five schools in Armenia as a subject three hours per week in both primary and secondary education. It therefore assesses 7.1.f, 8.1.aiv, 8.1.biv and 8.1.civ partly fulfilled. There are no facilities enabling non-speakers of Assyrian (including also adults) to learn this language, therefore the Committee of Experts considers 7.1.g not fulfilled. During the monitoring period Armenia developed a “Cultural Diversity” programme for schools, aiming at fostering respect for different cultures, promoting co-operation among pupils of different ethnic backgrounds. As part of the programme, the teaching and learning of minority languages were promoted

throughout 2024 in approximately 170 schools across the country. All interlocutors met during the on-the-spot visit, including speakers, teachers and representatives of the local authorities, confirmed the importance of the initiative, its impact and significance in raising awareness among all pupils in Armenian schools. Efforts in awareness raising were also multiplied, such as introducing the Day of National Minorities by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. The presence of quality programmes about national minorities, their cultures, traditions and languages was increased in the media. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.3 fulfilled. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of Assyrian speakers confirmed that Assyrians can submit orally a request in Assyrian to public service providers. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 10.3.c partly fulfilled. Promotion of transnational exchanges exists between Armenia and Iraq, in the context of which a co-operation was established between the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (Matenadaran) and the Assyrian Heritage Museum on the restoration of Assyrian manuscripts. Each year, the sports team of the “Atur” Assyrian Union of Armenia participates in the Pan-Assyrian Sports Games held in the Islamic Republic of Iran, within the framework of the State grant programme. Representatives of the speakers also informed of regular contacts with Assyrian speakers abroad, through the civil society organisations they represent. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.1.i, and 14.b partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts did not receive information about agreements with the States in which Assyrian is used. Due to the repeated lack of information, it considers that 14.a is not fulfilled.

### **2.1.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Assyrian in Armenia**

The Committee of Experts encourages the Armenian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.1.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Armenia<sup>103</sup> remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

#### **I. Recommendations for immediate action**

- a. **Establish studies of Assyrian at university and provide for the availability of teachers of Assyrian.**
- b. **Provide Assyrian as a subject to all children, whose families so request, in all public schools where such language teaching exists.**
- c. **Ensure that Assyrian is used in official oral and written communication in the merged municipalities that Dimitrov and Nor Artagers became part of, regardless of the decrease in the percentage of speakers.**

#### **II. Further recommendations**

- d. Teach Assyrian as an integral part of the curriculum in technical and vocational education, so that social care facilities, such as hospitals, can offer the use of Assyrian.
- e. Favour the offer of Assyrian as a subject in adult and continuing education.
- f. Introduce the broadcasting of a public television programme in Assyrian on a regular basis and of a sufficiently long duration.
- g. Facilitate the creation of a newspaper in Assyrian published at least weekly, including online where appropriate.
- h. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Assyrian on a regular basis.
- i. Ensure the use of Assyrian in contacts with local branches of national authorities and local authorities.
- j. Amend the relevant legislation pertaining to the use of minority languages before judicial authorities with a view to allowing Assyrian speakers to use this language in these proceedings even if they speak Armenian and without incurring additional expense.
- k. Develop and implement, in co-operation with representatives of the Assyrian speakers, a strategy on the promotion of the use of Assyrian in economic and social life, including public services provided by administrative authorities, where speakers traditionally live.

<sup>103</sup> [CM/RecChL\(2006\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2014\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2017\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2020\)6](#).

## 2.2 German

### 2.2.1 Compliance of Armenia with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of German

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Armenia concerning German <sup>104</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
<b>Part II of the Charter</b>					
<b>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</b>					
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>					
7.1.a	recognition of German as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of German	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote German		=		
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of German, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using German</li> <li>• establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups</li> </ul>	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of German at all appropriate stages		=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of German to learn it		=		
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on German at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of German	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of German	=			
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country</li> <li>• promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to German among the objectives of education and training</li> <li>• encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to German among their objectives</li> </ul>	↗			
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses German</li> <li>• establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to German</li> </ul>	=			

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

68. During the monitoring period Armenia developed a “Cultural Diversity” programme for schools, aiming at fostering respect for different cultures, promoting co-operation among pupils of different ethnic backgrounds. As part of the programme, the teaching and learning of minority languages were promoted throughout 2024 in approximately 170 schools across the country. All interlocutors met during the on-the-spot visit, including speakers, teachers and representatives of the local authorities, confirmed the importance of the initiative, its impact and significance in raising awareness among all pupils in Armenian schools. Efforts in awareness raising were also multiplied, such as introducing the Day of National Minorities by the National Assembly of

<sup>104</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/> (treaty No. 148).

the Republic of Armenia. The presence of quality programmes about national minorities, their cultures, traditions and languages was increased in the media. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.3 fulfilled.

### **2.2.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of German in Armenia**

The Committee of Experts recommends the Armenian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.2.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Armenia<sup>105</sup> remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

#### **I. Recommendation for immediate action**

- a. **Ensure the protection of German as a minority language and increase support for the functioning of Sunday schools and the availability of modern teaching materials.**

#### **II. Further recommendation**

- b. Continue to encourage teaching of German from the first grade onwards to ensure continuity from pre-school.

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<sup>105</sup> [CM/RecChL\(2006\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2014\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2017\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2020\)6](#).

## 2.3 Greek

### 2.3.1 Compliance of Armenia with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Greek

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Greek <sup>106</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
<b>Part II of the Charter</b> <b>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</b>					
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>					
7.1.a	recognition of Greek as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Greek	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Greek		=		
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Greek, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Greek • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Greek at all appropriate stages		=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Greek to learn it	=			
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Greek at universities or equivalent institutions		=		
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Greek	↗			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Greek	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Greek among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Greek among their objectives	↗			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Greek • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Greek	=			
<b>Part III of the Charter</b> <b>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</b>					
<b>Art. 8 – Education</b>					
8.1.aiv	favour and/or encourage the provision of pre-school education in Greek or a substantial part of pre-school education in Greek			=	
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Greek, a substantial part of primary education in Greek or teaching of Greek as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient			=	
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in Greek, a substantial part of secondary education in Greek or teaching of Greek as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient			=	
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Greek, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Greek or teaching of Greek as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	=			
8.1.eiii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Greek or of facilities for the study of Greek as an university or higher education subject	=			
8.1.fiii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Greek as a subject of adult and continuing education		=		
<b>Art. 9 – Judicial authorities</b>					
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Greek in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			✓	

<sup>106</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/> (treaty No. 148).



<b>The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:</b>					
<b>Article</b>	<b>Undertakings of Armenia concerning Greek<sup>106</sup></b>	<b>fulfilled</b>	<b>partly fulfilled</b>	<b>formally fulfilled</b>	<b>not fulfilled</b> <b>no conclusion</b>
9.1.a.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Greek, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				✓
9.1.a.iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Greek, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				✓
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Greek in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				✓
9.1.c.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Greek in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				✓
9.1.c.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Greek in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				✓
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Greek and the related use of documents and evidence in Greek, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned				✓
9.3	make available in Greek the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Greek				=
<b>Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services</b>					
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Greek may submit oral or written applications in Greek to local branches of the national authorities			=	
10.1.av	ensure that users of Greek may validly submit a document in Greek to local branches of the national authorities <sup>107</sup>				
10.1.b	make available widely used national administrative texts and forms in Greek or in bilingual versions				=
10.2.b	possibility for users of Greek to submit oral or written applications in Greek to the regional or local authority			=	
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Greek in debates in their assemblies			=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Greek		=		
10.3.c	allow users of Greek to submit a request in Greek to public service providers				✓
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Greek to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				✓
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Greek		=		
<b>Art. 11 – Media</b>					
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Greek		= 108		= 109
11.1.b.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Greek on a regular basis				=
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Greek on a regular basis				=
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Greek				=
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Greek <sup>110</sup>				
11.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Greek</li> <li>• do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Greek</li> <li>• ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Greek</li> </ul>	=			

<sup>107</sup> Armenia has ratified Articles 10.1.a.iv and 10.1.av which constitute alternative options. Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.av.

<sup>108</sup> Public radio.

<sup>109</sup> Public television.

<sup>110</sup> Armenia has ratified Article 11.1.e which covers two alternative options (ei and eii). Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 11.1.eii.

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Greek <sup>106</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Greek are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=
<b>Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities</b>					
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Greek		=		
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Greek language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Greek in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=			
12.2	In territories other than those in which Greek is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Greek	=			
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Greek and the culture it reflects				=
<b>Art. 13 – Economic and social life</b>					
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Greek	=			
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Greek in connection with economic or social activities	=			
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Greek in economic and social life				=
13.2.b	in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of Greek in economic and social life				=
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Greek				=
<b>Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges</b>					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Greek is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Greek in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education	↗			
14.b	for the benefit of Greek, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Greek is used in identical or similar form	↗			

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

69. During the monitoring period Armenia developed a “Cultural Diversity” programme for schools, aiming at fostering respect for different cultures, promoting co-operation among pupils of different ethnic backgrounds. As part of the programme, the teaching and learning of minority languages were promoted throughout 2024 in approximately 170 schools across the country. All interlocutors met during the on-the-spot visit, including speakers, teachers and representatives of the local authorities, confirmed the importance of the initiative, its impact and significance in raising awareness among all pupils in Armenian schools. Efforts in awareness raising were also multiplied, such as introducing the Day of National Minorities by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. The presence of quality programmes about national minorities, their cultures, traditions and languages was increased in the media. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.3 fulfilled. On 12 October 2022, Armenia and Greece celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of their bilateral diplomatic relations. There are multiple agreements in place between Armenia and Greece, as well as between Armenia and Cyprus in the fields of culture and education. In the context of the co-operation between the two countries, cultural events, exchanges and competitions take place. During 2023–2024, children from the Pontic Greek community in Armenia achieved notable success in the Minoan RobotSports Competition (MRC) Global Olympiad and the MRC 2024 educational and cultural summer camp. In 2024, the

"First Conference of Diaspora Greek Youth" was organised by the Diaspora Office of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2024, Greek language teachers from Armenia participated in an online seminar-conference on "Greek Language Teaching Methods," organised by the Institute of Greek Language at Aristotle University. An active twinning programme exists between Yerevan and Athens. Alaverdi and Gyumri (both known for their Greek population) have also twin cities in Greece. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.1.i, 14.a and 14.b fulfilled. The Armenian legislation regulating language use in judicial proceedings does not permit a speaker of Greek to use this language if he/she speaks Armenian, nor does it guarantee that the use of Greek would not involve extra expense in this case. There were only four cases of translations from/into Greek made in criminal and civil proceedings during the reporting period. Considering the deficient legal framework, and the very limited practice, as well as the fact that the Committee of Experts does not have any information if these translations were provided for Armenians or for foreign citizens, it considers the undertakings concerned (Articles 9.1.a.ii, 9.1.a.iii, 9.1.a.iv, 9.1.b.ii, 9.1.c.ii, 9.1.c.iii, 9.1.d) not fulfilled. According to the information provided by the representatives of the speakers, it is not possible for users of Greek to submit a request in Greek to public service providers. There is no policy of recruiting Greek speaking employees or language learning for already employed staff in the territory in which Greek is used. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 10.3.c and 10.4.c not fulfilled.

### **2.3.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Greek in Armenia**

The Committee of Experts encourages the Armenian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.3.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Armenia<sup>111</sup> remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

#### **I. Recommendations for immediate action**

- a. **Support teaching of Greek in Yaghdan and introduce Greek as a subject in areas where the speakers traditionally live, or where the language was previously taught.**
- b. **Provide for the availability of teachers of Greek.**

#### **II. Further recommendations**

- c. Support, also financially, the revitalisation of Pontic Greek, including by facilitating international co-operation and exchange of good practices in this respect.
- d. Introduce the broadcasting of a public television programme in Greek on a regular basis and of a sufficiently long duration.
- e. Facilitate the creation of a newspaper in Greek published at least weekly, including online where appropriate.
- f. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Greek on a regular basis.
- g. Ensure the use of Greek in contacts with local branches of national authorities and local authorities.
- h. Amend the relevant legislation pertaining to the use of minority languages before judicial authorities with a view to allowing Greek speakers to use this language in these proceedings even if they speak Armenian and without incurring additional expense.
- i. Develop and implement, in co-operation with representatives of the Greek speakers, a strategy on the promotion of the use of Greek in economic and social life, including public services provided by administrative authorities, where speakers traditionally live.
- j. Promote the use of place names also in Greek where speakers traditionally live, in accordance with the script and spelling of this language.

<sup>111</sup> [CM/RecChL\(2006\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2014\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2017\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2020\)6](#).

## 2.4 Kurdish

### 2.4.1 Compliance of Armenia with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Kurdish

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Kurdish <sup>112</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
<b>Part II of the Charter</b> <b>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</b>					
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>					
7.1.a	recognition of Kurdish as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Kurdish	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Kurdish		=		
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Kurdish, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Kurdish • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Kurdish at all appropriate stages		↗		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Kurdish to learn it				↘
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Kurdish at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Kurdish		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Kurdish	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Kurdish among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Kurdish among their objectives	↗			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Kurdish • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Kurdish	=			
<b>Part III of the Charter</b> <b>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</b>					
<b>Art. 8 – Education</b>					
8.1.aiv	favour and/or encourage the provision of pre-school education in Kurdish or a substantial part of pre-school education in Kurdish				=
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Kurdish, a substantial part of primary education in Kurdish or teaching of Kurdish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient	↗			
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in Kurdish, a substantial part of secondary education in Kurdish or teaching of Kurdish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	↗			
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Kurdish, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Kurdish or teaching of Kurdish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.eiii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Kurdish or of facilities for the study of Kurdish as an university or higher education subject	=			
8.1.fiii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Kurdish as a subject of adult and continuing education				=
<b>Art. 9 – Judicial authorities</b>					
9.1.a ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Kurdish in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

<sup>112</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/> (treaty No. 148).

<b>The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:</b>					
<b>Article</b>	<b>Undertakings of Armenia concerning Kurdish<sup>112</sup></b>	<b>fulfilled</b>	<b>partly fulfilled</b>	<b>formally fulfilled</b>	<b>not fulfilled</b> <b>no conclusion</b>
9.1.a.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Kurdish, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=
9.1.a.iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Kurdish, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Kurdish in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=
9.1.c.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Kurdish in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=
9.1.c.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Kurdish in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Kurdish and the related use of documents and evidence in Kurdish, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned				=
9.3	make available in Kurdish the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Kurdish				=
<b>Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services</b>					
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Kurdish may submit oral or written applications in Kurdish to local branches of the national authorities			=	
10.1.av	ensure that users of Kurdish may validly submit a document in Kurdish to local branches of the national authorities <sup>113</sup>				
10.1.b	make available widely used national administrative texts and forms in Kurdish or in bilingual versions				=
10.2.b	possibility for users of Kurdish to submit oral or written applications in Kurdish to the regional or local authority		=		
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Kurdish in debates in their assemblies	↗			
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Kurdish		=		
10.3.c	allow users of Kurdish to submit a request in Kurdish to public service providers		↗		
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Kurdish to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used		=		
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Kurdish		=		
<b>Art. 11 – Media</b>					
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Kurdish		= 114		= 115
11.1.b.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Kurdish on a regular basis				=
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Kurdish on a regular basis				=
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Kurdish				=
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Kurdish <sup>116</sup>				
11.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Kurdish</li> <li>• do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Kurdish</li> <li>• ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Kurdish</li> </ul>	=			

<sup>113</sup> Armenia has ratified Articles 10.1.a.iv and 10.1.av which constitute alternative options. Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.av.

<sup>114</sup> Public radio.

<sup>115</sup> Public television.

<sup>116</sup> Armenia has ratified Article 11.1.e which covers two alternative options (ei and eii). Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 11.1.eii.

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Kurdish <sup>112</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Kurdish are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=
<b>Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities</b>					
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Kurdish		=		
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Kurdish language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Kurdish in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=			
12.2	In territories other than those in which Kurdish is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Kurdish	=			
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Kurdish and the culture it reflects				=
<b>Art. 13 – Economic and social life</b>					
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Kurdish	=			
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Kurdish in connection with economic or social activities	=			
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Kurdish in economic and social life				=
13.2.b	in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of Kurdish in economic and social life				=
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Kurdish				=
<b>Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges</b>					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Kurdish is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Kurdish in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education				✓
14.b	for the benefit of Kurdish, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Kurdish is used in identical or similar form		↗		

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

70. During the monitoring period Armenia developed a “Cultural Diversity” programme for schools, aiming at fostering respect for different cultures, promoting co-operation among pupils of different ethnic backgrounds. As part of the programme, the teaching and learning of minority languages were promoted throughout 2024 in approximately 170 schools across the country. All interlocutors met during the on-the-spot visit, including speakers, teachers and representatives of the local authorities, confirmed the importance of the initiative, its impact and significance in raising awareness among all pupils in Armenian schools. Efforts in awareness raising were also multiplied, such as introducing the Day of National Minorities by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. The presence of quality programmes about national minorities, their cultures, traditions and languages was increased in the media. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.3 fulfilled. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that Kurdish is still not taught in pre-school and vocational education. It is taught in five schools in Armenia as a subject, four hours per week in grades 1-4 and three hours per week in 5-12 grades. Textbooks are available free of charge and of good quality, supplied by the MoESCS. It therefore assesses 7.1.f only partly fulfilled, while 8.1.biv and 8.1.civ fulfilled. There are no facilities enabling non-speakers of Kurdish (including also adults) to learn this language,

therefore the Committee of Experts considers 7.1.g not fulfilled. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of Kurdish speakers confirmed that Kurdish can be used in debates at local level and that they can submit orally a request in Kurdish to public service providers. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 10.2.f fulfilled and 10.3.c partly fulfilled. Promotion of transnational exchanges exists in the framework of bilateral relations between Armenia and Iraq, including in the area of economic co-operation and education. Representatives of Kurdish speakers informed of regular contacts with Kurdish speakers abroad, through the civil society organisations they represent. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.1.i, and 14.b partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts did not receive information about agreements with the States in which Kurdish is used. Due to the repeated lack of information, it considers that 14.a is not fulfilled.

#### **2.4.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Kurdish in Armenia**

The Committee of Experts encourages the Armenian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.4.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Armenia<sup>117</sup> remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

##### **I. Recommendations for immediate action**

- a. **Strengthen the teaching of Kurdish at university level and provide for the availability of teachers of Kurdish.**
- b. **Favour the provision of at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Kurdish.**
- c. **Ensure that the merging of schools does not have a negative impact on the teaching in and of Kurdish.**

##### **II. Further recommendations**

- d. Teach Kurdish as an integral part of the curriculum in technical and vocational education, so that social care facilities, such as hospitals, can offer the use of Kurdish.
- e. Favour the offer of Kurdish as a subject in adult and continuing education.
- f. Introduce the broadcasting of a public television programme in Kurdish on a regular basis and of a sufficiently long duration.
- g. Facilitate the creation of a newspaper in Kurdish published at least weekly, including online where appropriate.
- h. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Kurdish on a regular basis.
- i. Ensure the use of Kurdish in contacts with local branches of national authorities and local authorities.
- j. Amend the relevant legislation pertaining to the use of minority languages before judicial authorities with a view to allowing Kurdish speakers to use this language in these proceedings even if they speak Armenian and without incurring additional expense.
- k. Develop and implement, in co-operation with representatives of the Kurdish speakers, a strategy on the promotion of the use of Kurdish in economic and social life, including public services provided by administrative authorities, where speakers traditionally live.
- l. Promote the use of place names also in Kurdish where speakers traditionally live, in accordance with the script and spelling of this language.

<sup>117</sup> [CM/RecChL\(2006\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2014\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2017\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2020\)6](#).



## 2.5 Russian

### 2.5.1 Compliance of Armenia with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Russian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Russian <sup>118</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
<b>Part II of the Charter</b> <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>					
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>					
7.1.a	recognition of Russian as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Russian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Russian	=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Russian, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Russian</li> <li>• establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups</li> </ul>	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Russian at all appropriate stages	=			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Russian to learn it	=			
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Russian at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Russian	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Russian	=			
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country</li> <li>• promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Russian among the objectives of education and training</li> <li>• encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Russian among their objectives</li> </ul>	=			
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Russian</li> <li>• establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Russian</li> </ul>	=			
<b>Part III of the Charter</b> <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
<b>Art. 8 – Education</b>					
8.1.aiv	favour and/or encourage the provision of pre-school education in Russian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Russian	=			
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Russian, a substantial part of primary education in Russian or teaching of Russian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient	=			
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in Russian, a substantial part of secondary education in Russian or teaching of Russian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	=			
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Russian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Russian or teaching of Russian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	=			
8.1.eiii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Russian or of facilities for the study of Russian as an university or higher education subject	=			
8.1.fiii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Russian as a subject of adult and continuing education	=			
<b>Art. 9 – Judicial authorities</b>					
9.1.a	guarantee the accused the right to use Russian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=		

<sup>118</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/> (treaty No. 148).

<b>The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:</b>					
<b>Article</b>	<b>Undertakings of Armenia concerning Russian<sup>118</sup></b>	<b>fulfilled</b>	<b>partly fulfilled</b>	<b>formally fulfilled</b>	<b>not fulfilled</b>
9.1.a.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Russian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=		
9.1.a.iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Russian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=		
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Russian in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations		=		
9.1.c.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Russian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations		=		
9.1.c.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Russian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations		=		
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Russian and the related use of documents and evidence in Russian, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned		=		
9.3	make available in Russian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Russian	=			
<b>Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services</b>					
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Russian may submit oral or written applications in Russian to local branches of the national authorities		=		
10.1.av	ensure that users of Russian may validly submit a document in Russian to local branches of the national authorities <sup>119</sup>				
10.1.b	make available widely used national administrative texts and forms in Russian or in bilingual versions		=		
10.2.b	possibility for users of Russian to submit oral or written applications in Russian to the regional or local authority	=			
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Russian in debates in their assemblies	=			
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Russian		=		
10.3.c	allow users of Russian to submit a request in Russian to public service providers	↗			
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Russian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used	=			
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Russian		=		
<b>Art. 11 – Media</b>					
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Russian		=		
11.1.b.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Russian on a regular basis	=			
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Russian on a regular basis	=			
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Russian	=			
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Russian <sup>120</sup>				
11.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Russian</li> <li>• do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Russian</li> <li>• ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Russian</li> </ul>	=			
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Russian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=
<b>Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities</b>					

<sup>119</sup> Armenia has ratified Articles 10.1.a.iv and 10.1.av which constitute alternative options. Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.av.

<sup>120</sup> Armenia has ratified Article 11.1.e which covers two alternative options (ei and eii). Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 11.1.eii.

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Russian <sup>118</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Russian	=			
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Russian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Russian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=			
12.2	In territories other than those in which Russian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Russian	=			
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Russian and the culture it reflects	=			
<b>Art. 13 – Economic and social life</b>					
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Russian	=			
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Russian in connection with economic or social activities	=			
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Russian in economic and social life	=			
13.2.b	in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of Russian in economic and social life	=			
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Russian	=			
<b>Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges</b>					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Russian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Russian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education	=			
14.b	for the benefit of Russian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Russian is used in identical or similar form	=			

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

71. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts met with the representatives of the municipality of Lermontovo, who informed of the possibility of using Russian in official procedures, including by submitting a request to public service providers, whose websites are also available in Russian. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.3.c fulfilled.

### 2.5.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Russian in Armenia

The Committee of Experts encourages the Armenian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.5.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Armenia<sup>121</sup> remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

<sup>121</sup> [CM/RecChL\(2006\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2014\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2017\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2020\)6](#).

**I. Recommendation for immediate action**

- |  |
|--|
| a. <b>Provide for the availability of teachers to teach subjects in Russian.</b> |
|--|

**II. Further recommendations**

- b. Amend the relevant legislation pertaining to the use of minority languages before judicial authorities with a view to allowing Russian speakers to use this language in these proceedings even if they speak Armenian and without incurring additional expense.
- c. Ensure the use of Russian in contacts with local branches of national authorities.

## 2.6 Ukrainian

### 2.6.1 Compliance of Armenia with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Ukrainian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Ukrainian <sup>122</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
<b>Part II of the Charter</b> <b>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</b>					
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>					
7.1.a	recognition of Ukrainian as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Ukrainian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Ukrainian		=		
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Ukrainian, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Ukrainian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Ukrainian at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Ukrainian to learn it		=		
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Ukrainian at universities or equivalent institutions				↗
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Ukrainian	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Ukrainian	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ukrainian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ukrainian among their objectives	↗			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Ukrainian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Ukrainian	=			

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

72. The Committee of Experts was informed by the speakers during its on-the-spot visit that Ukrainian is no longer available at university level. It therefore considers the undertaking in Article 7.1.h not fulfilled. During the monitoring period Armenia developed a “Cultural Diversity” programme for schools, aiming at fostering respect for different cultures, promoting co-operation among pupils of different ethnic backgrounds. As part of the programme, the teaching and learning of minority languages were promoted throughout 2024 in approximately 170 schools across the country. All interlocutors met during the on-the-spot visit, including speakers, teachers and representatives of the local authorities, confirmed the importance of the initiative, its

<sup>122</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/> (treaty No. 148).

impact and significance in raising awareness among all pupils in Armenian schools. Efforts in awareness raising were also multiplied, such as introducing the Day of National Minorities by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. The presence of quality programmes about national minorities, their cultures, traditions and languages was increased in the media. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.3 fulfilled.

## **2.6.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Ukrainian in Armenia**

The Committee of Experts recommends the Armenian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.6.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Armenia<sup>123</sup> remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

### **I. Recommendations for immediate action**

- a. **Reestablish the Ukrainian studies at university level.**
- b. **Ensure the protection of Ukrainian as a minority language and increase support for the functioning of Sunday schools and the availability of modern teaching materials.**

### **II. Further recommendations**

- c. Encourage teaching of Ukrainian from the pre-school onwards to ensure the learning of the language at all appropriate stages.
- d. Increase the funding to the national minority associations so as to ensure the promotion of Ukrainian in different fields of public life, including in the media and in transnational exchanges.

<sup>123</sup> [CM/RecChL\(2006\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2014\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2017\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2020\)6](#).

## 2.7 Yezidi

### 2.7.1 Compliance of Armenia with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Yezidi

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Yezidi <sup>124</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
<b>Part II of the Charter</b> <b>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</b>					
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>					
7.1.a	recognition of Yezidi as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Yezidi	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Yezidi		=		
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Yezidi, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Yezidi • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Yezidi at all appropriate stages		↗		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Yezidi to learn it				↘
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Yezidi at universities or equivalent institutions				=
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Yezidi		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Yezidi	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Yezidi among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Yezidi among their objectives	↗			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Yezidi • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Yezidi	=			
<b>Part III of the Charter</b> <b>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</b>					
<b>Art. 8 – Education</b>					
8.1.aiv	favour and/or encourage the provision of pre-school education in Yezidi or a substantial part of pre-school education in Yezidi		↗		
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Yezidi, a substantial part of primary education in Yezidi or teaching of Yezidi as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient	↗			
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in Yezidi, a substantial part of secondary education in Yezidi or teaching of Yezidi as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	↗			
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Yezidi, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Yezidi or teaching of Yezidi as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.eiii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Yezidi or of facilities for the study of Yezidi as an university or higher education subject				=
8.1.fiii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Yezidi as a subject of adult and continuing education				=
<b>Art. 9 – Judicial authorities</b>					
9.1.a	guarantee the accused the right to use Yezidi in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

<sup>124</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/> (treaty No. 148).

<b>The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:</b>					
<b>Article</b>	<b>Undertakings of Armenia concerning Yezidi<sup>124</sup></b>	<b>fulfilled</b>	<b>partly fulfilled</b>	<b>formally fulfilled</b>	<b>not fulfilled</b> <b>no conclusion</b>
9.1.a.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Yezidi, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=
9.1.a.iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Yezidi, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Yezidi in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=
9.1.c.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Yezidi in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=
9.1.c.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Yezidi in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Yezidi and the related use of documents and evidence in Yezidi, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned				=
9.3	make available in Yezidi the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Yezidi				=
<b>Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services</b>					
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Yezidi may submit oral or written applications in Yezidi to local branches of the national authorities			=	
10.1.av	ensure that users of Yezidi may validly submit a document in Yezidi to local branches of the national authorities <sup>125</sup>				
10.1.b	make available widely used national administrative texts and forms in Yezidi or in bilingual versions				=
10.2.b	possibility for users of Yezidi to submit oral or written applications in Yezidi to the regional or local authority		=		
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Yezidi in debates in their assemblies	↗			
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Yezidi		=		
10.3.c	allow users of Yezidi to submit a request in Yezidi to public service providers		↗		
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Yezidi to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used		=		
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Yezidi		=		
<b>Art. 11 – Media</b>					
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Yezidi		= 126		= 127
11.1.b.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Yezidi on a regular basis				=
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Yezidi on a regular basis				=
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Yezidi				=
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Yezidi <sup>128</sup>				
11.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Yezidi</li> <li>• do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Yezidi</li> <li>• ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Yezidi</li> </ul>	=			

<sup>125</sup> Armenia has ratified Articles 10.1.a.iv and 10.1.av which constitute alternative options. Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.av.

<sup>126</sup> Public radio.

<sup>127</sup> Public television.

<sup>128</sup> Armenia has ratified Article 11.1.e which covers two alternative options (ei and eii). Consequently, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 11.1.eii.



The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Armenia concerning Yezidi <sup>124</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Yezidi are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=
<b>Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities</b>					
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Yezidi		=		
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Yezidi language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Yezidi in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=			
12.2	In territories other than those in which Yezidi is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Yezidi	=			
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Yezidi and the culture it reflects				=
<b>Art. 13 – Economic and social life</b>					
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Yezidi	=			
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Yezidi in connection with economic or social activities	=			
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Yezidi in economic and social life				=
13.2.b	in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of Yezidi in economic and social life				=
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Yezidi				=
<b>Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges</b>					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Yezidi is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Yezidi in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education				✓
14.b	for the benefit of Yezidi, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Yezidi is used in identical or similar form		↗		

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

73. There are still no facilities enabling non-speakers of Yezidi (including also adults) to learn this language, therefore the Committee of Experts considers 7.1.g not fulfilled. During the monitoring period Armenia developed a “Cultural Diversity” programme for schools, aiming at fostering respect for different cultures, promoting co-operation among pupils of different ethnic background. As part of the programme, the teaching and learning of minority languages were promoted throughout 2024 in approximately 170 schools across the country. All interlocutors met during the on-the-spot visit, including speakers, teachers and representatives of the local authorities, confirmed the importance of the initiative, its impact and significance in raising awareness among all pupils in Armenian schools. Efforts in awareness raising were also multiplied, such as introducing the Day of National Minorities by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. The presence of quality programmes about national minorities, their cultures, traditions and languages was increased in the media. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.3 fulfilled. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that a Yezidi pre-school operates in Ferik, where Yezidi is the language of instruction alongside with Armenian. Yezidi is taught as a subject, three to four hours per week as part of the school curricula in 16 primary and secondary schools in municipalities, where Yezidis make up a larger share of the population. Teaching materials are available, and teachers were satisfied with both its quality and

the quantity provided. The Committee of Experts therefore assesses 7.1.f and 8.1.aiv partly fulfilled, while 8.1.biv and 8.1.civ fulfilled. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of Yezidi speakers confirmed that Yezidi is used in debates at local level and that they can submit orally a request in Yezidi to public service providers. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 10.2.f fulfilled and 10.3.c partly fulfilled. Promotion of transnational exchanges exists in the framework of bilateral relations between Armenia and Iraq, and meetings at all levels also take place in this framework. The opening of the world biggest Yezidi temple in Aknalich, Armenia in 2019 allowed the strengthening of religious ties between Yezidis from around the world who travel to Armenia, especially during important religious festivals. Representatives of Yezidi speakers informed of regular contacts with Yezidi speakers abroad, through the civil society organisations they represent. The Committee of Experts therefore considers 7.1.i, and 14.b partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts did not receive information about agreements with the States in which Yezidi is used. Due to the repeated lack of information, it considers that 14.a is not fulfilled.

## **2.7.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Yezidi in Armenia**

The Committee of Experts encourages the Armenian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.7.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Armenia<sup>129</sup> remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

### **I. Recommendations for immediate action**

- a. **Establish Yezidi studies at university and provide for the availability of teachers of Yezidi.**
- b. **Increase the number of kindergartens where at least a substantial part of pre-school education is in Yezidi.**

### **II. Further recommendations**

- c. Teach Yezidi as an integral part of the curriculum in technical and vocational education, so that social care facilities, such as hospitals, can offer the use of Yezidi.
- d. Favour the offer of Yezidi as a subject in adult and continuing education.
- e. Introduce the broadcasting of a public television programme in Yezidi on a regular basis and of a sufficiently long duration.
- f. Facilitate the creation of a newspaper in Yezidi published at least weekly, including online where appropriate.
- g. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Yezidi on a regular basis.
- h. Ensure the use of Yezidi in contacts with local branches of national authorities and local authorities.
- i. Amend the relevant legislation pertaining to the use of minority languages before judicial authorities with a view to allowing Yezidi speakers to use this language in these proceedings even if they speak Armenian and without incurring additional expense.
- j. Develop and implement, in co-operation with representatives of the Yezidi speakers, a strategy on the promotion of the use of Yezidi in economic and social life, including public services provided by administrative authorities, where speakers traditionally live.
- k. Promote the use of place names also in Yezidi where speakers traditionally live, in accordance with the script and spelling of this language.

<sup>129</sup> [CM/RecChL\(2006\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2014\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2017\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2020\)6](#).

### **Chapter 3 [Proposals for] Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe**

The Committee of Experts, while acknowledging the efforts the Armenian authorities have undertaken to protect the regional or minority languages spoken in their country, has in its evaluation chosen to concentrate on some of the most important deficiencies in the implementation of the Charter. The recommendations forwarded by the Committee of Experts to the Committee of Ministers should not, however, be interpreted as diminishing the relevance of the other, more detailed observations contained in the report, which remain valid in their own right. The recommendations proposed by the Committee of Experts are drafted accordingly.

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in accordance with Article 16 (4) of the Charter, proposes on the basis of the information contained in this report, that the Committee of Ministers makes the following recommendations to Armenia.

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by Armenia on 25 January 2002;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts of the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by Armenia;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Armenia in its sixth periodical report, supplementary information given by the authorities of Armenia, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Armenia and on the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit;

Having taken note of the comments submitted by the authorities of Armenia on the content of the report of the Committee of Experts;

Recommends that the authorities of Armenia take account of all the observations and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. Introduce studies for Assyrian, Ukrainian and Yezidi at university level and provide for the availability of teachers for Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish, Ukrainian and Yezidi.
2. Adopt a proactive approach regarding the protection and promotion of Assyrian, Greek, Kurdish and Yezidi in all fields of public life and take steps to raise awareness of the Charter.
3. Increase the funding of the national minority associations to ensure the promotion of the minority languages.
4. Ensure that the legislative framework provides for the explicit protection and promotion of minority languages, in accordance with Armenia's undertakings under the Charter.
5. Ensure that the administrative reforms do not result in the reduction of the teaching in and of minority languages.

The Committee of Ministers invites the authorities of Armenia to submit the information on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action by 1 November 2026 and the next periodical report by 1 May 2029.

## Appendix I: Instrument of Ratification



Armenia

**Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 25 January 2002 - Or. Engl.**

In accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Charter, the Republic of Armenia declares that within the meaning of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, minority languages in the Republic of Armenia are Assyrian, Yezidi, Greek, Russian and Kurdish languages.

**Period covered: 01/05/2002 -**

Articles concerned: 3

**Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 25 January 2002 - Or. Engl.**

According to Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Charter, the Republic of Armenia declares that it shall apply the following provisions of the Charter to the Assyrian, Yezidi, Greek, Russian and Kurdish languages:

### **Article 8 - Education**

Sub-paragraphs 1.a.iv; 1.b.iv; 1.c.iv; 1.d.iv; 1.e.iii; 1.f.iii.

### **Article 9 - Judicial authorities**

Sub-paragraphs 1.a.ii, iii, iv; 1.b.ii; 1.c.ii and iii; 1.d.  
Paragraph 3.

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

Sub-paragraphs 1.a.iv and v; 1.b; 2.b; 2.f; 2.g; 3.c; 4.c.  
Paragraph 5.

### **Article 11 - Media**

Sub-paragraphs 1.a.iii; 1.b.ii; 1.c.ii; 1.e.  
Paragraphs 2 and 3.

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

Sub-paragraphs 1.a.d.f. (\*)  
Paragraphs 2 and 3.

### **Article 13 - Economic and social life**

Sub-paragraphs 1.b; 1.c; 1.d; 2.b; 2.c.

### **Article 14 - Transfrontier exchanges**

Paragraphs a and b.

**[(\*) Declaration contained in a Note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, dated 23 March 2004, transmitted by a Note verbale from the Permanent Representation of Armenia, dated 31 March 2004, registered at the Secretariat General on 1 April 2004 - Or. Engl.**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia draws the attention of the Secretariat General to a technical error contained in Armenia's instrument of ratification of the Charter.

When depositing the instrument of ratification, an error of translation occurred, namely Armenia made undertakings concerning Article 12 of the Charter, where the subparagraph c) was included. Indeed, by decision N-247-2 of 28 December 2001 of the National Assembly, Armenia is bound by subparagraph d) of

Article 12.]

**Period covered: 01/05/2002 -**

Articles concerned: 2

## **Appendix II: Comments from the Armenian authorities**

### **Comments from the Government**

**Report of the Committee of Experts  
presented to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe  
in accordance with Article 16 of the Charter  
Sixth Report**

**ARMENIA**

#### **Paragraph 7**

Certain regulations of the draft law are still under discussion. While the text has been shared informally, the official version has not yet been circulated and will be shared once a compromise is reached.

#### **Paragraph 8**

The draft law refers to education in the own language of children belonging to national minorities, rather than in their “mother tongue.”

#### **Paragraph 9**

The draft regulation ensures the right to minority language education while not limiting the opportunity of children from the Armenian majority or from other minorities to attend minority language classes, which remain open to all students

#### **Paragraph 10**

A minimum threshold should be envisaged, as the provision imposes obligations on the state, including the requirement for municipal authorities to have the necessary capacity and knowledge of minority languages. Establishing such a threshold ensures that the obligations remain realistic and implementable.

#### **Paragraph 11**

According to studies conducted by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, the Draft Law on National Minorities envisages the need to establish a minimum threshold of 13% of the population for the involvement of national minorities in all settlements of the Republic of Armenia. This would ensure the effective implementation of state protection and support programmes, including the organisation of teaching of national minority languages in general education institutions. Nevertheless, considering the scope, content and specific obligations imposed on the state under the Draft, as well as the related financial implications, the Ministry of Justice proposes setting the minimum threshold at 15%.

#### **Paragraph 34**

It should be indicated that the interpreter is provided free of charge.

#### **Paragraph 35**

Under Armenian legislation, the language of criminal proceedings is literary Armenian. This principle reflects the logic and coherence of the Armenian legal system, which establishes Armenian as the official language of judicial proceedings.



**Paragraph 37**

Translation were provided also in Polish in 8, Hindi in 67, Georgian in 44, Persian in 67 judicial proceedings.

**9.1. aii**

In line with Armenian legislation, the language of criminal proceedings is literary Armenian. At the same time, the rights of persons belonging to national minorities are fully safeguarded: interpretation and translation services are provided free of charge for all minority languages, ensuring that accused persons may effectively use their own language in criminal proceedings without incurring any expense.

**9.1. aiii**

In accordance with Armenian legislation, any document submitted to the body conducting the proceedings in a language other than Armenian is accepted into the case file, provided that it is accompanied by an Armenian translation certified by a translator.

*Taking into consideration abovementioned, the fulfillment of the undertakings “9.1. aii and 9.1. aiii” should be marked as “Fulfilled”.*

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is an independent body that evaluates the compliance of the States Parties with their undertakings and, where appropriate, encourages them to gradually reach a higher level of commitment.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 25 June 1992 and entered into force on 1 March 1998, is the European convention for the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages. It is designed to enable speakers to use them both in private and public life and obliges the States Parties to actively promote the use of these languages in education, courts, administration, media, culture, economic and social life, and cross- border co-operation.

Regional or minority languages are part of Europe's cultural heritage and their protection and promotion contribute to the building of a Europe based on democracy and cultural diversity.

The text of the Charter is available in over 50 languages.

[www.coe.int/minlang](http://www.coe.int/minlang)

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.