

## **Actions taken on the recommendations by the Committee of Experts on the 5th Report on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

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

#### ***d. Develop and implement, in co-operation with representatives of the Assyrian speakers, a strategy on the promotion of the use of Assyrian in different fields of public life***

1. By the Decision No. 1674-L of September 28, 2023, “On Amendments and Additions to the Decision No. 1978-L of December 26, 2019” of the Government of the Republic of Armenia”, the action plan for 2023-2025, arising from the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights, has been approved, in which Article 4.8 envisions the adoption of the draft law "On National Minorities". The purpose of the latter is to regulate relations concerning the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, to define the issues faced by the state and local self-government bodies in relation to them, and to establish organizational and legal foundations for the formation and operation of the Chamber of National Minorities. Thus, to contribute to the realization of the rights of national minorities, discuss the situation and problems concerning their realization, prepare proposals for problem resolution, and express a position, the creation of a Chamber of National Minorities is planned. It is planned to empower the chamber, among other things, with the function of monitoring the implementation status of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.
2. The relevant information about national minorities is posted on the websites of the Marzpetarans (regional administrations) of Republic of Armenia and is linked to the website of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. In addition, the Marzpets (Governors) were instructed and the Mayor of Yerevan was suggested by the Minister of Territorial Management and Development to single out a "National Minorities" sub-section in the "General Information" section on the websites of the Marzpetarans and Yerevan Municipality, inserting there the necessary information about national minorities, including their number, history, monuments, and cultural events, as well as the progress made. Issues related to them, news, relevant legal acts, annual reports, congratulatory messages dedicated to national holidays are posted.

#### ***e. Increase the funding to the national minority associations so as to ensure the promotion of Assyrian in different fields of public life***

3. The provision of financial support from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia to the educational and cultural activities of non-governmental organizations of national minorities continued, which has doubled since 2012, reaching 20 million drams. The mentioned amount was also planned for 2019-2023 with the state budget: The amount has not changed, despite the

additional burden on the RA state budget caused by the Corona epidemic, the 44-day war, and the forced displacement of the population from Nagorno Karabakh in 2023.

***f. Teach Assyrian as an integral part of the curriculum in technical and vocational education.***

4. In 2019-2023, a number of steps were taken to strengthen and improve the quality of the teaching of the languages of national minorities in public schools (articles 7 and 8 of the report). Technical and vocational educational programs in the languages of most national minorities are impossible due to the limited number of native speakers, their scattered geographical distribution across Armenia, and the low demand, or absence of demand, for some languages.

***g. Encourage the provision of facilities for the study of Assyrian as a university or higher education subject, including teacher training***

5. See points 46-50 of Article 7 of the Sixth Report (hereinafter Report)

***i. 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 criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters even if he/she speaks Armenian and without incurring additional expense.***

6. See Article 9 of the Report.

***j. Ensure that users of Assyrian may submit oral or written applications in Assyrian to local branches of the national authorities and to local authorities***  
***Ensure that users of Assyrian may submit oral or written applications in Assyrian to local branches of the national authorities and to local authorities.***

7. There was no need to take measures due to the fact that there were no fixed problems when applying to regional branches of state bodies or local self-government bodies.

***l. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Assyrian on a regular basis.***

8. See points 165-169, 171 of Article 11 of the Report

9. In 2021, the RA Law "On Cinematography" was adopted. According to Article 16 of the law, the distribution of the film in the territory of the Republic of Armenia is carried out on the basis of a rental certificate. The requirement of issuing a rental certificate, dubbing a foreign language film into Armenian and/or having visible and clear subtitling does not apply to national minorities living in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and films intended for screening within the framework of film festivals and other film art events.

*m. Facilitate the creation of a newspaper in Assyrian published at least weekly, including online where appropriate.*

10. Within the framework of the “State Support to the Non-State Press” budgetary program, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, in 2019 -2023 provided funding in support of the printing press of the national minorities. See Annex 3, Table 1 of the Report.

*n. Organise activities to promote the use of Assyrian in economic and social life, including public services provided by administrative authorities.*

11. Due to the fact that there were no problems fixed with the services provided by the administrative bodies, there was no need to take measures.

*o. Ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals, offer the use of Assyrian.*

12. Due to the fact that there were no problems fixed in social care facilities, there was no need to take measures.

*p. Promote awareness of the Assyrian language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Armenia in mainstream education and in the media.*

13. See Article 8, Article 11, Article 12 of the Report.

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

*b. Promote awareness of the German language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Armenia in mainstream education and in the media.*

14. Although German is not included in the list of minority languages of the Republic of Armenia within the meaning of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, in the academic year 2023-2024, German was taught as a foreign language in 225 public and private, primary and secondary schools.
15. Since 2017, Yerevan State Humanitarian College has started cooperating with the German organization ZfA (Center for Foreign Schools). During each academic year, about 700 students of the College study German as a 2nd foreign language and at the end of the year more than 20 students pass the German language proficiency certificate exam, most of which secure the DSD 1 (B1) level. Since 2020, the college has held exams for DSD 2 (B2 / C1) level, in which more than 10 students have participated every year. All of them provide B2 or C1 level. In order to improve the German language in the college, a German lecturer teaches, and the college lecturers, within the framework of the above mentioned program, are regularly trained in the Federal Republic of Germany. In 2022-2023, by participating in international retraining courses for DSD 1 and DSD 2 examiners, they received international DSD 1 and DSD 2 examiner certifications.

16. German is taught as a foreign language in 13 higher education institutions, in 7 of them as a main subject. There are separate chairs of German in 3 universities, and in 6 universities it is included in the Chair of Foreign Languages.

**3. Further Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Greek in Armenia**

*d. Develop and implement, in co-operation with representatives of the Greek speakers, a strategy on the promotion of the use of Greek in different fields of public life.*

17. See points 1-2.

*e. Increase the funding to the national minority associations so as to ensure the promotion of Greek in different fields of public life.*

18. See point 3.

*f. Favour the offer of Greek as a subject in continuing education.*

19. See points 148-149 of Article 8 of the Report

*g. 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 criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters even if he/she speaks Armenian and without incurring additional expense.*

20. See Article 9 of the Report :

*j. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programs in Greek on a regular basis.*

21. See points 165-169, 171 of Article 11 of the Report.

*k. Facilitate the creation of a newspaper in Greek published at least weekly, including online where appropriate.*

22. Within the framework of the “State Support to the Non-State Press” budgetary program, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, in 2019 -2023 provided funding in support of the printing press of the national minorities. See Annex 3, Table 1 of the Report.

*l. Organise activities to promote the use of Greek in economic and social life, including public services provided by administrative authorities:*

23. Due to the fact that there were no problems with the services provided by the administrative bodies, there was no need to take measures.

*m. Ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals, offer the use of Greek.*

24. Due to the fact that there were no problems fixed in social care facilities, there was no need to take measures.

*n. Promote awareness of the Greek language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Armenia in mainstream education and in the media.*

25. See points 145-149 of Article 8 of the Report.
26. See sub point 2 of point 188 of Article 12 of the Report.

**4. Further Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Kurdish in Armenia**

*d. Develop and implement, in co-operation with representatives of the Kurdish speakers, a strategy on the promotion of the use of Kurdish in different fields of public life.:*

27. See point 1-2:

*e. Increase the funding to the national minority associations so as to ensure the promotion of Kurdish in different fields of public life.*

28. See point 3:

*f. Teach Kurdish as an integral part of the curriculum in technical and vocational education.*

29. See point 4.

*g. Favour the offer of Kurdish as a subject in adult and continuing education.*

30. See point 128 of Article 8 of the Report.

*h. 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 criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters even if he/she speaks Armenian and without incurring additional expense.*

31. See Article 9 of the Report.

*k. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programs in Kurdish on a regular basis.*

32. See points 165-171 of Article 11 of the Report.

*l. Facilitate the creation of a newspaper in Kurdish published at least weekly, including online where appropriate.*

33. Within the framework of the “State Support to the Non-State Press” budgetary program, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, in 2019 -2023 provided funding in support of the printing press of the national minorities. See Annex 3, Table 1 of the Report.

*m. Organise activities to promote the use of Kurdish in economic and social life, including public services provided by administrative authorities.*

34. Due to the fact that there were no problems with the services provided by the administrative bodies, there was no need to take measures.

*n. Ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals, offer the use of Kurdish.*

35. Due to the fact that there were no problems fixed in social care facilities, there was no need to take measures.

*o. Promote awareness of the Kurdish language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Armenia in mainstream education and in the media.*

36. See Articles 8, 11, 12 of the Report.

**5. Further Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Russian in Armenia**

*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 criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters even if he/she speaks Armenian and without incurring additional expense.*

37. See Article 9 of the Report.

In the context of the current legal regulations, due to the fact that there were no problems fixed with submitting documents to the court in Russian, there was no need to take measures.

*c. Make widely used national administrative texts and forms available in Russian or bilingually.*

38. A significant part of the laws of the Republic of Armenia has been and continues to be translated into Russian. Most of the official websites have Russian pages.

**6.Further Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Ukrainian in Armenia**

*b. Provide for the teaching of Ukrainian at primary and secondary school levels.*

*c. Increase the funding to the national minority associations so as to ensure the promotion of Ukrainian in different fields of public life.*

*d. Promote awareness of the Ukrainian language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Armenia in mainstream education and in the media.*

39. Within the framework of the “State Support to the Non-State Press” budgetary program, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, in 2019 -2023 provided funding in support of the printing press of the national minorities. See Annex 3, Table 1 of the Report.

**7.Further Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Yezidi in Armenia**

*d. Develop and implement, in co-operation with representatives of the Yezidi speakers, a strategy on the promotion of the use of Yezidi in different fields of public life.*

40. See points 1-2.

*e. Increase the funding to the national minority associations so as to ensure the promotion of Yezidi in different fields of public life.*

41. See point 3.

*f. Teach Yezidi as an integral part of the curriculum in secondary as well as technical and vocational education.*

42. See point 4.

*g. Encourage the provision of facilities for the study of Yezidi as a university or higher education subject, including teacher training.*

43. See points 46-50 of Article 7 of the Report.

*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 criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters even if he/she speaks Armenian and without incurring additional expense.*

44. See Article 9 of the Report.

*j. Ensure that users of Yezidi may submit oral or written applications in Yezidi to local branches of the national authorities and to local authorities.*

45. There was no need to take measures due to the fact that there were no fixed problems when applying to regional branches of state bodies or local self-government bodies.

*l. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programs in Yezidi on a regular basis.*

46. See points 165-171 of Article 11 of the Report.

*m. Facilitate the creation of a newspaper in Yezidi published at least weekly, including online where appropriate.*

47. Within the framework of the “State Support to the Non-State Press” budgetary program, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia, in 2019 -2023 provided funding in support of the printing press of the national minorities. See Annex 3, Table 1 of the Report..

*n. Organise activities to promote the use of Yezidi in economic and social life, including public services provided by administrative authorities.*

48. Due to the fact that there were no problems with the services provided by the administrative bodies, there was no need to take measures.

*o. Ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals, offer the use of Yezidi.*

49. Due to the fact that there were no problems fixed in social care facilities, there was no need to take measures.

*p. Promote awareness of the Yezidi language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Armenia in mainstream education and in the media.*

50. See Articles 8,11,12 of the Report.