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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

Fifth periodical report
presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter

AUSTRIA

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pursuant to Article 15 (1)
of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

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Authors: *Forschungsbereich Plurilingualismus* der Universität Graz

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1 General Information

The European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (hereafter referred to as Charter) is designed to protect and promote linguistic diversity as an essential part of Europe's common cultural heritage. It was signed by the Republic of Austria on 5 November 1992 and was ratified on 1 October 2001. On the occasion of its ratification, Austria declared the languages that were traditionally used by the six recognised ethnic minorities on the territory of the Republic of Austria as regional and minority languages (hereafter referred to as RML) in the sense of the Charter.

Accordingly, Burgenland Croatian, Romani, Slovakian, Slovenian, Czech, and Hungarian were defined as RML and protected under Part II / Article 7 of the Charter. Burgenland Croatian, Slovenian, and Hungarian are additionally protected under Part III / Article 8-14 of the Charter and hence enjoy specific rights on their language territories that have been defined in the Ethnic Minorities Act.¹

According to Austria's federal structure and the framework of the Charter, the six RML are to be treated as outlined here:

Table 1: RML listed according to federal provinces and protection under the Charter

Language	Federal Province	Protection under the Charter
Burgenland Croatian	Burgenland	Part II / Article 7 Part III / Article 8-14
Romani	Burgenland	Part II / Article 7
Slovakian	Vienna	Part II / Article 7
Slovenian	Carinthia	Part II / Article 7 Part III / Article 8-14

¹ <https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10000602>

Language	Federal Province	Protection under the Charter
Slovenian	Styria	Part II / Article 7
Czech	Vienna	Part II / Article 7
Hungarian	Burgenland	Part II / Article 7 Part III / Article 8-14
Hungarian	Vienna	Part II / Article 7

Support measures for each individual RML focus on the listed provinces but are not restricted to them. In particular in the cultural and education sector, activities outside the defined territories are promoted as well (see Part 2 of the report).

For a clear picture of the numerical size of the language groups, the 2001 census has to be consulted.² Records of the people's vernacular language are based on self-declaration and multiple answers were not permitted.

Table 2: RML as vernacular language according to the 2001 census

Language	Numbers
Burgenland Croatian	19.374
Romani	4.348
Slovakian	3.343
Slovenian	17.953

² In 2006, a change to a register-based census without language-specific information occurred.

Czech	11.035
Hungarian	25.884

Source: Statistik Austria

The following Table 3 provides an overview of the total funding for the individual ethnic minority groups (Ethnic Minority Funding/Volksgruppenförderung). Related to that, it has to be added that these are, however, not the total financial means, which were at the individual ethnic group's disposal. In the annual Ethnic Minority Funding Report of the Federal Chancellery to the National Council of the parliament, other and additional sources, such as from other ministries, Provincial departments, European project money and internal funds, have not been considered.

Table 3: Ethnic Minority Funding of the Federal Chancellery (in EUR)

Ethnic minority	2018*	2019*	2020
Burgenland Croatsians	1.137.466,00	1.110.400,00	1.161.785,00
Roma	385.934,00	432.900,00	406.800,00
Slovaks	122.800,00	124.800,00	118.800,00
Slovenes	1.421.000,00	1.423.480,00	1.295.140,00
Czechs	404.100,00	393.400,00	549.475,00
Hungarians	445.350,00	436.400,00	435.355,00
TOTAL	3.916.650,00	3.921.380,00	3.967.355,00

* Years refer to the year of publishing of the respective Ethnic Minority Funding Report³

1.1 Current Developments

The most important development in the reporting period is the detailed attention to decade-long concerns of ethnic minority groups in a separate chapter on page 12f. of the Government Programme 2020-2024:⁴

New codification of the constitutional regulations concerning ethnic groups (among others commitment to minority education, minority languages and topography).

Ethnic Minority Funding:

- *Commitment to a timely increase of the Ethnic Minority Funding and safeguarding ethnic minority media funding with a separate budget allocation.*
- *The Federal Government commits to holding talks with the provincial governments and municipalities with the aim to jointly and impact-orientedly (quality assurance within the Bildungsgruppe) provide the necessary financial means to ensure the construction, maintenance and support of bi- and multilingual kindergartens for the ethnic minorities as well as other early childcare facilities.*

Commitment to give stronger visibility to the ethnic minorities on ORF:

- *Guaranteeing radio programmes in the RML,*
- *Increased consideration of the ethnic minorities according to the public-law mandate of the ORF,*
- *Extending the programme range to ORF III,*
- *Provision for the languages of the recognised ethnic minorities.*

Creation of a working group including the ethnic minorities' representatives to evaluate the modernisation of the ethnic minority representation.

RML in the virtual space:

³ <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/themen/volksgruppen/volksgruppen-foerderung.html>

⁴ <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/bundeskanzleramt/die-bundesregierung/regierungsdokumente.html>

- *Official language in the virtual space*
- *Revenue office,*
- *Council websites and online services of municipalities.*

Bilingual district courts for ethnic minorities:

- *Ensuring the provision of bilingual district courts in the settlement area; if district courts in the bilingual area are combined, it has to be ensured that an equal and efficient part of the Austrian judiciary remains in the RML.*

Furthermore, on page 39 of the Government Programme 2020-2024, the commitment to the

- *strengthening of art and cultural projects related to the recognised ethnic minorities*

And on page 221 the commitment to the

- *gradual expansion and optimisation [...] of the digital administrative channels [...] for the recognised ethnic minorities.*

First implementation result is the already implemented increase of the financial support from 3.9 to 7.9 Million Euros whose first considerable impact is reflected in the strategic focus of the calls for grant proposals within in the framework of the Ethnic Minority Funding to "Intercultural promotion"⁵ and "Other grants"⁶ for the year 2021.

For the 100-year-anniversary of the Carinthian referendum, a one-time grant of 4.0 Million Euros was awarded as further contribution to the empowerment of the Slovene minority. This grant is devoted to the bilingual education sector, the digital presence of municipalities as well as media, cultural, and publishing projects.

Endeavours to increase the virtual visibility of the RML (hereafter referred to as digitalisation initiative or digitalisation) show first results, which are dealt with in detail in the language-specific part (chapter 2). The same applies to other already initiated

⁵ https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:0668179b-d4c9-499d-b5f7-2e72522629df/interkult_foerderung_21_volksgruppe.pdf

⁶ https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:babb6baa-19cc-4918-a27f-78e7c77ec8b2/foerderungen_2021_sonst_zuschuss_volksgruppe.pdf

implementations of the Government Programme 2020-2024. The results of this intensified appreciation of the ethnic minorities on the part of local authorities, politics and administration will be fully recognised in the medium term and documented in Austria's 6th country report.

1.2 Implementation of the Recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

As the reporting period—2018/2019/2020—lies largely before the propositions that were formulated in the Government Programme 2020-2024, the implementation of some recommendations by the Committee of Ministers are still in the initial and preparation phase. The following four cited measures were recommended:

- *adopt a structured policy for the protection and promotion of all minority languages, especially in Vienna, and create favourable conditions for their use in public life.*

Ethnic minorities and thus RML as significant aspect of the Government Programme 2020-2024 are a first but essential step towards a structured policy. The announced participation of provinces and municipalities in the implementation process guarantees the additional presence of RML in public life but on the whole federal territory.

- *include in the general curricula an adequate presentation of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority languages in Austria.*

A provision by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, which will come into effect in 2022 provides for the compulsory engagement with plurality and minorities in the general curriculum. Plurality is seen as a resource and potential, whereby central importance is attached to the six ethnic minorities and their RML, in order to strengthen the awareness for the rights and protection of minorities. Furthermore, the Demokratiezentrum Wien has, compiled an exhibition on minority education on behalf of the department. The exhibition is supposed to contribute, on the one hand, to a

strengthening of the identity of the Austrian ethnic groups and, on the other hand, to create awareness on their history and culture.⁷

- *take practical measures for the use of the Burgenland-Croatian, Hungarian, and Slovenian languages before the relevant judicial and administrative authorities.*

In connection with this, both the digitalisation initiative in the administration sector explicitly mentioned in the Government Programme 2020-2024 as well as a clear commitment to the safeguarding of the bilingual district jurisdiction in the settlement area should be mentioned. Thus, an essential condition for a future increased visibility of the possibility to use RML in the judiciary and in administration of the respective settlement area is guaranteed.

- *secure adequate funding for newspapers in Burgenland-Croatian, Hungarian, and Slovenian.*

By means of the increased annual funding of 7.9 Million Euros that was concluded in 2020 and the therein included budget allocation for media with a total of 700,000 Euros per leading medium (Leitmedium) as identified and chosen by the respective Ethnic Minority Advisory Council and per RML, from 2021, not only periodical media in the three languages that are protected under Part III of the Charter are safeguarded but also those in Slovakian, Czech and, in future, also Romani.

Table 4: Media funding 2021(in EUR)⁸

Language	Leading medium	Grant recipient	Project	Amount
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⁷ <http://www.demokratiezentrum.org/ausstellungen/minderheiten/>
⁸ <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/themen/volksgruppen/volksgruppen-foerderung.html>

Burgenland Croatian	<i>Hrvatske Novine</i>	<i>Hrvatsko štamparko društvo</i>	weekly newspaper with online edition	262.800,00
Slovakian	<i>Pohlady</i>	<i>Rakùsko-slovensky kultùrny spolok</i>	quarterly, digitalisation*	19.800,00
Slovenian	<i>Novice</i>	<i>Slovenski medijski center</i>	weekly newspaper, digitalisation*	262.800,00
Czech	<i>Videňské svobodné listy</i>	<i>Menšinová rada české a slovenské větve v Rakosku</i>	every second week, digitalisation*	65.000,00
Hungarian	<i>Rólunk – Ausztria Magyar Oldalai</i>	<i>Burgenlandi Kultúregyesület</i>	<i>Magyar</i> New creation of an online medium**	89.600,00

* Digitalisation = Transformation to print edition including online edition within the framework of the project/ as part of the project.

** The Hungarian ethnic minority has only chosen an online medium.

A decision by the Roma Ethnic Minority Advisory Council for one leading medium (Leitmedium) is expected in early January 2022. The two semi-annual papers d|ROM|a and Romano Centro just like the annual paper VII (formerly: Signal) of the Styrian Slovenes continue to be financed from the general funding.

Hrvatske Novine: <https://hrvatskenovine.at>

Pohlady: <https://www.slovaci.at/clanky.html>

Novice: <https://www.novice.at>

Videňské Listy: <https://www.viden-vsl.at>

Rolunk: <https://rolunk.at/rolunk/>

VII: <http://www.pavelhaus.at//cm/publikationen/signal/>

Romano Centro: <https://www.romano-centro.org/publikationen>

d|ROM|a: <http://www.roma-service.at/droma.shtml>

The pandemic has, in fact, led to an increase of the use and visibility of RML in public due to information of Covid-19 measures provided in the same languages. The provision of the respective information was carried out by the ORF Ethnic Minority Editorial Department in close cooperation with the responsible provincial TV studios of Burgenland and Carinthia, as

well as the responsible provincial administrations (Ethnic Minority Office Carinthia and public relations of the Office of the Provincial Government of Burgenland). The statewide information in RML was received very positively by the affected groups.

The funding agreements of the Ethnic Minority Funding were quickly and unbureaucratically aligned to the new situation. After a circular letter to all funding recipients and close individual contacts, new implementation possibilities were found quickly and creatively and, among others, online language learning, digital learners' support (especially in Vienna and Burgenland), as well as digital choir practice (in the Federal Province of Carinthia) were introduced.

During distance learning, the RML were treated equal to the other languages of instruction and subjects. The thus developed study and teaching materials⁹ furthermore contribute vastly to the intensification and modernisation of the RML programmes offered and, thus, sustainably support the language protection endeavours.

⁹ See, among others, <https://lms.at> und <https://skooly.at/>; Apps by the BMBWF, which also offer RML.

2 Language-specific Part

The activities listed under Part II / Article 7 refer to all user groups of the respective RML, the measures described in Part III / Article 8-14 refer essentially to the language area as defined in the Federal Act on the Legal Status of the ethnic minorities in Austria. To avoid overloading the report with repetitions, facts that apply to more than one RML are only cross-referenced as was done with content in Part 1. The individual obligations on the part of the Federal Republic of Austria and the corresponding articles always refer—although in abridged form—to the full text of the Charter. Commitments deemed "fulfilled" in previous evaluation reports, which have not been changed since then, are mentioned in the text with the phrase "still guaranteed".

2.1 Burgenland Croatian (BK) / gradišćansko-hrvatski jezik

2.1.1 Part II / Article 7

For more detailed information refer to the relevant articles under 2.1.2.

Art.7.1.a – *Recognition as an expression of cultural wealth*: Still constitutionally guaranteed and additionally strengthened by the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.7.1.b – *Respect of the geographical area*: Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.c – *Resolute action to promote BK*: Strengthened through the increase of the Ethnic Minority Funding (see 1.1) which also benefits the BK.

Art.7.1.d – *Facilitation of the use of BK in public and private life*: Still guaranteed, see also digitalisation initiative.

Art.7.1.e – *Maintenance and development of links between groups using BK*: Still guaranteed, among others by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council.

Art.7.1.f – *Provision of appropriate forms and means for teaching and study*: Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.g – *Provision of learning facilities for non-speakers of BK*: Guaranteed by the Volkshochschule (VHS) of the Burgenland Croatians and statewide VHS facilities.

Art.7.1.h – *Study and research at universities or equivalent institutions*: University of Graz, University of Vienna, Pedagogical University (PH) of Burgenland.

Art.7.1.i – *Promotion of transnational exchanges*: Close contacts and joint projects with speakers in Moravia / CZ, Slovakia and West Hungary.

Art.7.2 – *Elimination of any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction*: Still guaranteed by Constitutional law.

Art.7.3 – *Promotion of mutual understanding, respect, and tolerance between speakers of different RML / in the educational sector / mass media*: Still guaranteed / strengthened / still guaranteed by means of the above-mentioned provision/regulation by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research.

Art.7.4 – *Taking into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the BK users / Establishment of bodies for the purpose of advising the authorities (lobby groups)*: Still guaranteed, among others by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council. The modernisation of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council is mentioned in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Even though support measures focus on Burgenland, they are in no way limited to that. In Vienna, projects are supported with approx. 160.000 Euros annually out of the Ethnic Minority Funding. Activities related to BK in Vienna are, among others, the bilingual children's group *Viverica* for 3-6-year-olds and the Saturday school *Jezniča Hiša* of the Viennese *Hrvatski Centar* for 3-12-year-olds.

2.1.2 Part III / Article 8-14

2.1.2.1 Article 8 – Education

Art.8.1.iii – *BK as substantial part of pre-school education*: In childcare facilities in the language area, at least 12 hours per week and group are dedicated to BK. Beyond that, BK can be used if requested by 25% of the parents. In the 2018/2019 kindergarten year 2.365 children were taken care of in BK and HU in 119 groups at 45 facilities (37BK & 9HU).

Art.8.1.ii – *BK as substantial part of primary education*: The situation has not changed.

Table 5: Pupils in primary schools

School year	Pupils
2018/2019	1.531
2019/2020	1.738
2020/2021	1.719

In the school year 2020/21, BK was the language of instruction at 23 bilingual primary schools and in two classes (23 pupils) at German-speaking primary schools as well as a compulsory subject in three more classes (23 pupils). Additionally, 314 pupils were taught in BK as part of so-called "unverbindlicher Übungen" (non-compulsory programmes).

Art.8.1.ciii – BK as subject in secondary education (Haupt/Mittelschulen- Lower secondary education, Gymnasien – Higher Secondary Education): The situation remains unchanged; the challenge of a considerable decrease in the number of pupils at the transition of primary school to secondary school persists.

Table 6: Pupils in Mittelschulen (lower secondary schools)

School year	Pupils
2018/2019	239
2019/2020	316
2020/2021	282

Below, the statistic of the 2020/21 school year for AHS and Gymnasien (higher secondary schools) in Burgenland:

Table 7: Pupils in AHS/Gymnasien (Higher Secondary Education)

Schools	Pupils
Bilingual Gymnasium Oberwart	109
3 AHS with compulsory subject BK	156
3 AHS with elective subject BK	15
TOTAL	280

Art.8.1.div. – *BK in vocational schools:* For these, there is a detailed statistic for the 2020/21 school year.

Table 8: Pupils in vocational schools (BS)

Schools	Pupils
3 BS with compulsory or compulsory optional subject BK	138
4 BS with elective subject BK	20
Bundesbildungsanstalt für Elementarpädagogik with BK as elective subject	23
TOTAL	181

Art.8.1.eiii – *Facilities for the study of BK at university or higher education institutions:*

- BK as subject in the Bachelor study programme of Slavik studies at the University of Graz,
- Courses related to BK as part of Slavik studies at the University of Vienna.

Art.8.1.fiii – *BK as subjects of adult and continuing education*: Adult education is largely covered by the Volkshochschulen (VHS) of Burgenland; they not only offer courses in BK, but have their own BK VHS – *Narodna visoka škola Grandišćanskih Hrvatov*.¹⁰

Art.8.1.g – *Teaching of the history and the culture of BK as part of the curriculum*: See the 2022 regulation by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research mentioned under 1.2.

Art.8.1.h – *Basic and further training of teachers for BK*: Still guaranteed at the Private Pedagogical University (PPH) Burgenland:

- Study course BKK (= Burgenland Croatian + Croatian) and Bachelor of Education with additional qualification BK at the PH Burgenland,¹¹
- University course and additional qualification Bilingual Classroom German/Croatian at the PPH Burgenland,
- Continuing education offered by PPH Burgenland

Art.8.1.i – *Supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring and regular reports on the situation of BK*: The Department Päd/2 of Minority Education of the Directorate of Education of Burgenland lately publishes annual online reports that provide the 2020/21 school year data used in this report.

Art.8.2 – *Facilities to learn BK in territories other than those in which it is traditionally used (outside the defined language area)*: Additionally to special activities by ethnic minority associations in Vienna (see 2.1.1), frequent language courses at the two largest Universities (Vienna, Graz) and sporadically also at VHS and educational institutions in other federal provinces are offered.

2.1.2.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

BK is traditionally a rather local language mostly used in local schools, for religious practice, local administration, and in the media. As the dominant supraregional language of administration and the courts in the language area has been, for centuries, mainly

¹⁰ <https://www.vhs-burgenland.at/regionale-kontakte/volkgruppen/>

¹¹ <https://www.ph-burgenland.at/studium/hochschullehrgaenge/zweisprachiger-unterricht-deutschkroatisch/>

https://www.ph-burgenland.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Studium/Bachelor_Sekundarstufe/kroa.pdf

German, there is barely any traditional usage of BK in these domains. Efforts to change this situation have so far remained unsuccessful. Even the development and publication of a dictionary of legal terminology in BK did not bring any improvement.¹² When ratifying the Charter Austria made a commitment to ensure the right to BK with/at judicial authorities. As this right is guaranteed at full length by Austrian law and known to the parties concerned, the obligations stipulated under Article 9 are in principle fulfilled. Nevertheless, the efforts continue to establish BK not only in theory, but also in practice in this domain. This seems to be supported by the clear commitment to protect and support the bilingual district courts of the ethnic minorities as stipulated in the Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1).

Art.9.1.aii – *The right of the accused to use BK in criminal proceedings*

Art.9.1.aiii – *The right to requests and evidence in BK in criminal proceedings*

Art.9.1.bii – *The right of a litigant to use BK in civil proceedings*

Art.9.1.biii – *The right to requests and evidence in BK in civil proceedings*

Art.9.1.cii – *The right of a litigant to use BK in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters*

Art.9.1.ciii – *The right to requests and evidence in BK in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters*

Art.9.1.d – *Free of charge translations of documents and in court*

Art.9.2.a – *Recognition of documents drawn up in BK in court*

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

According to the traditional usage outlined under Article 9, BK is used far more often in local-oral than in supraregional-written administrative domains. Obligations under Article 10 apply, above all, to guaranteeing the possibility to use BK with administrative

¹² **Tomsich, Rudolf. 1999.** *Pravni Rječnik. Nimško-Gradišćanskohrvatski / Rechtswörterbuch. Deutsch-Burgenländischkroatisch.* **Wien: Bundeskanzleramt.**

authorities. As this possibility exists, the Republic of Austria fulfils its obligations in this area; the digitalisation initiative as stipulated in the Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1) will further contribute to the fulfilment of its obligations. Further effects may also positively impact the supply of documents in RML at regional offices. A first positive sign in this direction is the website of the Federal Province of Burgenland at its 100th anniversary in all provincial languages and therefore also BK.¹³

Art.10.1.a.iii – *Applications to all administrative authorities and public services of the language area and replies in BK*: Oral requests and replies in BK are possible and in many cases the rule. For written official correspondence, arrangements are made; however, it is less commonly done in practice.

Art.10.1.c – *The possibility of administrative authorities to publish documents in BK*: The current digitalisation initiative as stipulated in the Government Programme 2020-2024 increases the possibilities so far already available to, among others, the Federal Fiscal Authority.¹⁴

Art.10.2.b – *The possibility to submit applications in BK to regional and local authorities*: See Art.10.1.a.iii.

Art.10.2.d – *Documents by local authorities in BK*: Also, note in this context the initiated digitalisation initiative equally for strengthening existing possibilities and to facilitate the future use in virtual space.

Art.10.4.a – *Free-of-charge translations to/from BK*: Still guaranteed.

Art.10.5 – *The possibility to use and adopt family names in BK*: Still guaranteed.

2.1.2.4 Article 11 – Media

An overview of programmes broadcasted by ORF, which has been obliged to show regular programmes in the RML since 2002, can be found on its website.¹⁵ Since March 2019, for the first time, the contemporary and cultural-historical video archive “Volksgruppen in

¹³ <https://www.1921-2021.at/hr/>

¹⁴ https://service.bmf.gv.at/service/anwend/formulare/_start.asp??typ=AW&styp=spr

¹⁵ <https://der.orf.at/kundendienst/volksgruppen100.html>

Österreich“ (“Ethnic Groups in Austria“) is available for an unlimited period on the ORF Media Library.¹⁶

Art.11.1.bii – Regular radio programmes in BK

Table 9: Programmes by the ORF provincial studio Burgenland (with transmission to Vienna)

Programme	Broadcast Date	Duration
<i>Nachrichten</i>	Mon-Sat / 12.40	2 min
<i>Hrvatski zurnal / Kulturni tajedan</i>	Mon-Sun / 18.05	40 min
<i>Rub i sredina</i>	Mon / 20.05	25 min

All radio programmes are available online in the ORF Media Library.¹⁷ Funding is still received by *Radio Mora* for their programmes that cover—starting from *Veliki Borištof* (Großwarasdorf)—mainly the district Oberpullendorf (Felsöpulya) but can also be listened to online.¹⁸ From 2021, a significant expansion not only of the coverage of Radio Mora but also with regard to Romani and Hungarian out of the Ethnic Minority Funding is being supported.

Art.11.1.cii – Regular TV programmes in BK

Table 10: Programmes by the ORF provincial studio of Burgenland (with transmission to Vienna)

¹⁶ <https://tvthek.orf.at/history/Volksgruppen-in-Oesterreich/13557924>

¹⁷ <https://radiothek.orf.at/vgrp>

¹⁸ http://download.radioop.at/Sendeschema_RadioOP.pdf

Programme	Broadcast date	Duration
<i>Dobar dan Hrvati</i>	Sun / 13.30	30 min

TV programmes are shown on ORF 2, are repeated the following week on ORF 3, and are available online in the media library.¹⁹ The commitment to make the ethnic minorities more visible on ORF 3 has been included in the current Government Programme 2020-2024 (see above 1.1).

Art.11.1.d – *Encouragement and facilitation of the production of audiovisual works in BK: AV productions in BK have shifted to the social media arena, as is shown, among others, by the YouTube and Instagram channels of Hrvatski centar and Hrvatski akademiski klub.*²⁰ Also, note in this context the digitalisation initiative as stipulated in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.11.1.ei – *Encouragement and/or facilitation of a newspaper in BK*

Table 11: Overview of the (funded) print media

Medium	Frequency	Publisher	Comment
<i>Hrvatske Novine</i>	weekly/online	<i>Hrvatsko štamparsko društvo</i>	Leading medium (Leitmedium)
<i>Crikveni Glasnik</i>	weekly	<i>Diözese Eisenstadt</i>	Katholische Kirchenzeitung
<i>Glasiilo</i>	quarterly	<i>Hrvatsko kulturno društvo</i>	Vereinsorgan (association)

¹⁹ <https://tvthek.orf.at/profiles/genre/Volksgruppen/70443#scroll>

²⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF2pBq87cyxazVvHQLgcuZg/about>
https://www.instagram.com/hak_ovci/ / https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_DZT9q2AyFRlzp6aOFZRDg
https://www.instagram.com/centar_bec/

Medium	Frequency	Publisher	Comment
<i>Novi Glas</i>	quarterly/online ²¹	<i>Hrvatski akademski klub</i>	Vereinsorgan (association)
<i>Gradišće Kalendar</i>	annually	<i>Hrvatsko štamparsko društvo</i>	Almanach

For the support (funding) and strengthening of the leading medium (Leitmedium) *Hrvatske Novine* as included in the Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1) see also Table 5.

Art.11.1.fii – *The possibility of financial assistance AV productions in BK: Still guaranteed. Also note in this context the digitalisation initiative as stipulated in the Government Programme 2020-2024.*

Art.11.2 – *Guarantee freedom of direct reception and retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in RK and press freedom: Still guaranteed.*

2.1.2.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Art.12.1.a – *Support of cultural products/productions in/about BK: Still guaranteed.*

Table 12: Share of "Culture" from the Ethnic Minority Funding

Funding report	Amount	%
2018	179.450,00	15,78%
2019	206.745,00	18,62%

²¹ Created and taken care of by young members of *Hrvatski akademski klub*: <https://noviglas.online>

% of total funding (see Table 5)

Art.12.d – *Making appropriate allowance for incorporating BK at cultural activities and their funding:* Still guaranteed.

Art.12.2 – *Support of cultural activities in/related to BK outside the language area:* Still guaranteed through funded activities in Vienna and the federal provinces.

Art.12.3 – *Making appropriate provision for incorporating BK in cultural activities abroad:* Austria's traditional plurality as reflected by the RML and BK is part of the cultural activities abroad by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, such as 65 Austrian libraries in 28 countries and the activities of the Network of Austrian Cultural Fora abroad, among others.²²

2.1.2.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

Art.13.1.d – *To facilitate and encourage the use of BK in the economic and social life:* Still guaranteed.

2.1.2.7 Article 14b – Transfrontier exchanges

Contacts with users of BK in neighbouring countries—Moravia/CZ, Slovakia, West Hungary—are still as much guaranteed and also partly promoted as contacts and exchanges with partners and institutions in Croatia.

2.1.3 Implementation of the urgent recommendations by the Committee of Experts

- *Ensure an efficient and timely processing of promotional funds for Burgenland-Croatian, in co-operation with the speakers.*

²² <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/themen/auslandskultur/>

The process that was initiated in 2018 to improve the conditions for processing the funding has already led to a significantly accelerated processing of funding and is currently intensified against the background of budget doubling.

- *Include the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by the Burgenland-Croatian language in the curriculum of the German-medium schools in Burgenland.*

By means of the provision by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (see above 1.2) that came into effect at the beginning of 2022, this has been regulated not only for Burgenland but for the entire federal territory.

- *Facilitate the publication by local authorities of their official documents in Burgenland-Croatian.*

The already initiated promotion of the ethnic minority languages as official languages in the virtual space and on municipal websites and online services of municipalities as stipulated in the Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1) serves as a basis for the implementation of this recommendation, at the latest, by the time the next report will be submitted.

2.2 Romani (ROM) / Romani čhib

Although the Charter is, with regard to ROM, only valid for the speakers who are traditionally resident in Burgenland, the so-called Burgenland Roma, generally more than 50% of the Roma Ethnic Minority Funding is allocated to activities outside of Burgenland:

Table 13: Funding distribution for ROM per province (in EUR)

Funding report	Total	Burgenland	%	Vienna	%	Styria	%
2018	385.934,00	179.000,00	46,38%	206.934,00	53,62%	–	–
2019	432.900,00	184.300,00	42,56%	241.600,00	55,82%	7.000,00	1,62%

In the past, Sinti associations were supported in Carinthia and Upper Austria. Since 2019, a Sinti association with its basis in Vienna has been supported within the scope of the Ethnic Minority Funding and makes appearances in public.

Additionally, to the Sinti, who live spread out across the entire federal territory, the Lovara who mainly live in the Greater Area of Vienna belong to the speakers of ROM who traditionally live in Austria. All three groups—Burgenland Roma, Lovara, and Sinti—are in danger of losing their language; therefore, the focus of the funding activities is placed on language maintenance measures. A positive aspect in this tension between language loss and language maintenance is the participation of members of other Roma groups who have settled on the federal territory and who still use ROM as group language in the emancipation process. As they participate in almost all Roma associations outside of Burgenland and therefore indirectly benefit from the recognition of ethnic minorities, they significantly contribute to the language maintenance endeavours by the traditional residents.

2.2.1 Part II / Article 7

Art.7.1a – *Recognition as an expression of cultural wealth*: In principle, guaranteed by the Constitution and additionally strengthened by means of the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.7.1.b – *Respect of the geographical area*: Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.c – *Resolute action to promote ROM*: Has been strengthened by an increase of the Ethnic Minority Funding (see 1.1), which ROM also benefits from. Also, note in this context, the Austrian Roma Strategy and the Roma Dialogue Platform of the Federal Chancellery, which, in the context of

individual topics, frequently engage with the status and importance of ROM for the identity of the ethnic minority.²³

Art.7.1.d – Facilitation of the use of ROM in public and private life: As the use of ROM in private life is severely threatened, support and protection measures—not only, but primarily teaching and learning facilities and aids (see below)—are the centre of support measures. In connection with that, the recognition brought about by the use in public domains is of equal importance. This includes the two magazines listed above (1.2) as well as the programmes offered by ORF:

Table 14: ROM programmes offered by ORF

Medium	Programme	Broadcast date	Duration
Radio	<i>Roma sam</i>	weekly Mon / 20.50	20 min
TV	<i>Servus, Szia, Zdravo, Del tuha</i>	6x per year Sun / 13.05	25 min

The TV magazine broadcast on ORF 2 that has been dedicated to Romani (Del tuha), following an agreement between the ethnic minorities, is repeated the next day on ORF 3 and is, together with the radio programmes and additional news programmes, also available online.²⁴ Also, note in this context, the YouTube channel of the association Roma Service that is also supported by Ethnic Minority Funding.²⁵

The frequent (symbolic) use of ROM by ethnic minority representatives in public and at media events is of equal importance, which has also been made possible by language development measures as part of the Ethnic Minority Funding. Worth mentioning in this context is the website of the Federal Province of Burgenland on the occasion of the 100th anniversary in all provincial languages and thus also in ROM.²⁶

Art.7.1.e – Maintenance and development of links between groups using ROM: Still guaranteed by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council.

²³ <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/themen/volksgruppen/roma-strategie.html>
²⁴ <https://volksgruppen.orf.at/roma/> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUuzjVqOLuCdUgbE2Vp0Qqw>
²⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUuzjVqOLuCdUgbE2Vp0Qqw>
²⁶ <https://www.1921-2021.at/hr/>

Art.7.1.f – *Provision of appropriate forms and means for teaching and study*: ROM courses that were cancelled due to a lack of interest in 2011 were reactivated in the school year 2019/20 at one primary and one lower secondary school in *Erba* (Oberwart) as "Non-compulsory Programmes" (≈ elective subject) and resumed, despite the pandemic, in the following school year. Teaching staff were trained as part of the activities of the [romani] project that had been funded for years by the Ethnic Minority Funding and whose task was also the development of suitable teaching materials.

Statistical information with regard to ROM mother tongue teaching are available for the school years 2017/18 up to 2020/21 (currently there are four teachers at ten Viennese schools):

Table 15: ROM teaching in Vienna

School year	Pupils
2017/18 ²⁷	183
2018/19 ²⁸	191
2019/20 ²⁹	280
2020/21	305

Teaching materials that were produced as part of one of the European Council Projects and co-funded by the Ethnic Minority Funding were used. Further activities aiming at the intensification of ROM teaching by attending a project on plurilingual ROM teaching by the Language Policy Division of the European Council were delayed due to the pandemic but are still scheduled to take place.³⁰

²⁷ <https://docplayer.org/133885126-Der-muttersprachliche-unterricht-in-oesterreich-statistische-auswertung-fuer-das-schuljahr-2018-19.html>

²⁸ https://pubshop.bmbwf.gv.at/index.php?article_id=9&type=neuerscheinungen&pub=824

²⁹ According to information by the Sprachförderzentrum of the Bildungsdirektion Wien: <https://www.sfz-wien.at/>

³⁰ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/language-policy/the-qualirom-project-and-the-support-of-the-european-centre-for-modern-languages-ecml->

Art.7.1.g – Provision of learning facilities for non-speakers of ROM: In Burgenland still guaranteed, above all, by the regular offers by the Roma VHS;³¹ in Vienna by occasional courses at various VHS; additionally, Roma associations offer open language courses and give out information on the language and culture of the Roma as part of seminars in schools.

Art.7.1.h – Study and research at universities or equivalent institutions: Research on ROM and (at the moment still) sporadic teaching is still conducted as part of the [romani] Project at the University of Graz.³² The teacher training at the Pedagogical University (PH) Burgenland has not yet materialised due to too few registrations;³³ however, further training possibilities on ROM for teachers are offered on a regular basis.

Art.7.1.i – Promotion of transnational exchanges: There are still close contacts and joint—and partly also funded—projects with ROM speaker organisations in neighbouring countries, above all in Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary, as well as with international Roma representatives.

Art.7.2 – Elimination of any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction: Still guaranteed by Constitutional law. Also, note in this context again, the Austrian Roma strategy and the Roma Dialogue Platform of the Federal Chancellery (see above 7.1.c).

Art.7.3 – Promotion of mutual understanding, respect, and tolerance between speakers of different RML / in the educational sector / mass media: Still guaranteed / strengthened by the above-mentioned provision by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research / still guaranteed.

Art.7.4 – Taking into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the ROM users / Establishment of bodies for the purpose of advising the authorities (lobby groups): Still guaranteed by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council, among others. The modernisation of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council is mentioned in the Government Programme 2020-2024. Also, note in this context, again, the Austrian Roma Strategy and the Roma Dialogue Platform of the Federal Chancellery as well as the Antigypsyism Conference of the National Roma Contact Point as part of the Austrian EU Council Presidency (November 2018), where a Romani simultaneous translation was provided (see also above 7.1.c).

³¹ <https://www.vhs-roma.eu>

³² <http://romaniprojekt.uni-graz.at>

³³ <https://volksgruppen.orf.at/v2/roma/stories/2978193/>

2.2.2 Implementation of the urgent recommendations by the Committee of Experts

- *Ensure an efficient and timely processing of promotional funds for Romani, in co-operation with the speakers.*

The process that was initiated in 2018 to improve the conditions for processing the funding has already led to a significantly accelerated processing of funding and is currently intensified against the background of budget doubling.

2.3 Slovakian (SK) / slovenský jazyk

As the Slovakian minority has mainly settled in Vienna and there are no ethnic minority organisations (Vertretungsorganisationen) in other parts of Austria, Ethnic Minority Funding is exclusively implemented in that Federal Province. Beyond that, the use of Slovakian has also been documented for Burgenland and Lower Austria.

2.3.1 Part II / Article 7

Art.7.1.a – *Recognition as an expression of cultural wealth*: Still constitutionally guaranteed and additionally strengthened by means of the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.7.1.b – *Respect of the geographical area*: Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.c – *Resolute action to promote SK*: Has been strengthened by an increase of the Ethnic Minority Funding (see 1.1), which SK also benefits from.

Art.7.1.d – *Facilitation of the use of SK in public and private life*: With regard to the promotion of language use of SK, on the one hand, the quarterly *Pohlady*, which has been defined as leading medium (Leitmedium) in 1.2, and on the other hand, the programmes offered by ORF have to be mentioned:

Table 16: SK programmes broadcast by ORF

Medium	Programme	Broadcast date	Duration
Radio	<i>Rádio Dia:tón</i>	every second week Mon / 21.40	20 min
TV	<i>Slovenské Ozveny</i>	6x per year Sun / 13.05	25 min

The TV magazine that is shown on ORF 2 is repeated in the following week on ORF 3 and is, together with radio programmes and additional news programmes, available online.³⁴

Art.7.1.e – *Maintenance and development of links between groups using SK: Still guaranteed, among others, by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council.*

Art.7.1.f – *Provision of appropriate forms and means for teaching and study: The teacher training for SK is offered as a cooperation between the Pedagogical University Vienna and the University of Vienna.³⁵ Teaching SK and teaching in SK are done at Komenský School: ³⁶*

Table 17: SK in Vienna in the school year 2019/20

Grade	Classes/Groups	Pupils
Kindergarten	1 Gruppe	20
Primary School	8 Klassen	179
Realgymnasium (= AHS)	12 Klassen	243
Higher Secondary School		

³⁴ <https://volksgruppen.orf.at/slovaci/>

³⁵ <https://studieren.univie.ac.at/studienangebot/lehramtsstudien/slowakisch-unterrichtsfach/>

³⁶ <https://www.komensky-vienna.at/>

While the Komenský School Association offers one out of eight groups specifically in Slovakian in kindergarten, in primary school and (higher) secondary school, Slovakian is offered together with Czech; in primary school, five lessons per week are explicitly conducted in Slovakian.

Transfrontier bilingualism is getting increasingly important for the preservation of Slovakian as RML, which is reflected, among others, in the provision of mother-tongue teaching in neighbouring provinces of Slovakia that is Burgenland and Lower Austria:

Table 18: SK teaching outside of Vienna

School year	Pupils	in Bgld	in Lower Austria
2017/18	316	186	130
2018/19	312	206	106

Art.7.1.g – *Provision of learning facilities for non-speakers of SK: Also, note in this context again, the courses offered by VHS not only but mainly in Vienna.*³⁷

Art.7.1.h – *Study and research at universities or equivalent institutions: SK is part of the Bachelor programme of Slavic studies and can be selected as master’s programme at the University of Vienna.*³⁸

Art.7.1.i – *Promotion of transnational exchanges: Contacts and, on a regular basis, joint activities with organisations and institutions in Slovakia.*

Art.7.2 – *Elimination of any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction: Still constitutionally guaranteed.*

Art.7.3 – *Promotion of mutual understanding, respect, and tolerance between speakers of different RML / in the educational sector / mass media: Still guaranteed / strengthened by the above-mentioned regulation by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research / still guaranteed.*

³⁷ <https://www.vhs.at/de/k/sprachen/slowakisch>

³⁸ <https://slawistik.univie.ac.at/studium/studienangebot/>

Art.7.4 – *Taking into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the ROM users / Establishment of bodies for the purpose of advising the authorities (lobby groups):* Still guaranteed by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council, among others. The modernisation of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council is mentioned in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

2.3.2 Implementation of the urgent recommendations by the Committee of Experts

- *Ensure an efficient and timely processing of promotional funds for Slovakian, in co-operation with the speakers.*

The process that was initiated in 2018 to improve the conditions for processing the funding has already led to a significantly accelerated processing of funding and is currently intensified against the background of budget doubling.

- *Reconsider amending the Private School Act with a view to granting a special legal status to the Komenský School and ensuring the sustainability of its activity.*

As legislative changes always take longer, this recommendation is still being discussed. A first positive effect is, however, the finally achieved clear commitment to the preservation of the *Komenský* School by the Federal and Provincial administrations.

2.4 Slovenian (SL) / slovenski jezik

SL is traditionally used in Carinthia as well as in Styria. As SL is now also used in cities outside the settlement area due to urbanisation, the Ethnic Minority Funding now also supports activities of the minority group in Vienna.

Table 19: Distribution of funding for SL by province

Grant report	Total	Carinthia	Styria	Vienna
2018	1,421,000.00	1,238,500.00	70,500.00	12,000.00
2019	1,551,700.00	1,475,000.00	65,350.00	11,850.00

2.4.1 Slovenian in Carinthia

2.4.1.1 Part II / Article 7

For more detailed information, see also the relevant articles under 2.4.1.2.

Art.7.1.a – *Recognition of SL as an expression of cultural wealth:* Still constitutionally guaranteed and additionally strengthened by the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.7.1.b – *Respect of the geographical area:* Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.c – *Need for resolute action to promote SL: Strengthened by the Ethnic Minority Funding increase (see 1.1), which of course also benefits SL.*

Art.7.1.d – *Facilitation and/or encouragement of SL in public and private life:* Still guaranteed, see also digitalisation initiative.

Art.7.1.e – *Maintenance and development of links between groups using SL:* Further guaranteed by, among others, the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council.

Art.7.1.f – *Provision of appropriate forms and means for teaching and study:* Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.g – *Provision of facilities enabling non-speakers to learn SL: Guaranteed by the Carinthian VHS³⁹ and nationwide VHS courses, especially in Vienna.*⁴⁰

Art.7.1.h – *Promotion of study and research at universities or equivalent institutions: Universities of Klagenfurt, Graz, and Vienna.*

Art.7.1.i – *Promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges: Close contacts and joint projects with organisations and institutions in the neighbouring Slovenia as well as with Slovenian organisations in Italy, Hungary, etc.*

Art.7.2 – *Elimination of unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference: Still constitutionally guaranteed.*

Art.7.3 – *Promotion of understanding, tolerance and respect between speakers of different RML / in education / in the media: Still guaranteed / reinforced by the above-mentioned Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research regulation.*

Art.7.4 – *Consideration of the needs and wishes of SL users / establishment of advisory bodies: Further guaranteed by, among others, the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council. The modernisation of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council is mentioned in the Government Programme 2020-2024.*

2.4.1.2 Part III / Articles 8-14

2.4.1.2.1 Article 8 – Education

The following presentation is mainly based on the annual reports of the Pedagogical Service / Department III - Minority Education of the Carinthian Directorate of Education (Pädagogischen Dienstes / Abteilung III – Minderheitenschulwesen der Bildungsdirektion Kärnten).⁴¹

³⁹

https://kurse.vhsktn.at/webbasys/index.php?kathaupt=26&suchesetzen=false&kfs_stichwort_schlagwort=Slowenisch&tx_indexedsearch%5Bsubmit_button%5D=SUCHE

⁴⁰ <https://www.vhs.at/de/k/sprachen/slowenisch>

⁴¹ <https://www.bildung-ktn.gv.at/Minderheitenschulwesen/Jahresberichte.html>

Art.8.1.iii – SL as a substantial part of pre-school education: In the school year 2020/21, a total of 1,462 children attended preschool facilities with SL provision in Carinthia:

Table 20: SL in preschools⁴²

Type	Number	Children
Day care centres for children under three	8/1e childcare centre	167
preschools	23/46 groups	1.049
Hort (after-school programmes)	6/13 groups	246

Table 21: Subsidies of the Province of Carinthia for preschools with SL

Year	State contribution
2018/19	1,101,534.21
2019/20	1,278,806.43
2020/21	2,193,092.80

⁴² See the 2021 Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia, which is published annually by the Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government: https://www.ktn.gv.at/Verwaltung/Amt-der-Kaerntner-Landesregierung/Abteilung-1/Volksgruppen_Menschenrechte/Publikationen/Bericht%20zur%20Lage%20der%20slowenischen%20Volksgruppe%20in%20Kärnten

Art.8.1.bii – *SL as a substantial part of primary education: Situation unchanged; in the language area, approximately 50% of pupils are still enrolled in SL lessons.*

Table 22: SL-speaking pupils in primary schools

School year	Pupils
2017/2018	2,264
2018/2019	2,238
2019/2020	2,023

In the school year 2020/21, 2,028 pupils were enrolled in SL classes at 55 primary schools in the language area.

Art.8.1.ciii – *SL as a subject within secondary education: The significant decline in the number of pupils in the transition from primary school to secondary school remains challenging.*

Table 23: Pupils in secondary schools

School year	Pupils
2017/2018	305
2018/2019	322
2019/2020	343

Table 24: Pupils at the Slovenian grammar school in Klagenfurt:

School year Pupils

2017/2018	559
2018/2019	586
2019/2020	569

In addition, there are another 178 pupils at eight AHS with SL as an elective subject, bringing the total number for the 2019/20 school year to 647 pupils.

Art.8.1.div – SL at vocational schools (BS): *In this context, data are available for the number of pupils using SL at the bilingual Handelsakademie Klagenfurt (HAK) and the Höheren Lehranstalt für wirtschaftliche Berufe in St. Peter bei St. Jakob im Rosenthal (HLA):*

Table 25: SL in BS

School year	HAK	HLA
2017/2018	264	130
2018/2019	253	131
2019/2020	252	132

In addition, there are another 405 pupils at six other vocational schools - including the Bildungsanstalt für Elementarpädagogik - with SL as an elective subject, bringing the total number for the school year 2019/20 to 789 pupils.

Art.8.1.eiii – SL as a study programme at colleges and universities

- Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes at the University of Klagenfurt,
- Master's degree programme at the University of Graz,
- Interpreting studies programme at the University of Graz.

Art.8.1.fiii – *SL as an option in adult education: adult education is essentially covered by the Carinthian VHS.* ⁴³

Art.8.1.g – *History and culture of SL as part of the curriculum: See the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research regulation for 2022 mentioned in 1.2.*

Art.8.1.h – *Teacher training for SL*

- Bachelor's teaching degree at the Universities of Klagenfurt, Graz, and Vienna
- Master's teaching degree at the University of Klagenfurt
- Training of bilingual teachers at the PH Carinthia⁴⁴
- Further training offered by the PH Carinthia: ⁴⁵
 - SL in the area of application of the minority school system/Neue Mittelschulen (NMS),
 - Bilingual teaching at primary schools with German and Slovene as mother tongues.

Art.8.1.i – *Supervisory body and regular reports on the situation of SL: The Department for Minority Education of the Carinthian Directorate of Education publishes annual online reports, from which the majority of the data used here originate.* ⁴⁶

Art.8.2 – *SL in programmes outside the defined language area: SL instruction is offered outside the language area, especially but not only in Styria (see 2.4.2 below) and in Vienna. In the latter case, special mention should be made of the Slovenski inštitut na Dunaju with, among other things, a bilingual preschool.* ⁴⁷ SL is generally an integral part of the wide range of school and extracurricular activities on offer throughout the country, with the VHS

⁴³

https://kurse.vhsktn.at/webbasys/index.php?kathaupt=26&suchesetzen=false&kfs_stichwort_schlagwort=Sl_owenisch&tx_indexedsearch%5Bsubmit_button%5D=SUCHE

⁴⁴ <https://www.ph-kaernten.ac.at/mehrsprachigkeit/>

⁴⁵ <https://www.ph-kaernten.ac.at/fwb/hochschullehrgaenge/allgemeine-hochschullehrgaenge/>

⁴⁶ <https://www.bildung-ktn.gv.at/Minderheitenschulwesen/Jahresberichte.html>

⁴⁷ <http://www.si-dunaj.at/sl/home>

again being particularly noteworthy. In addition, there are regular language courses at the language centres of the universities, which are also open to the general population.

2.4.1.2.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

Carinthia is the only province in which a court and administrative language other than German, which is dominant in these domains, namely SL, has a tradition at local and partly also at regional level. The usage figures in the district courts are slightly declining; at the Regional Court of Klagenfurt, SL was not used as the language of proceedings in the reporting period. However, as the following statistics for 2019 demonstrate, SL continues to be used with and by judicial authorities. For example, BG Bleiburg, has submitted a request for a preliminary ruling to the ECJ in SL (see Case C-33/17, Čepelnik).

Table 26: SL at court in 2019

District court	Number of proceedings
<i>Borovlje</i> (Ferlach)	12
<i>Pliberk</i> (Bleiburg)	21
<i>Železna Kapla</i> (Eisenkappel)	6

Serious efforts are being made, for example in the form of a clear commitment to maintaining and promoting bilingual district courts in the Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1), to make the use of Slovenian with judicial authorities more attractive, for example by taking Slovenian language skills into account when appointing judges and hiring bilingual staff. This could stabilise the situation in the future and perhaps even reverse the trend in the longer term.

However, since – in ratifying the Charter under Article 9 – Austria has chosen provisions that are guaranteed in all cases by Austrian legislation and are also known by the persons concerned, the obligations defined under Article 9 have in principle been met. Further measures to promote the use of SL with judicial authorities are currently being discussed.

- Art.9.1.a** – *the right to use SL in criminal proceedings*
- Art.9.1.a.iii** – *the right to requests and evidence in SL in criminal proceedings*
- Art.9.1.b** – *the right of the litigant to use SL in civil proceedings*
- Art.9.1.b.iii** – *the right to documents and evidence in SL in civil proceedings*
- Art.9.1.c** – *the right of the litigant to SL in administrative matters*
- Art.9.1.c.iii** – *the right to documents and evidence in SL in administrative matters*
- Art.9.1.d** – *translations into/from SL of documents and in court at no additional expense*
- Art.9.2.a** – *recognition of the validity of documents in SL at court*

2.4.1.2.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

Commitments under Article 10 primarily concern the guarantee that using SL in contact with and by administrative authorities is possible. Since this is the case, the Republic of Austria meets its requirements concerning this matter, which will also be increasingly ensured by the digitalisation initiative laid down in the Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1). The Ethnic Minority Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government continues to offer services concerning the written use of SL by the authorities.⁴⁸ Carinthia's positive attitude towards multilingualism is also reflected in the website designed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the referendum, which offers SL as an alternative to German on equal terms.⁴⁹

Art.10.1.a.iii – *Requests to all authorities in the language area and responses in SL:* Verbal requests and answers in SL are possible and in many cases the rule in the language area. The written official correspondence is supported in many cases by the Ethnic Minority Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government.

Art.10.1.c – *Possibility for federal authorities to publish documents in SL:* The ongoing digitalisation initiative set out in the Government Programme 2020-2024 will improve the already available options, including those of the Federal Finance Administration.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ https://www.ktn.gv.at/SI/Verwaltung/Amt-der-Kaerntner-Landesregierung/Abteilung-1/Volksgruppen_Menschenrechte

⁴⁹ <https://carinthija2020.ktn.gv.at/SI>

⁵⁰ <https://service.bmf.gv.at/service/anwend/formulare/ start.asp??typ=AW&styp=spr>

Art.10.2.b – Possibility of requests to regional & local authorities in SL: See Art.10.1.iii.

Art.10.2.d – Documents of local authorities in SL: Here, too, the digitalisation initiative launched should be mentioned as an additional reinforcement of existing possibilities, which, incidentally, is already showing its first effects. For example, the website of the *Občina Globasnica* (Municipality of Globasnitz) is available almost entirely in two languages.⁵¹ The federal government provides funding so that other municipalities can follow this example.

Art.10.4.a – Translations into/from SL free of charge: As before, mainly guaranteed by the service of the Ethnic Minority Office of the Carinthian Provincial Government.

Art.10.5 – Possibility of using and adapting SL surnames: Still guaranteed.

2.4.1.2.4 Article 11 – Media

An overview of the services offered by ORF, which has been required to broadcast regularly in the RML since 2002, can be found on its website.⁵² Since March 2019, for the first time the contemporary and cultural-historical video archive “Volkgruppen in Österreich” (“Ethnic Groups in Austria”) is available for an unlimited period on the ORF Media Library.⁵³

Art.11.1.bii – Regular radio broadcasts in SL: Radio broadcasts in SL are broadcast by ORF Landesstudio Kärnten (the regional studio of Carinthia) in cooperation with Radio Agora, with ORF producing eight hours of the daily programme, which are also available online in the ORF Media Library.⁵⁴

Art.11.1.cii – Regular TV programmes in SL:

Table 27: Programmes by the ORF-Landesstudio Kärnten:

⁵¹ <https://www.globasnitz.at/?lang=sl>

⁵² <https://der.orf.at/kundendienst/volkgruppen100.html>

⁵³ <https://tvthek.orf.at/history/Volkgruppen-in-Oesterreich/13557924>

⁵⁴ <https://www.agora.at/>; <https://radiothek.orf.at/vgrp>

Programme	Broadcast date	Duration
<i>Dober dan, Koroška</i>	Sunday / 1:30pm	30 min

TV programmes are broadcasted on ORF 2, rebroadcasted the following week on ORF 3, and are available online in the ORF Media Library.⁵⁵ The commitment to making the ethnic groups more visible on ORF 3 TV is anchored in the current Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1 above).

Art.11.1.d – Facilitation of audiovisual works in SL: In this context, too, the digitalisation initiative set out in the Government Programme 2020-2024 should be mentioned.

Art.11.1.ei – Facilitation of a newspaper in SL: The Slovenian national minority group, represented by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council, has chosen the weekly newspaper *Novice* as its leading medium (Leitmedium),⁵⁶ which is to be modernised as part of the digitalisation initiative. The bilingual weekly newspaper *Nedelja* will continue to be published by the Diocese of Gurk.⁵⁷

Art.11.1.fii – Financial assistance of audiovisual productions in SL: Still guaranteed; the digitalisation initiative set out in the Government Programme 2020-2024 should also be mentioned in this context.

Art.11.2 – Guarantee of unhindered reception or rebroadcasting of radio and TV broadcasts in SL from neighboring countries and freedom of the press: Still guaranteed.

2.4.1.2.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Art.12.1.a – Promotion of cultural activities and facilities in and about SL: Still guaranteed.

Table 28: Proportion allocated for „culture“ in the Ethnic Minority Funding

⁵⁵ <https://volksgruppen.orf.at/slovinci/sporedi/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.novice.at>

⁵⁷ <https://www.kath-kirche-kaernten.at/dioezese/organisation/C2646>

Grant Report	Sum	%
2018	137,498.00	9.68%
2019	151,550.00	10.65%

Art.12.1.d – *Consideration of SL in cultural activities and their funding: Still guaranteed.*

Art.12.2 – *Support of cultural activities in/about SL outside the language area: Continues to be provided through funded activities in other states.*

Art.12.3 – *Consideration of SL in foreign cultural activities: The historical diversity of Austria reflected by the RML and thus SL is part of the foreign cultural activities of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, which is expressed, among other things, through the existence of 65 Austria Libraries in 28 countries and the activities of the international network of the Austrian Cultural Forum.*⁵⁸

2.4.1.2.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

Art.13.1.d – *Supporting the use of SL in economic and social life: Still guaranteed.*

2.4.1.2.7 Article 14b – Transfrontier exchanges

Contact with organisations of SL users in neighbouring countries, especially with partners and institutions in Slovenia, but also with other SL organisations in particular in Italy and Hungary, are still guaranteed. Worth mentioning in this context are the INTERREG Austria-

⁵⁸ <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/themen/auslandskultur/>

Slovenia projects.⁵⁹ A particularly noteworthy result of this successful and sustainable cross-border cooperation is the Geopark Karawanken.⁶⁰

2.4.2 Slovenian in Styria

The positive development regarding SL in Styria continued during the reporting period, and the province's commitment to its Slovene tradition and character was strengthened. One expression of this is the inclusion of SL as part of the language landscapes of the exhibition SHOWING SYTRIA.⁶¹ The greater appreciation of SL in the region is most likely also related to the Article VII Cultural Association of Styrian Slovenes. This association is not only dedicated to the history, culture and language of the ethnic group, but also has positioned the *Pavlova hiša* (Pavel House) as a supraregional cultural centre for the entire population of the region from the very beginning.⁶²

2.4.2.1 Part II / Article 7

Art.7.1.a – *Recognition of SL as an expression of cultural wealth*: Still constitutionally guaranteed and additionally strengthened by the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.7.1.b – *Respect of the geographical area*: Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.c – *Need for resolute action to promote SL: Strengthened by the Ethnic Minority Funding increase (see 1.1), which of course also benefits SL in Styria.*

Art.7.1.d – *Facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of SL*: The promotion of language use in public life is strengthened by cross-border contact and the associated increased exchange, which could certainly be conducive to a revitalisation of SL in the language area. Again, the media is important, especially the ORF's broadcasts; in radio broadcasting the Styrian Regional Studio cooperates with Radio Agora and the Carinthian Regional Studio, so that all broadcasts can be received in the Styrian language area and also deal with

⁵⁹ <https://www.ktn.gv.at/Verwaltung/Amt-der-Kaerntner-Landesregierung/Abteilung-3/EU-Programme/INTERREG%20V-A%20Slowenien-Österreich>

⁶⁰ <https://www.geopark.si/> / <https://www.geopark-karawanken.at>

⁶¹ <https://www.mobilerpavillon.at>

⁶² <http://www.pavelhaus.at/>

Styrian content.⁶³ The same applies to the weekly TV magazine, which is also produced in cooperation between the Styrian and Carinthian regional studios.

Table 29: SL on Styrian TV:

Programme	Broadcast date	Duration
<i>Dober dan, Štajerska</i>	Sun / 1:30pm	30 min

The TV magazine broadcasted on ORF 2 is repeated the following week on ORF 3 and will be available online with radio broadcasts and additional news items.⁶⁴

Art.7.1.e – Maintenance and development of links between groups using SL: Still ensured, among other things, by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council and the close contact with representatives of the Carinthian Slovenes.

Art.7.1.f – Provision of appropriate forms and means for teaching and study: In the reporting period, the first SL preschool was founded in Graz. School instruction in SL is offered in Styria at primary and secondary schools as well as in AHS schools as an elective and optional subject. Pupil numbers have risen over the last ten years and are now relatively stable with a potential for an upward trend:

Table 30: SL teaching in Styria

School year	Pupils
2018/19	438
2019/20	474
2020/21	450

⁶³ <https://steiermark.orf.at/v2/studio/stories/2533951/>

⁶⁴ <https://volksgruppen.orf.at/slovenci/sporedi/>

Concerning practical-oriented activities and the exchange of pupils in SL, various activities and joint projects are organised by Styrian schools with partner schools in Slovenia with the support of the Styrian Directorate of Education. In addition, cross-border bilingualism and immigrants are becoming increasingly important for maintaining SL as an RML, which manifests itself, among other things, in the provision of mother-tongue teaching both in Styria, which borders Slovenia, and in Vienna.

Table 31: Mother tongue teaching in SL

School year	Pupils	Styria	Vienna
2017/18	37	24	13
2018/19	70	41	29

Art.7.1.g – *Provision of facilities enabling non-speakers to learn SL: Also, note again, the courses offered by the VHS first and foremost. In addition, there are regular language courses at the language centres of the universities in Graz, which are also open to the general population.*

Art.7.1.h – *Promotion of study and research at universities or equivalent institutions:*

- Bachelor’s degree at the University of Graz⁶⁵
- Interpreting degree at the University of Graz⁶⁶
- Master’s degree at the University of Graz⁶⁷

⁶⁵ <https://www.uni-graz.at/en/studies/teaching-subjects/teaching-the-subject-of-slovenian/>

⁶⁶ <https://translationswissenschaft.uni-graz.at/en/slovene/>

⁶⁷ <https://slawistik.uni-graz.at/de/studieren/studienangebot-an-der-slawistik/>

Art.7.1.i – *Promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges:* Contact as well as joint activities with organisations in the neighbouring Slovenia, as well as with SL users and their representative organisations in Hungary and Italy.

Art.7.2 – *Elimination of unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference: Still constitutionally guaranteed.*

Art.7.3 – *Promotion of understanding, tolerance and respect between speakers of different RML / in education / in the media:* Still guaranteed / reinforced by the above-mentioned Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research regulation.

Art.7.4 – *Consideration of the needs and wishes of SL users / establishment of advisory bodies:* Further guaranteed by, among others, the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council. The modernisation of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council is mentioned in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

2.4.3 Implementation of the urgent recommendations of the Expert Committee

- *Ensure an efficient and timely processing of promotional funds for Slovenian, in co-operation with the speakers.*

The process initiated in 2018 to improve the conditions for funding processing has already led to a significant acceleration in processing and is currently pursued even further against the backdrop of the budget doubling.

- *Include the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by the Slovenian language in the curriculum of the German-medium schools in Carinthia.*

Regulated by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research regulation coming into force at the beginning of 2022 (see 1.2 above) not only for Carinthia and Styria, but for the entire federal territory.

2.5 Czech (CS) / český jazyk

Since the Czech ethnic group is concentrated in Vienna and consequently no representative organisations exist in other parts of Austria, the Ethnic Minority Funding is used exclusively in this province. In addition, CS use has recently also been documented in Lower Austria.

2.5.1 Part II / Article 7

Art.7.1.a – *Recognition of CS as an expression of cultural wealth:* Still constitutionally guaranteed and additionally strengthened by the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.7.1.b – *Respect of the geographical area:* Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.c – *Need for resolute action to promote CS: Strengthened by the Ethnic Minority Funding increase (see 1.1), which of course also benefits CS.*

Art.7.1.d – *Facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of CS in public and private life: As far as the promotion of the use of the CS language is concerned, the leading medium (Leitmedium) *Videňské svobodné listy* mentioned above (1.2) as well as the ORF programmes should be noted:*

Table 32: ORF's CS broadcasts

Medium	Programme	Broadcast date	Duration
Radio	<i>Rádio Dratak</i>	2x/month Mon / 9:10pm	20 min
TV	<i>Ceské Ozveny</i>	6x/year Sun / 13:05pm	25 min

The TV magazine broadcast on ORF 2 is repeated the following week on ORF 3 and is available online with radio broadcasts and additional news items.⁶⁸

Since 2018, the Ethnic Minority Funding has been funding the "Lehrredaktion" project of the Komenský Schulverein (Komenský School Association) for pupils between the ages of 13 and 18 to teach them the basics of media reporting for the production of editorial contributions for television and radio programmes in three languages (Czech, Slovak and German) in cooperation with the ORF.

Art.7.1.e – Maintenance and development of links between groups using CS: Still guaranteed, among others, through the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council.

Art.7.1.f – Provision of appropriate forms and means for teaching and study: Teacher training for CS is offered in cooperation between the PH Vienna and the University of Vienna.⁶⁹ Lessons in CS take place at the *Komenský School*:⁷⁰

Table 33: CS in Vienna in the school year 2019/20

School level	Classes/groups	Pupils
Preschool	4 groups	80
Elementary school	8 groups	179

The promotion of the *Školský spolek Komenský* is a top priority for the Ethnic Minority Funding:

Table 34: Ethnic Minority Funding of the *Komenský Schulverein*

⁶⁸ <https://volksgruppen.orf.at/cesi/>
⁶⁹ <https://studieren.univie.ac.at/studienangebot/lehramtsstudien/tschechisch-unterrichtsfach/>
⁷⁰ <https://www.komensky-vienna.at/>

Year	Grant sum
2018	330,750.00
2019	319,900.00
2020	473,625.00

Cross-border bilingualism and immigrants are becoming increasingly important for the maintenance of CS as a RML, which is manifested, among other things, in the availability of mother-tongue instruction both in Lower Austria (NÖ), which borders the Czech Republic, and in other schools in Vienna.

Table 35: Mother tongue teaching in CS

School year	Pupils	in NÖ	in Vienna
2017/18	34	17	17
2018/19	60	29	31

Art.7.1.g – *Provision of facilities enabling non-speakers to learn CS: Here again, the offer of the VHS should be mentioned first and foremost, not only but especially in Vienna.*⁷¹

Art.7.1.h – *Promotion of study and research at universities or equivalent institutions: CS is part of the Bachelor's degree programme in Slavic Studies and can be studied as a Master's degree programme at the University of Vienna.*⁷²

⁷¹ <https://www.vhs.at/de/k/sprachen/tschechisch>

⁷² <https://slawistik.univie.ac.at/studium/studienangebot/>

Art.7.1.i – *Promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges:* Contact and also joint activities with organisations and institutions in the Czech Republic.

Art.7.2 – *Elimination of unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference:* Still constitutionally guaranteed.

Art.7.3 – *Promotion of understanding, tolerance and respect between speakers of different RML / in education / in the media:* Still guaranteed / reinforced by the above-mentioned Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research regulation.

Art.7.4 – *Consideration of the needs and wishes of SL users / establishment of advisory bodies:* Still guaranteed by, among others, the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council. The modernisation of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council is mentioned in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

2.5.2 Implementation of the urgent recommendations of the Expert Committee

- *Ensure an efficient and timely processing of promotional funds for Czech, in co-operation with the speakers.*

The process initiated in 2018 to improve the conditions for funding processing has already led to a significant acceleration in processing and is currently pursued even further against the backdrop of the budget doubling.

- *Reconsider amending the Private School Act with a view to granting a special legal status to the Komenský School and ensuring the sustainability of its activity.*

As legislative changes always take longer, this recommendation is still being discussed. The first positive effect, however, is the now clear commitment of the federal and regional authorities to the preservation of the *Komenský* School.

2.6 Hungarian (HU) / magyar nyelv

HU is traditionally spoken in Burgenland as well as in Vienna. However, the Ethnic Minority Funding also supports activities of the ethnic group in other federal provinces.

Table 36: Funding distribution for HU in the federal provinces (in EUR)

Grant period	Total	Bgld	OÖ	Styria	Tyrol	Vienna
2018	445,350.00	293,895.00	3,070.00	2,500.00	700.00	145,175.00
2019	436,400.00	245,050.00	3,500.00	2,500.00	700.00	184,650.00

Bgld = Burgenland / OÖ = Oberösterreich

2.6.1 Hungarian in Burgenland

2.6.1.1 Part II / Article 7

For more detailed information, see also the relevant articles under 2.6.1.2.

Art.7.1.a – *Recognition of HU as an expression of cultural wealth:* Still constitutionally guaranteed and additionally reinforced by the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.7.1.b – *Respect of the geographical area:* Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.c – *Need for resolute action to promote HU: Strengthened by Ethnic Minority Funding increase (see 1.1), which of course also benefits HU.*

Art.7.1.d – *Facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of HU in public and private domains:* Still guaranteed, see also digitalisation initiative, which is intended to further facilitate use in the future, also in virtual space.

Art.7.1.e – *Maintenance and development of links between groups using HU:* Still guaranteed by, among others, the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council.

Art.7.1.f – *Provision of appropriate forms and means for teaching and study:* Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.g – *Provision of facilities enabling non-speakers to learn HU:* Ensured by the VHS of the Burgenland Hungarians, the Burgenland Hungarian Cultural Association and the Hungarian Media and Information Centre, as well as the nationwide VHS offers.

Art.7.1.h – *Promotion of study and research at universities or equivalent institutions:* University of Vienna, interpreting studies degree at the University of Graz, PPH Burgenland.

Art.7.1.i – *Promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges:* Close contact and joint projects with organisations and institutions in the neighbouring Hungary.

Art.7.2 – *Elimination of unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference:* Still constitutionally guaranteed.

Art.7.3 – *Promotion of understanding, tolerance and respect between speakers of different RML / in education / in the media:* Still guaranteed / reinforced by the above-mentioned Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research regulation.

Art.7.4 – *Consideration of the needs and wishes of SL users / establishment of advisory bodies:* Still guaranteed by, among others, the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council. The modernisation of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council is mentioned in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

2.6.1.2 Part III / Article 8-14

2.6.1.2.1 Artikel 8 – Education

Art.8.1.a.ii – *HU as a substantial part of pre-school education:* In childcare facilities in the language area, at least 12 hours per week and per group are dedicated to HU. In the school year 2018/2019, 2,365 preschool children attended 119 groups in BK & HU.

Art.8.1.bii – *HU as a substantial part of primary education: In this area, the situation has improved significantly since the last reporting period due to the creation of new classes.*

Table 37: Pupils in elementary school

School year	Pupils
2018/2019	1,149
2019/2020	1,038
2020/2021	1,038

In the school year 2020/21, HU was the language of instruction at two bilingual primary schools and in nine classes at German-language primary schools (111 pupils), as well as a compulsory subject in 28 other classes (286 pupils). In addition, 589 pupils were taught HU as part of so-called "non-compulsory programmes" (\approx optional subjects).

Art.8.1.ciii – *HU as a subject within secondary education: The situation is also unchanged; the considerable decline in the number of pupils progressing from primary schools to secondary schools, general secondary schools (AHS) or grammar schools continues to be a challenge.*

Table 38: Pupils in lower secondary education

School year	Pupils
2018/2019	351
2019/2020	269
2020/2021	265

Detailed statistics are available for the AHS and the Gymnasien in Burgenland for the school year 2020/21:

Table 39: Pupils at AHS

School	Pupils
Zweisprachiges Gymnasium Oberwart	134
4 AHS mit Pflicht- oder Freifach HU	34
TOTAL	168

Art.8.1.div – HU at vocational schools (BS): Detailed statistics are also available for this type for the school year 2020/21:

Table 40: Pupils in vocational schools

Schools	Pupils
3 BS with HU as a compulsory (Pflicht), compulsory-optional (Wahlpflicht) or optional classes	105
Federal Training College for Elementary Education with HU as an optional subject	20
TOTAL	125

Art.8.1.eiii – HU as a study programme at colleges and universities

- HU as part of the Finno-Ugristik (Finno-Ugrian Studies) at the University of Vienna with its own Master’s degree,
- Interpreting studies degree at the University of Graz

Art.8.1.fiii – HU as an option in adult education

Adult education is essentially covered by the Burgenland VHS, which not only offers courses in HU, but also run their own VHS of Burgenland Hungarians – *Burgenlandi Magyarok Népfőiskolája*.⁷³

Art.8.1.g – History and culture of HU as part of the curriculum: See the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research regulation for 2022 mentioned in 1.2.

Art.8.1.h – Teacher training for HU

- University course and additional qualification in bilingual teaching (German/HU) at PPH Burgenland,
- Further education courses at the PPH Burgenland

Art.8.1.i – Supervisory body and regular reports on the situation of HU: The Department for Minority Education of the Burgenland Directorate of Education lately publishes annual online reports, from which the data on the school year 2020/21 used here are taken.

Art.8.2 – SL in programmes outside the defined language area: HU is an integral part of the diverse range of school and extracurricular activities on offer throughout the federal territory, whereby the VHS should again be mentioned above all. In addition, there are special activities of ethnic group associations in Vienna (see 2.6.2) and regular language courses at the language centres of the universities, which are also open to the general population.

2.6.1.2.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

Although Burgenland was part of the Kingdom of Hungary until 1921, German was the supra-regional administrative and court language. In addition, the tradition of using HU in public domains, which was already restricted at that time, was completely suppressed during the first republic. Efforts to change the situation in the sense of the Ethnic Groups Act have so far been unsuccessful, but are still being pursued.

When ratifying the Charter Austria made a commitment to ensure the right to use HU with/at judicial authorities. Since this right is guaranteed in all cases by Austrian legislation

⁷³ <https://www.vhs-burgenland.at/regionale-kontakte/volksgruppen/>

and is furthermore known to the persons concerned, the commitments under Article 9 are generally fulfilled. Nevertheless, efforts will continue to establish HU not only theoretically, but also practically in this domain. This is also supported by the clear commitment to the preservation and promotion of bilingual district jurisdiction of the ethnic groups in the Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1).

- Art.9.1.a.ii** – *the right to use HU in criminal proceedings*
- Art.9.1.a.iii** – *the right to requests and evidence in HU in criminal proceedings*
- Art.9.1.b.ii** – *the right of the litigant to use HU in civil proceedings*
- Art.9.1.b.iii** – *the right to documents and evidence in HU in civil proceedings*
- Art.9.1.c.ii** – *the right of the litigant to HU in administrative matters*
- Art.9.1.c.iii** – *the right to documents and evidence in HU in administrative matters*
- Art.9.1.d** – *translations into/from HU of documents and in court at no additional expense*
- Art.9.2.a** – *recognition of the validity of documents in HU at court*

2.6.1.2.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

In line with the history of usage outlined in Article 9, HU is used far more frequently in local-oral than in supra-regional-written administrative domains. Commitments under Article 10 primarily concern the guarantee that using HU in contact with administrative authorities is possible. Since this is the case, the Republic of Austria meets its requirements concerning this matter, which will also be ensured increasingly by the digitalisation initiative laid down in the Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1). Its impact could also promote the provision of documents of regional authorities in RML. The first positive indicator for this is the website of the Province of Burgenland created in celebration of its 100th anniversary which is available in all national languages and thus also in HU.⁷⁴

Art.10.1.a.iii – *Requests to all authorities in the language area and responses in HU: Oral questions and replies in HU are possible and in many cases the rule. Although all provisions are made for written official correspondence, this possibility is used less frequently.*

⁷⁴ <https://www.1921-2021.at/hr/>

Art.10.1.c – *Possibility for federal authorities to publish documents in HU:* This is reinforced by the ongoing digitalisation initiative set out in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.10.2.b – *Possibility of requests to regional & local authorities in HU:* See Art.10.1.iii.

Art.10.2.d – *Documents of local authorities in HU:* Here, too, the digitalisation initiative that has been launched should be mentioned as an additional reinforcement of existing options.

Art.10.4.a – *Translations into/from HU free of charge:* Still guaranteed.

Art.10.5 – *Possibility of using and adapting HU surnames:* Still guaranteed.

2.6.1.2.4 Article 11 – Media

An overview of the services offered by ORF, which has been required to broadcast regularly in the RML since 2002, can be found on its website.⁷⁵ Since March 2019, for the first time the contemporary and cultural-historical video archive “Volksgruppen in Österreich” (“Ethnic Groups in Austria”) is available for an unlimited period on the ORF Media Library.⁷⁶

Art.11.1.bii – *Regular radio broadcasts in HU*

Tabelle 41: Programmes by the ORF-Landesstudio Burgenland

Programme	Broadcast date	Duration
<i>Magyar Hírmagazin</i>	Mon - Sun / 6:45pm	15 min
<i>Színes Kultúránk</i>	Mon / 9:30pm	20 min

⁷⁵ <https://der.orf.at/kundendienst/volksgruppen100.html>

⁷⁶ <https://tvthek.orf.at/history/Volksgruppen-in-Oesterreich/13557924>

All radio broadcasts are available online in the ORF Media Library.⁷⁷

Art.11.1.cii – Regular TV programmes in HU

Table 42: Programmes by the ORF-Landesstudio Burgenland (with broadcasting in Vienna):

Programme	Broadcast date	Duration
<i>Adj' Isten magyarok</i>	6x/year Sun / 1:05pm	25 min

TV programmes are broadcasted on ORF 2, repeated the following week on ORF 3 and are available online in the ORF Media Library.⁷⁸ Since September 2020, the TV magazine has been available online for an unlimited period of time on the ORF's ethnic groups page.⁷⁹ The commitment to increase the visibility of the ethnic groups on the TV channel ORF 3 is included in the current Government Programme 2020-2024 (see 1.1 above).

Art.11.1.d – Facilitation of audiovisual works in HU: Audiovisual productions in HU continue to be promoted, for example the productions of the Hungarian Media and Communication Centre, which runs a YouTube channel, among other things.⁸⁰ In this context, the digitalisation initiative laid down in the Government Programme 2020-2024 should again be mentioned.

Art.11.1.ei – Facilitation of a newspaper in HU: The Hungarian national minority group represented by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council has decided on an online newspaper as its leading medium (Leitmedium). *Rólunk - Austria Magyar Odalai* (About Us - Austria's Hungarian Pages) went online on 1 September 2021.⁸¹ The existing magazines of the associations will continue to be supported by the general Ethnic Minority Funding.

Art.11.1.fii – Financial assistance of audiovisual productions in HU: Further guaranteed. Also, note in this context, the digitalisation initiative set out in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

⁷⁷ <https://radiothek.orf.at/vgrp>

⁷⁸ <https://tvthek.orf.at/profiles/genre/Volksgruppen/70443#scroll>

⁷⁹ <https://volksgruppen.orf.at/magyarok/>

⁸⁰ <http://www.umiz.at/de/>

⁸¹ <https://rolunk.at>

Art.11.2 – *Guarantee of unhindered reception or rebroadcasting of radio and TV broadcasts in SL from neighboring countries and freedom of the press: Still guaranteed.*

2.6.1.2.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Art.12.1.a – *Promotion of cultural activities and facilities in and about HU: Still guaranteed.*

Table 43: Proportion allocated for “culture” of the Ethnic Minority Funding:

Grant report	Sum (in EUR)	%
2018	67,780.00	15.21%
2019	69,680.00	15.97%

% of total grant sum (see Table 4)

Art.12.1.d – *Consideration of HU in cultural activities and their funding: Still guaranteed.*

Art.12.2 – *Support of cultural activities in/about HU outside the language area: Continues to be provided through funded activities in other states. (see also 2.6 above).*

Art.12.3 – *Consideration of HU in foreign cultural activities: The historical diversity of Austria reflected by the RML and thus HU is part of the foreign cultural activities of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, which is expressed, among other things, through the existence of 65 Austria Libraries in 28 countries and the activities of the international network of the Austrian Cultural Forum.*⁸²

2.6.1.2.6 Article 13 –Economic and social life

Art.13.1.d – *Supporting the use of SL in economic and social life: Still guaranteed.*

⁸² <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/themen/auslandskultur/>

2.6.1.2.7 Article 14b – Transfrontier exchanges

Contact with organisations of HU users in neighbouring countries, especially with partners and institutions in Hungary, but also with other HU organisations are still guaranteed. Also, note in this context the INTERREG Austria-Hungary projects.⁸³

2.6.2 Hungarian in Vienna

Besides the Ausztriai Magyar Egyesületek és Szervezetek Központi Szövetsége (Central Union of Hungarian Associations),⁸⁴ other organisations of Hungarians traditionally based in Vienna are active, including the Bécsi Magyar Iskola Egyesület, which is immensely important for HU. In addition to Burgenland and Vienna, Hungarian is now also present in various other provinces (see below Art. 7.1.f), which is also reflected in the distribution of the Ethnic Minority Funding funds (see above 2.6 Table 36).

2.6.2.1 Part II / Article 7

Art.7.1.a – *Recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth: Still constitutionally guaranteed* and additionally strengthened by the Government Programme 2020-2024.

Art.7.1.b – *Respect of the geographical area:* Still guaranteed.

Art.7.1.c – *Resolute action to promote HU: Strengthened by Ethnic Minority Funding increase (see 1.1), which of course also benefits HU in Vienna.*

Art.7.1.d – *Facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages:* As far as the promotion of HU language use is concerned, the online resource Rólunk - Ausztria Magyar Oldalai mentioned above (1.2) as the leading medium (Leitmedium), as well as other publications by the association which are supported by the Ethnic Minority Funding, should be mentioned alongside the ORF programmes, which,

⁸³ <https://www.burgenland.at/themen/bildung/interreg-oesterreich-ungarn-big-inn-at-hu/>

⁸⁴ <http://www.kozpontiszovetseg.at>

although produced by the ORF Regional Studio Burgenland, is broadcast in Vienna and can be generally received through terrestrial reception.

Table 44: HU programmes by the ORF Vienna

Medium	Programme	Broadcast date	Duration
Radio	<i>Színes Kultúránk</i>	Weekly on Mon / 9.30pm	20 min
TV	<i>Adj'isten magyarok</i>	6x/year Sun / 1.05pm	25 min

The TV magazine that is broadcasted on ORF 2 is repeated the following week on ORF 3 and is available online with radio broadcasts and additional news.⁸⁵ Since September 2020, the TV magazine has been available online for an unlimited period of time on the ORF's ethnic groups page.⁸⁶

Art.7.1.e – *Maintenance and development of links between groups using a regional or minority language: Still guaranteed by, among others, the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council.*

Art.7.1.f – *Provision of appropriate forms and means for teaching and study:* Teacher training for HU is offered in cooperation between the PH Vienna and the University of Vienna.⁸⁷ A preschool group in HU for a maximum of 25 children is offered at the *Komenský* School. In addition, since the school year 2018/19, bilingual education has been offered at a primary school in the district of Währing.⁸⁸ Another important learning opportunity for the ethnic group in Vienna is the extracurricular education offered by various associations.

Cross-border bilingualism and immigrants are becoming increasingly important for the preservation of HU as an RML, which manifests itself, among other things, in the offer of

⁸⁵ <https://tvthek.orf.at/profiles/genre/Volksgruppen/70443#scroll>

⁸⁶ <https://volksgruppen.orf.at/magyarok/>

⁸⁷ <https://studieren.univie.ac.at/studienangebot/lehramtsstudien/ungarisch-unterrichtsfach/>

⁸⁸ <http://www.kozpontiszovetseg.at/felhivas-a-bunte-schule-igazgatonojeto/>

mother-tongue teaching both in Burgenland (Bgld), which borders on Hungary, and at other schools in several provinces.

Table 45: Mother tongue teaching in HU

School year	Pupils	Bgld	NÖ	Sbg	Styria	Tyrol	Vienna
2017/18	290	12	16	15	119	100	18
2018/19	319	34	61	18	98	91	17

Sbg = Salzburg

Art.7.1.g – *Provision of facilities enabling non-speakers to learn HU: Again, the Hungarian school association Bécsi Magyar Iskola Egyesület and the offers of the VHS, not only but especially in Vienna, should be mentioned here.*⁸⁹

Art.7.1.h – *Promotion of study and research at universities or equivalent institutions: HU is offered, among others, as a Bachelor's programme and Master's programme at the University of Vienna.*⁹⁰

Art.7.1.i – *Promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges: Contact and also joint activities with organisations and institutions in Hungary.*

Art.7.2 – *Elimination of unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference: Still constitutionally guaranteed.*

Art.7.3 – *Promotion of understanding, tolerance and respect between speakers of different RML / in education / in the media: Still guaranteed, in the education sector strengthened by the above-mentioned regulation of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research.*

Art.7.4 – *Consideration of the needs and wishes of SL users / establishment of advisory bodies: Still guaranteed by, among others, the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council. The*

⁸⁹ <https://www.vhs.at/de/k/sprachen/ungarisch>

⁹⁰ <https://finno-ugristik.univie.ac.at/studium//>

modernisation of the Ethnic Minority Advisory Council is mentioned in the Government Programme 2020-2024.

2.6.3 Implementation of the urgent recommendations of the Expert Committee

- *Ensure an efficient and timely processing of promotional funds for Hungarian, in co-operation with the speakers.*

The process initiated in 2018 to improve the conditions for funding processing has already led to a significant acceleration in processing and is currently pursued even further against the backdrop of the budget doubling.

- *Include the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by the Hungarian language in the curriculum of the German-medium schools in Burgenland.*

Regulated by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research regulation coming into force at the beginning of 2022 (see 1.2 above) not only for Burgenland, but for the entire federal territory.

Bundeskanzleramt

Ballhausplatz 1, 1010 Wien

+43 1 531 15-0

volksgruppen@bka.gv.at

bundeskanzleramt.gv.at