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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**

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Fifth Periodical Report on the Implementation of the Undertakings Arising from the  
European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Czech Republic**

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## Introduction

The Czech Republic ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (the “Charter”) on 15 November 2006. Upon ratification, the Czech Republic declared that it considers Slovak, Polish, German and Romani to be minority languages that are spoken in the territory of the Czech Republic and to which it will apply the provisions of Part II of the Charter, and that it undertakes to apply selected provisions of Part III of the Charter to Polish and Slovak in accordance with Article 2(2) and 3(1) of the Charter<sup>1</sup>. The Charter entered into force for the Czech Republic in accordance with Article 19(2) on 1 March 2007. It was published in the Collection of International Treaties of the Czech Republic under No 15/2007 on the same day. Article 15 of the Charter provides that the State party shall submit periodical reports to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the implementation of the commitments undertaken.

The last (fourth) periodical report on the fulfilment of the obligations arising from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was approved at the Government meeting on 3 January 2018, by Resolution No 20. Subsequently, the Council Secretariat, in cooperation with the Advisory Committee, organised a monitoring visit of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to the Czech Republic from 17 to 20 September 2018. Meetings were held with representatives of national minorities and public administration at local and regional level and with representatives of the public media. The Committee of Experts subsequently prepared an evaluation report for the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The Czech Republic did not exercise its right to respond to the report under Article 16 of the Charter. On 19 June 2019, the Committee of Ministers addressed a recommendation to the Czech Republic on the implementation of its Charter obligations.<sup>2</sup>

Subsequently, the Czech Republic was invited to prepare the Information on the Implementation of Recommendations for Immediate Action. It submitted this Information on 7 May 2020. The Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe then commented on the material in the Assessment of the Committee of Experts on the Implementation of Recommendations for Immediate Action on 2 July 2020 and the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on the Implementation of Recommendations for Immediate Action on 23 September 2020. Therefore, the Information on the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action will not be the subject of this report, as it has already been duly submitted to the Committee of Ministers.

As usual, the Fifth Periodical Report on the Implementation of the Undertakings Arising from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was prepared on the basis of input from the relevant ministries responsible for the implementation of national minority policy, local government authorities, cooperating representatives of the public media and expert comments from Council members, i.e. representatives of public administration and representatives of national minorities, and input from the Council Secretariat. The report follows the outline approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and covers the period 2017 to 2022.

The Annex to this report contains contact details of associations of national minorities whose languages are protected by the Charter in the Czech Republic and their periodicals.

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<sup>1</sup> Communication No 15/2007 in the Collection of International Treaties, Communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on negotiation the execution of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

<sup>2</sup> All documents available here: <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/dokumenty/mezinarodni-dokumenty/evropska-charta-regionalnich-ci-mensinovyh-jazyku-17547/>.



## National minorities in the Czech Republic

The term “national minority” is defined in the Czech Republic in Act No 273/2001, on the rights of members of national minorities and amending certain acts, as amended (hereinafter the “Minorities Act”). The definition under the above Act is as follows: “A national minority is a community of citizens of the Czech Republic living on the territory of the present-day Czech Republic who differ from other citizens, as a rule, by their common ethnic origin, language, culture and traditions, form minority of the population in terms of their number and at the same time show a will to be considered a national minority for the purpose of a common effort to preserve and develop their own identity, language and culture and at the same time to express and protect the interests of their community, which has formed historically. A member of a national minority is a citizen of the Czech Republic who claims to be of a nationality other than Czech and expresses a wish to be considered a member of a national minority together with others who claim the same nationality.

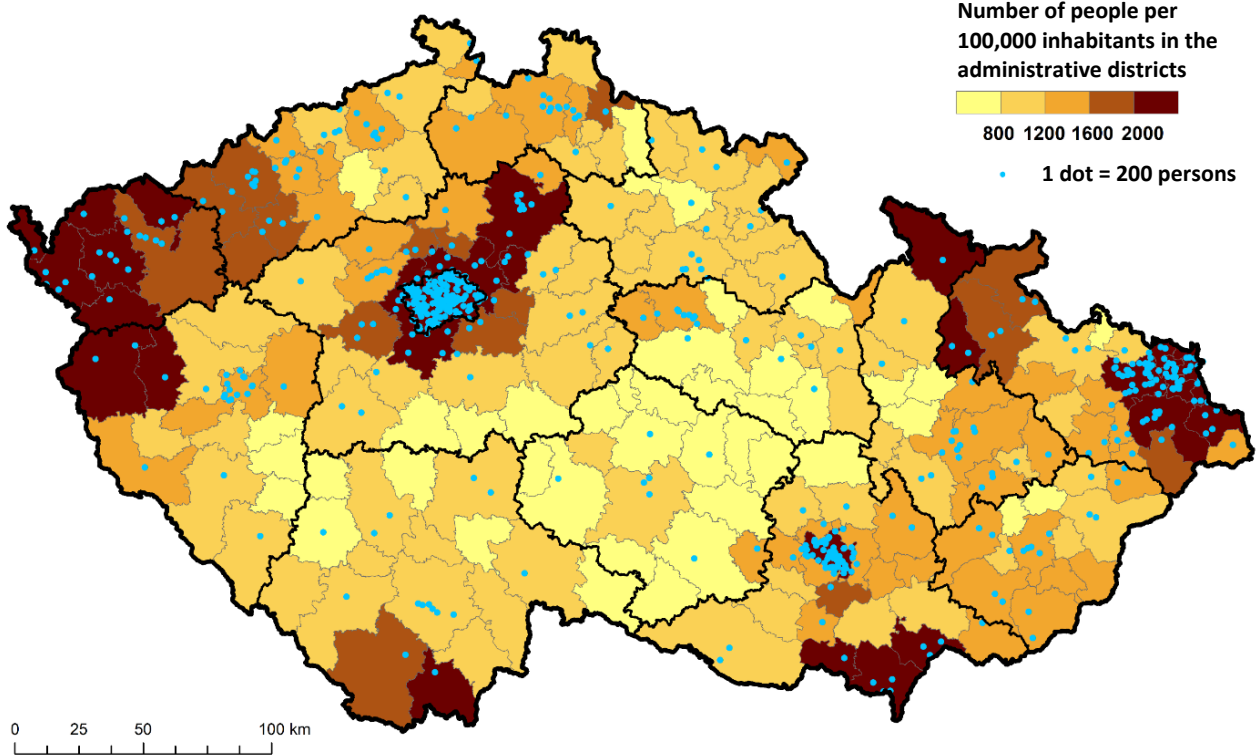
In 2021, the population and housing census took place in the Czech Republic again after 10 years. The Czech Statistical Office provided the Government Office with map documentation on the spatial distribution of members of individual national minorities. Data on members of national minorities whose languages are protected by the Charter can be found on the following pages. However, it should be noted that there is a set of citizens who did not declare any nationality in the census. Nevertheless, the sample of members of national minorities is so representative that, in principle, there should be no bias in the results as to the proportion of any given minority in the different areas in the maps. The maps are sorted according to the size of the ethnic minority in the census. It should be noted that in the case of the Roma national minority there is a significant discrepancy between the number of members of the Roma minority who indicated their nationality in the 2021 census (21,691) and the qualified estimates (around 250,000).

Tab. 1 Population of the Czech Republic by selected nationalities (2021 population and housing census)

<b>national minority</b>	<b>one nationality</b>	<b>in combination with another nationality</b>	<b>total</b>
<b>Slovak</b>	96,041	66,537	<b>162,578</b>
<b>Polish</b>	26,802	11,416	<b>38,218</b>
<b>German</b>	9,128	15,504	<b>24,632</b>
<b>Roma</b>	4,458	17,233	<b>21,691</b>
<b>Croatian</b>	1,167	1,247	<b>2,414</b>

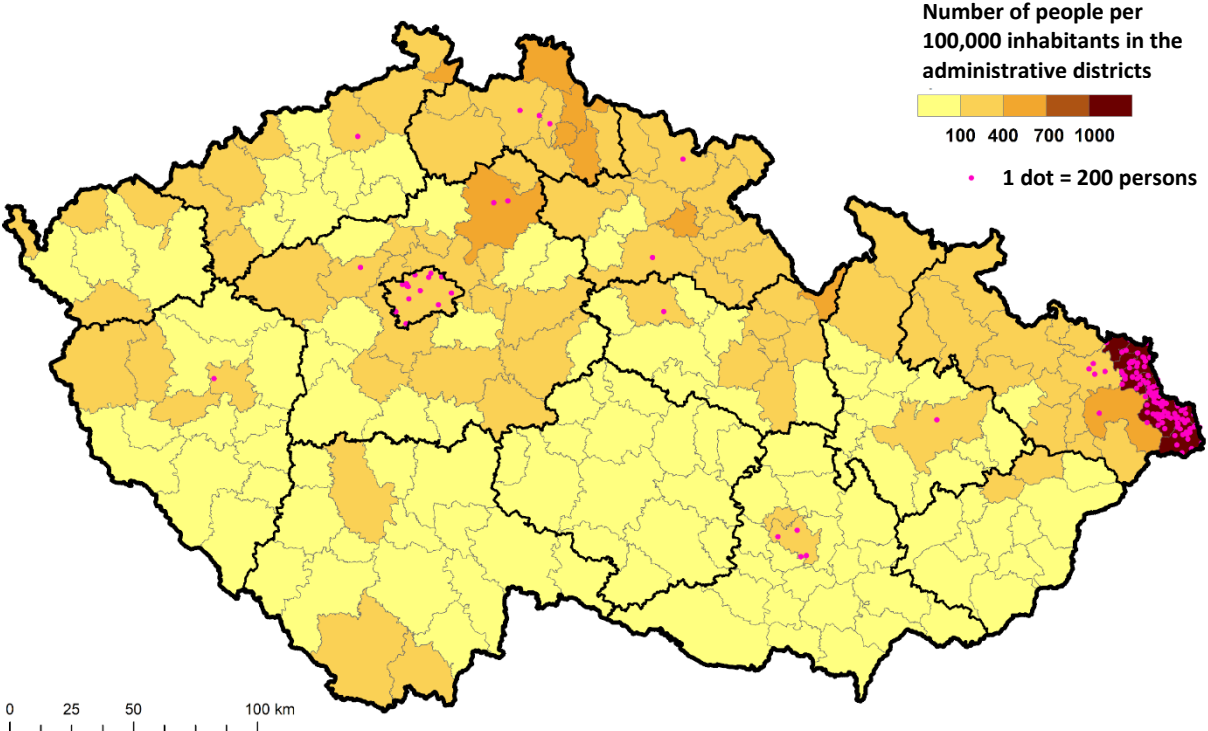
Map 1 Slovak National Minority

Population of Slovak nationality according to the 2021 census



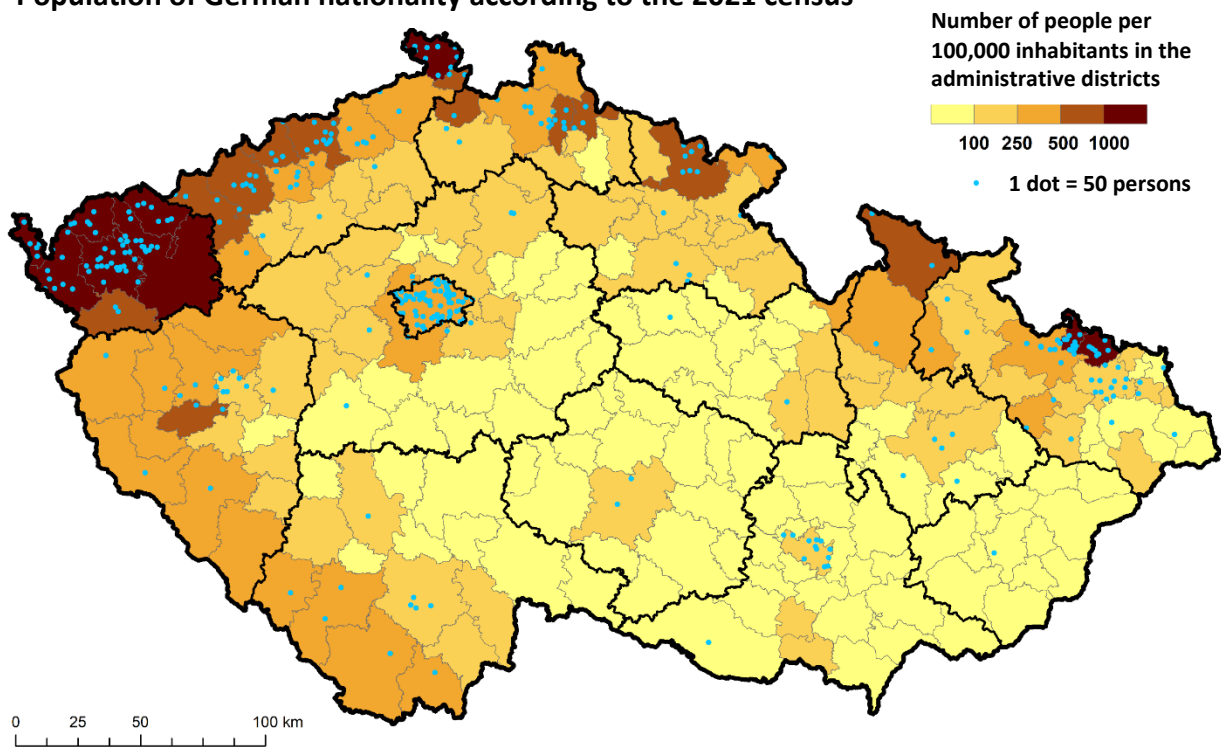
Map 2 Polish National Minority

Population of Polish nationality according to the 2021 census



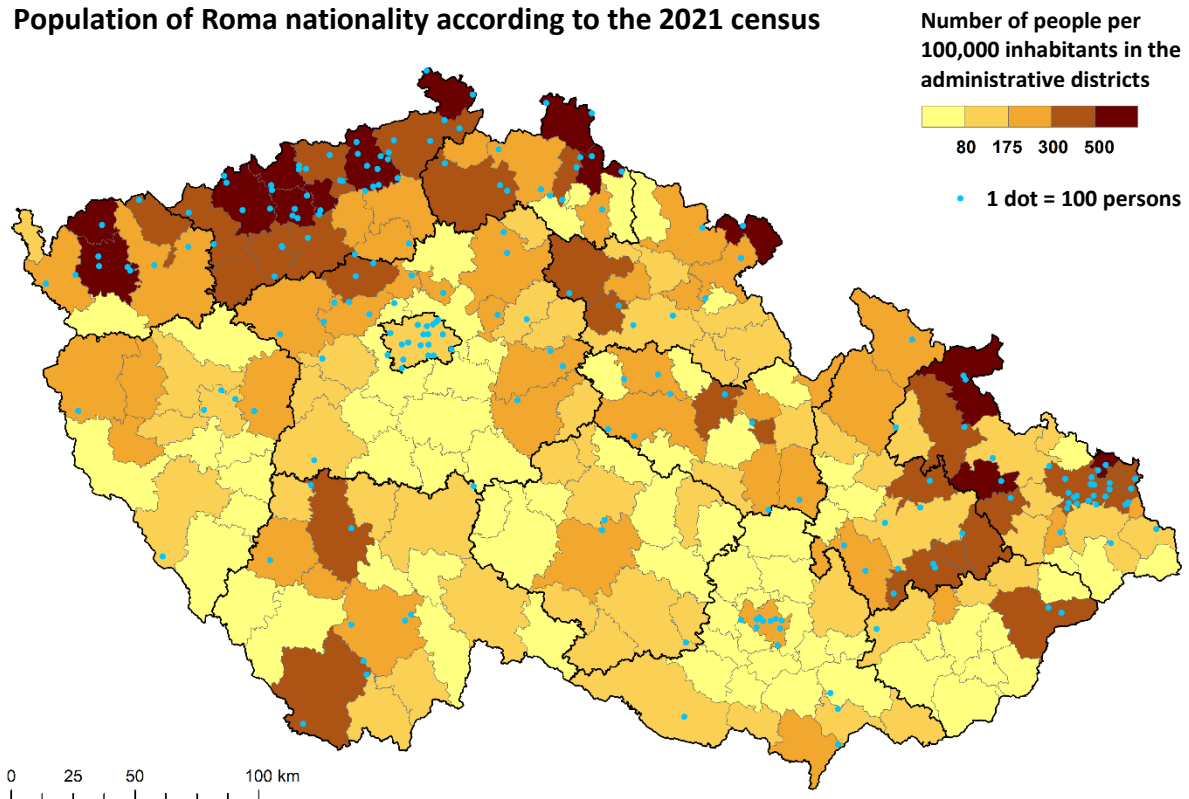
Map 3 German National Minority

Population of German nationality according to the 2021 census



Map 4 Roma National Minority

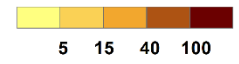
Population of Roma nationality according to the 2021 census



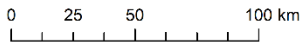
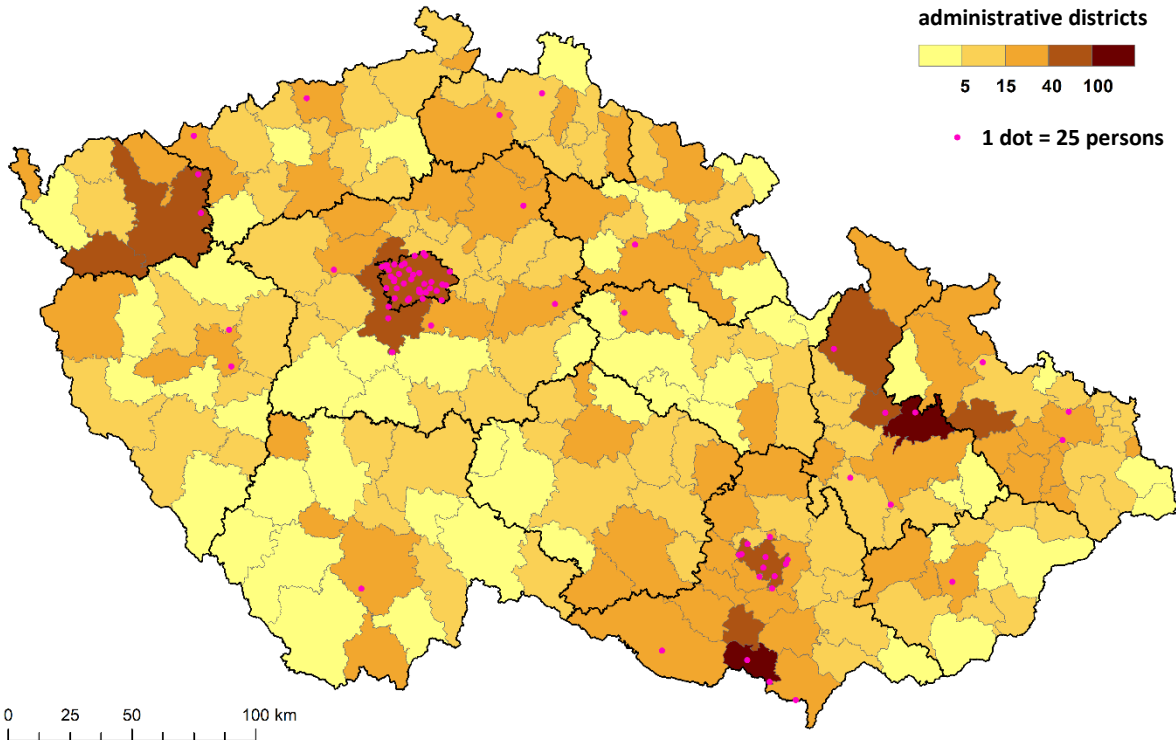
Map 5 Croatian National Minority (including Moravian Croats)

Population of Croatian nationality according to the 2021 census

Number of people per 100,000 inhabitants in the administrative districts



• 1 dot = 25 persons



## Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic

### Ministry of Culture

On the basis of Government Regulation No 98/2002, laying down the conditions and method of providing grants from the State budget for the activities of members of national minorities and for supporting the integration of members of the Roma community, as amended, the Ministry of Culture (the “MoC”) administers the following three grant programmes, which affect minority languages to varying degrees and for which funds are annually allocated from the State budget. The grant share usually reaches 70% of the total project budget. This percentage is increased to 100% in exceptional cases.

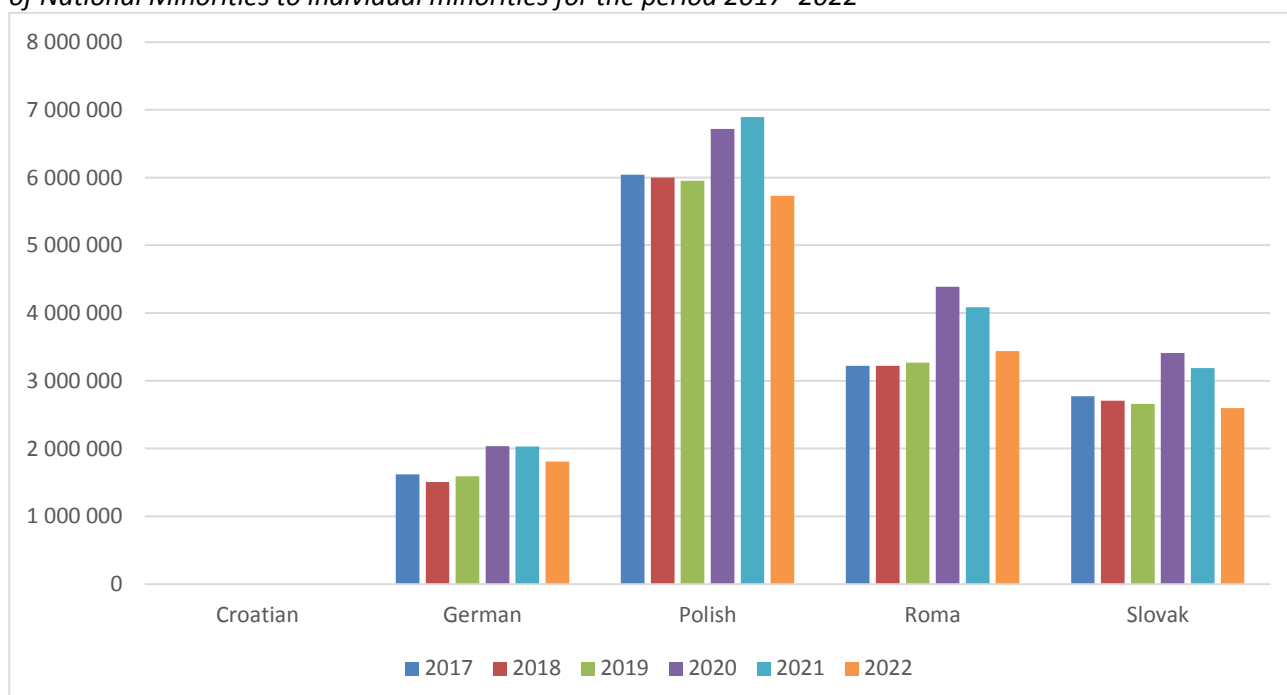
#### **Programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities**

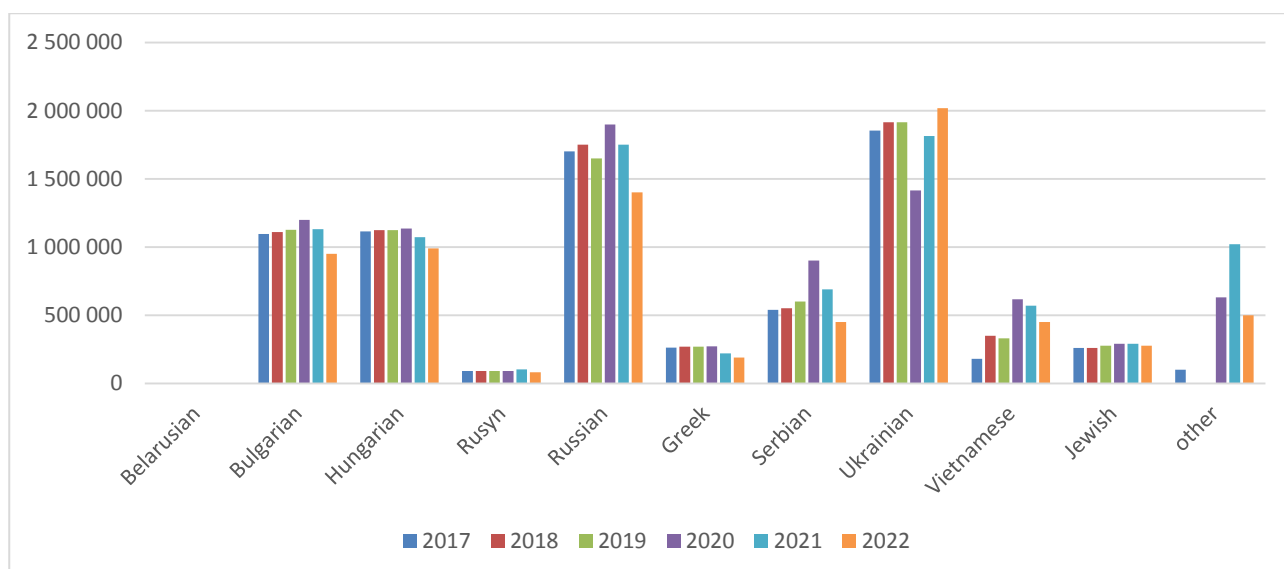
Under this programme, the Ministry of Culture supported the publication of periodicals in the languages of national minorities or the production of radio and television programmes in the languages of national minorities on the basis of submitted projects. In the reporting period, there was a noticeable increase in the total amount of grant; unfortunately, the year 2022 did not confirm this trend. However, the number of supported projects increased slightly overall.

Tab. 2 Amount of grant in the Programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities in 2017–2022

Year	Amount of grant (CZK)	Number of projects		
		Submitted in total	Of which granted	Not granted
2017	20,850,000	33	23	10
2018	20,850,000	29	23	6
2019	20,850,000	26	23	3
2020	25,000,000	27	26	1
2021	24,850,000	29	26	3
2022	23,150,000	32	27	5

Chart 6 Grants in the Programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities to individual minorities for the period 2017–2022





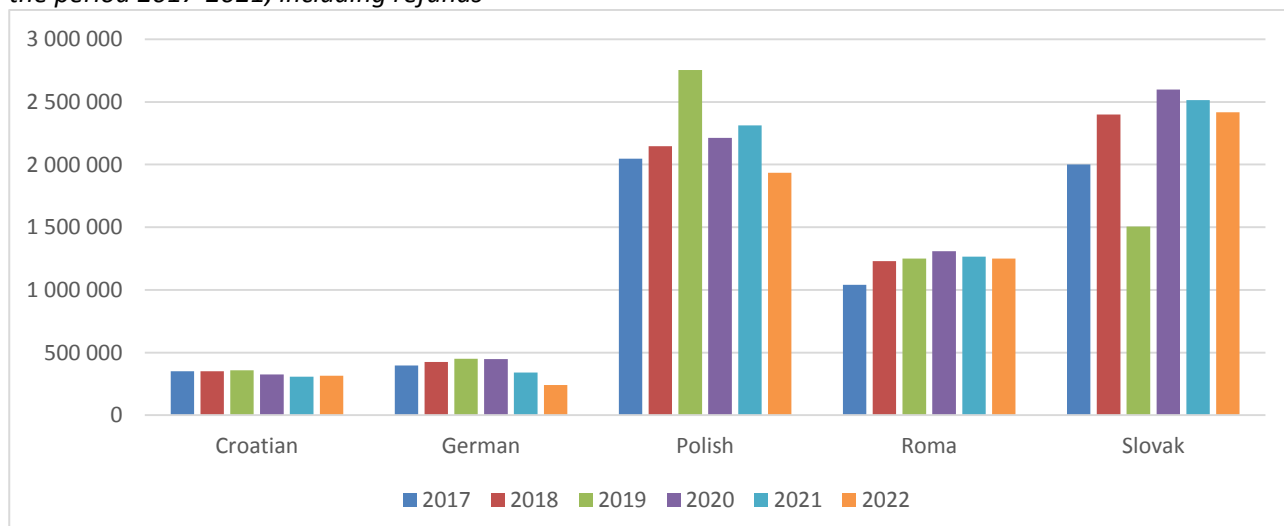
### Programme for the Support of Cultural Activities of Members of National Minorities

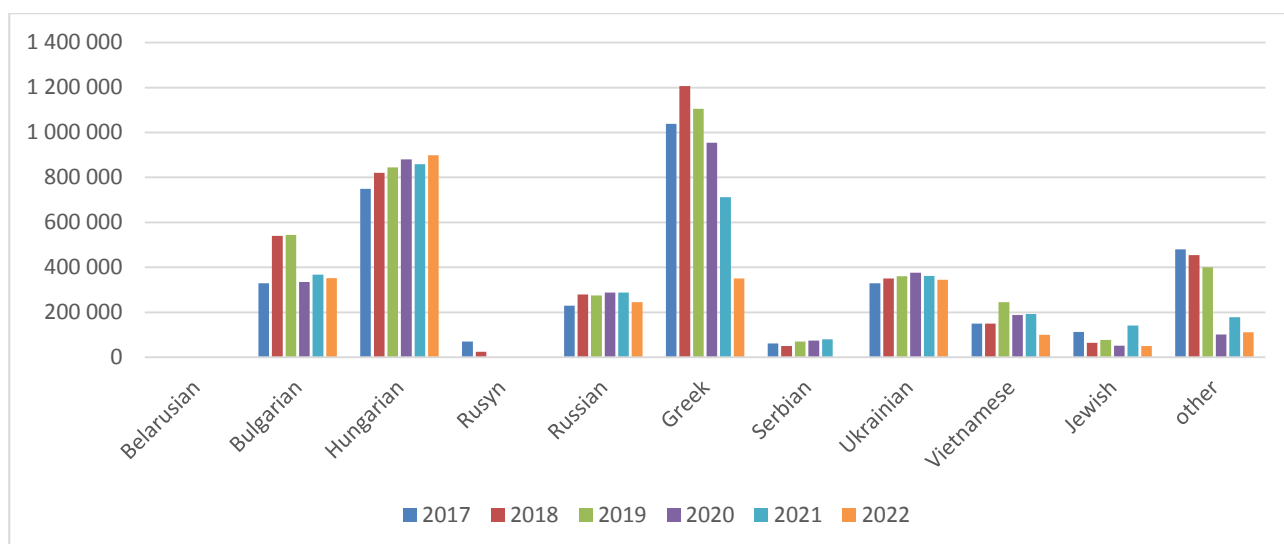
Other programmes of the Ministry of Culture are thematically focused on artistic activities, cultural and educational activities, study and analysis of national culture and folk traditions, multi-ethnic cultural events, editorial activities (non-periodical publications) and documentation of national culture. The MoC allocated around CZK 10 million for this programme in previous years. Unfortunately, the total amount of grant shows a steady decline, but the number of supported projects is slightly increasing.

Tab. 3 Amount of grant in the Programme for the Support of Cultural Activities of Members of National Minorities for the period 2017-2022, including refunds

Year	Amount of grant (CZK)	Number of projects		
		Submitted in total	Of which granted	Not granted
2017	9,435,000	73	60	13
2018	10,507,006	67	61	6
2019	10,242,900	63	59	4
2020	10,150,000	69	61	8
2021	9,105,619	69	61	8
2022	9,115,646	63	49	14

Chart 7 Grants in the Programme for the Support of Cultural Activities of Members of National Minorities for the period 2017-2021, including refunds





### **Programme for the Support of Roma Community Integration**

Under this programme, the Ministry of Culture supports artistic activities (theatres, museums, galleries, libraries, concerts, shows, festivals), cultural and educational activities (e.g. seminars, lectures, discussions), research on Romani culture, traditions and history, documentation of Romani culture, studies and analyses of Romani culture and traditions, editorial activities (non-periodical publications), multi-ethnic cultural events (aimed, inter alia, at combating negative manifestations of extremism, racial and national intolerance and xenophobia). Around CZK 2 million is allocated annually to the programme. The total amount paid out tends to fluctuate.

*Tab. 4 Amount of grant in the Programme for the Support of Roma Community Integration in the reporting period, including refunds*

Year	Amount of grant (CZK)	Number of projects		
		Submitted in total	Of which granted	Not granted
<b>2017</b>	1,662,400	31	21	10
<b>2018</b>	2,054,900	33	30	3
<b>2019</b>	2,282,224	30	23	7
<b>2020</b>	1,748,500	26	18	8
<b>2021</b>	1,803,450	33	26	7
<b>2022</b>	1,903,000	25	20	5

### **Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports**

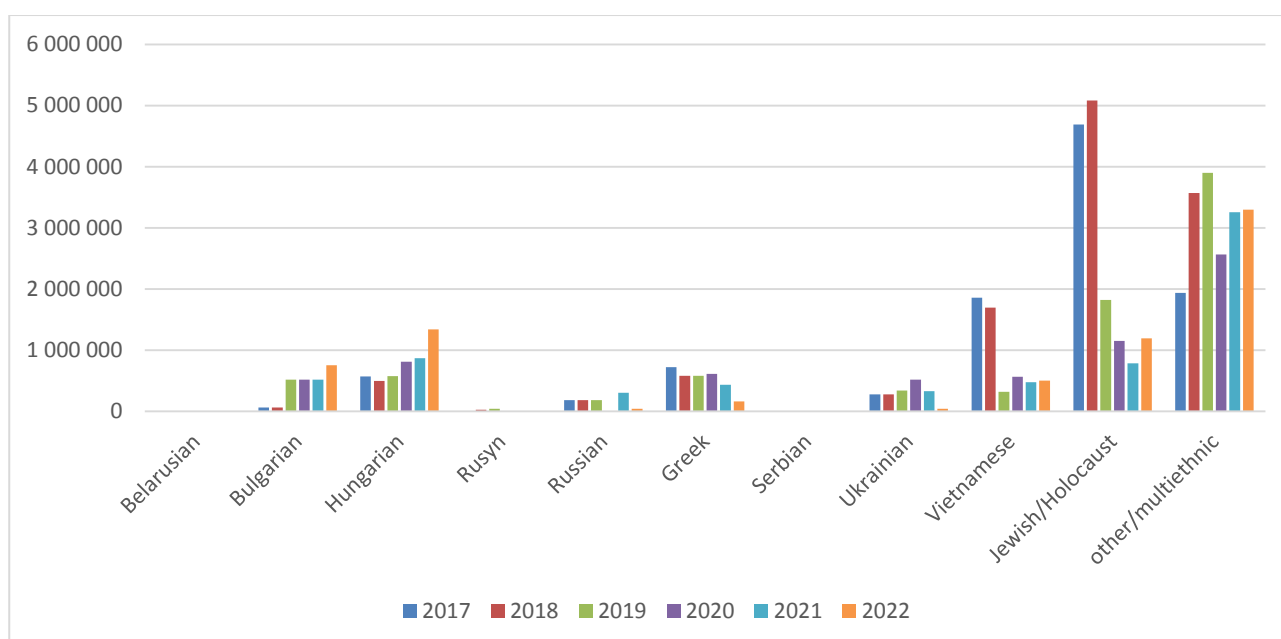
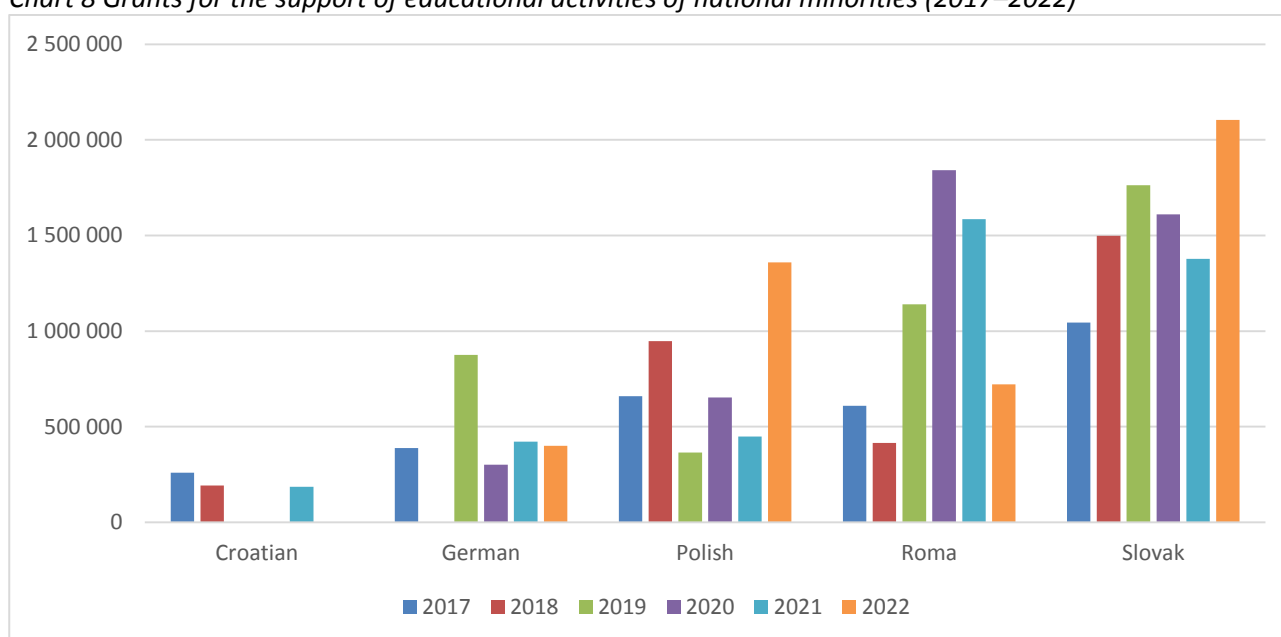
#### **Programme for Support of Educational Activities of National Minorities**

In addition to teaching in the languages of national minorities, this programme also supports projects for the creation of educational programmes and teaching materials in the field of national minority education aimed at learning about the history and culture of other nations, education for democratic citizenship, mutual tolerance, combating racial and national intolerance, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, and research focused on the education of children and young people from national minorities and ethnic groups living in the Czech Republic. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (the “MEYS”) provides approximately CZK 11 to 15 million for these activities per year.

Tab. 5 Amount of grant for the support of educational activities of national minorities (2017–2021)

Year	Amount of grant (CZK)	Number of projects		
		Submitted in total	Of which granted	Not granted
2017	11,799,529	57	38	19
2018	15,039,000	59	51	8
2019	12,436,166	52	45	7
2020	10,450,052	48	39	9
2021	11,288,644	55	41	14
2022	12,577,602	62	40	22

Chart 8 Grants for the support of educational activities of national minorities (2017–2022)





### **Programme for the Support of Roma Minority Integration**

The programme is announced on the basis of Government Regulation No 98/2002, laying down the conditions and method of providing grants from the State budget for the activities of members of national minorities and for supporting the integration of members of the Roma community, as amended, and according to the tasks for the Ministry of Education and Science outlined in strategic documents in the area of Roma minority education. The programme is announced every year.

Supported activities – topics:

A) Pre-school education

B) Family-school cooperation in pre-school and primary education

C) Roma pupils education in primary school and supporting their successful transition to and retention in secondary school until the end of the first year

D) Leisure activities for Roma children and pupils

*Tab. 6 Amount of grant in the Programme for the Support of Roma Minority Integration for the reporting period (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports)*

Year	Amount of grant (CZK)	Number of projects		
		Submitted in total	Of which granted	Not granted
2017	9,320,716	61	38	23
2018	12,800,000	48	35	13
2019	12,875,000	57	30	28
2020	11,018,865	33	27	6
2021	12,875,000	42	29	13

### **Office of the Government**

#### **Programme for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

The aim of the grant programme is to help the successful implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Initially, the grant programme was intended only to cover the costs associated with the introduction of bilingual Czech-Polish signs in municipalities with a high number of inhabitants from the Polish national minority. However, in order to use the funds more effectively and efficiently, the grant programme was restructured and transformed into a grant programme to support the implementation of several articles of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which is currently administered by the Department of Human Rights and Protection of Minorities.

The aim of the grant programme is to fulfil the international commitment assumed by the Czech Republic to preserve and promote historical regional and minority languages, namely:

- Polish (mainly the Cieszyn Silesian dialect in the Frýdek-Místek and Karviná districts in the Moravian-Silesian region);
- German;
- Romani;
- Slovak;
- Moravian Croatian.

In 2017–2022, the following activities were supported:

- A) Educational activities at all levels beyond the standard education that focus on or are conducted in a minority language. The target group of these activities could be both people with a minority language as their mother tongue and people with Czech as their mother tongue. Activities could also be

focused on teacher training with the aim of promoting minority languages, especially in the environment of people with Czech as their mother tongue. Special attention was paid to activities promoting respect, understanding and tolerance between different language groups.

- B) Quantitative and qualitative analyses aimed at researching the use of minority languages, indicating areas of support and proposing forms of support.
- C) Promoting the use of traditional and correct forms of place names in minority languages. Particular attention was paid to the production, installation and maintenance of signs with the names of municipalities, their districts, streets and other public spaces and the marking of buildings of State bodies and local self-government units. Under this thematic heading, the following could be supported: production and printing of publications (e.g. creation of a digital map with traditional place names, printing of maps with traditional place names); creation of an analysis aimed at mapping the historical and cultural heritage of minority language users in the region; and production and installation of bilingual signs [e.g. bus stop signs, street and place names, entrance and exit signs with the name of the municipality, signs in public (municipal) buildings, etc.].
- D) Mapping and documentation of cemeteries and graves that are significant in terms of the life of national minorities in the Czech Republic<sup>3</sup>.

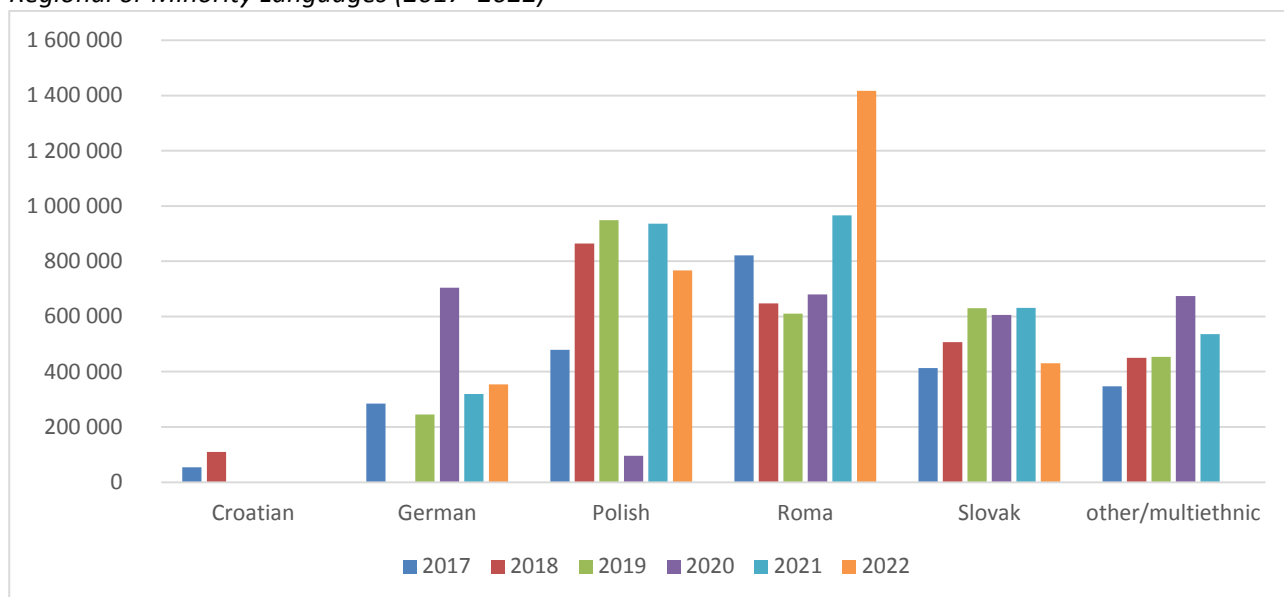
For 2021, as in previous years, associations, institutes, religious legal persons, publicly beneficial companies, schools and educational institutions under Act No 561/2004, on pre-school, primary, secondary, higher vocational and other education (the Education Act), as amended; higher education institutions under Act No 111/1998, on higher education institutions and amending and supplementing other acts (the Higher Education Institutions Act), as amended, and municipalities could apply for the grants.

*Tab. 7 Grant Programme for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the reporting period*

Year	Amount of grant (CZK)	Number of projects		
		Submitted in total	Of which granted	Not granted
<b>2017</b>	2,399,998	24	18	6
<b>2018</b>	2,577,928	15	14	1
<b>2019</b>	2,888,431	14	14	0
<b>2020</b>	2,699,320	17	13	4
<b>2021</b>	3,288,491.70	25	17	8
<b>2022</b>	2,969,678	19	12	7

<sup>3</sup> The thematic area of activity referred to under point D) can be implemented in the context of all languages of national minorities represented in the Government Council for National Minorities. These are the Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese national minorities.

**Chart 9 Support for languages under the Programme for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (2017–2022)**



**Programme for the Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work**

The Grant Programme for the Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work is of a preventive nature and it is intended for non-profit organisations (associations, institutes, religious legal persons, publicly beneficial companies, foundations or funds) to implement non-investment projects supporting members of the Roma community and residents of socially excluded areas with the aim of preventing social exclusion and eliminating its consequences.

The grant programme is divided into two spheres, under which the following are supported:

- A) Projects using the principles of community work in Roma communities/places, i.e. projects providing support and assistance to people living in Roma communities/places to acquire skills to resolve their situation on their own, with the support of other persons or through the joint efforts of the community, leading, inter alia, to improved neighbourhood relations.
- B) Activities that complement fieldwork, social programmes and social services the necessity of which was demonstrated by the grant applicant through an analysis of the target group and the situation in the community/place, showing that they lead to the prevention of social exclusion or contribute to improving the situation of the inhabitants of Roma-predominant places.

**Tab. 8 Grant Programme for the Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work in the reporting period**

Year	Amount of grant (CZK)	Number of projects		
		Submitted in total	Of which granted	Not granted
<b>2017</b>	13,944,137	55	37	18
<b>2018</b>	12,253,878	46	24	22
<b>2019</b>	11,749,662	35	21	14
<b>2020</b>	12,750,000	32	21	12
<b>2021</b>	13,841,891	36	22	14
<b>2022</b>	12,701,523	35	18	17

**Programme for the Support of Field Work**

The Programme for the Support of Field Work supports municipalities in employing field workers who work with the Roma minority. The field worker is employed directly by the municipality or a contributory

organisation of the municipality. The grant programme is intended to support municipalities that are striving to integrate the Roma and at the same time do not have their own human resources or whose financial situation does not allow them to ensure field work in the municipality. Financial and staffing issues generally affect small municipalities with smaller populations, so these municipalities are prioritised in the programme. In addition, the evaluation of projects gives preference to first-time applicants or past beneficiaries who have only been in the programme for a limited period of time. At the same time, priority is given to those applications that overlap geographically with socially excluded areas.

*Tab. 9 Grant Programme for the Support of Field Work in the reporting period*

Year	Amount of grant (CZK)	Number of projects		
		Submitted in total	Of which granted	Not granted
<b>2017</b>	10,946,416	41	37	4
<b>2018</b>	11,399,832	37	36	1
<b>2019</b>	11,762,188	37	35	2
<b>2020</b>	10,911,686	39	35	4
<b>2021</b>	10,668,398	36	36	0
<b>2022</b>	11,720,511	44	35	9

### **Programme for the Support of Roma Affairs Coordinators**

The Programme for the Support of Roma Affairs Coordinators is implemented on the basis of Government Resolution No 461 of 14 June 2010 on the Report on the Situation of Roma Communities in the Czech Republic for 2009. By this resolution, the Government of the Czech Republic instructed the Head of the Office of the Government to release funds to the regions each year within the approved budget of Chapter 304 – Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (“Office of the Government”) through the Grant Programme for the Support of Roma Affairs Coordinators. The Roma Integration Strategy 2021–2030 foresees both the continued operation of the coordinators’ network and an increase in the average number of individual coordinators’ FTE from 0.8 (in 2019) to 0.9 by 2025 (Objective G.1.7).

Only a region can be the recipient of a grant to secure one job position of a regional coordinator for Roma affairs. The maximum amount of the non-investment grant for a full-time coordinator employed for a full calendar year is CZK 500,000. The grant is reduced proportionately in the case of reduced workload (FTE). There is also a proportional reduction in the grant if the regional coordinator is employed for less than 12 months.

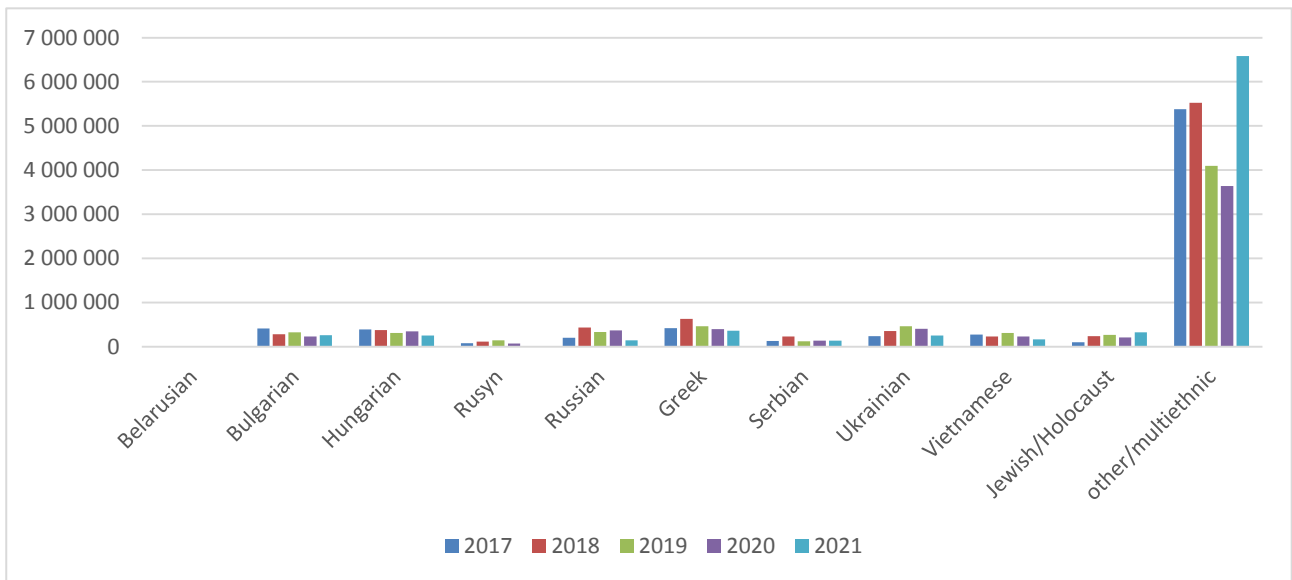
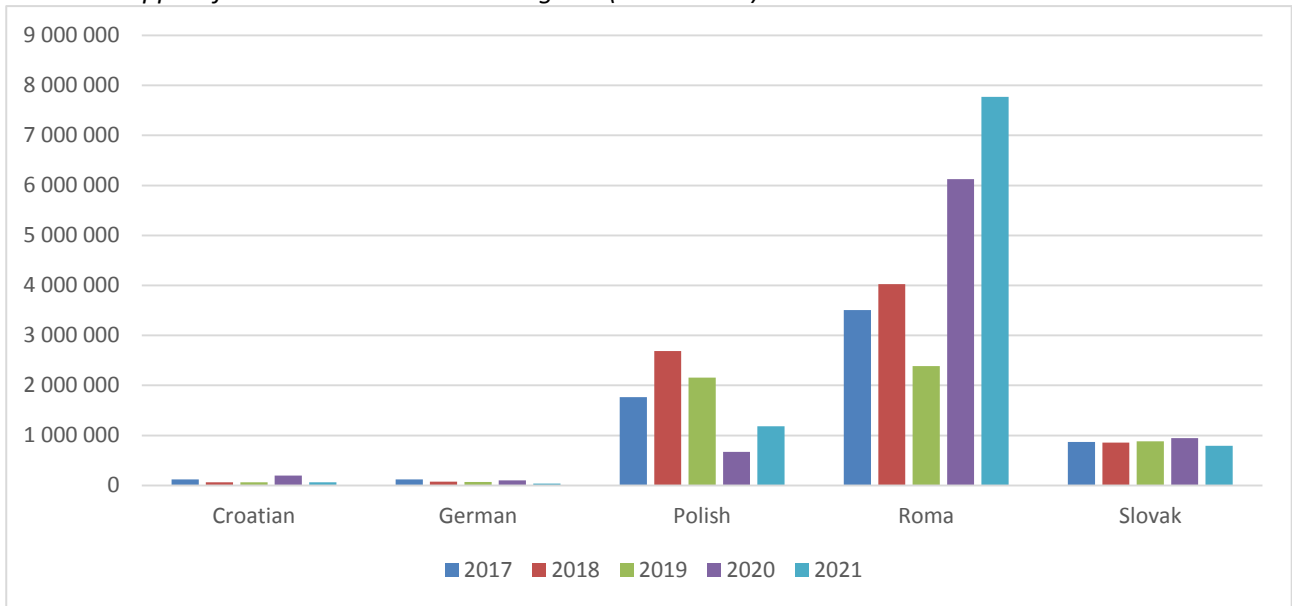
*Tab. 10 Grant Programme for the Support of Roma Affairs Coordinators in the reporting period*

Year	Amount of grant (CZK)	Number of projects		
		Submitted in total	Of which granted	Not granted
<b>2017</b>	5,255,863	13	13	0
<b>2018</b>	5,523,805	13	13	0
<b>2019</b>	5,252,566	13	13	0
<b>2020</b>	5,569,937	13	13	0
<b>2021</b>	5,675,000	13	13	0
<b>2022</b>	5,750,000	13	13	0

### **Support at regional level**

The activities of members of national minorities in the Czech Republic are also supported annually from the budgets of individual regions (including grant programmes for the support of Roma minority integration). Summary charts for all regions are provided below.

Chart 10 Support for national minorities in regions (2017–2021)



## Government Council for National Minorities

According to the Minorities Act and the Statute, the Council is a permanent advisory and initiative body of the Government on issues concerning national minorities and their members. Within its scope of competence, the Council monitors compliance with the Constitution of the Czech Republic, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, international treaties on human rights and fundamental freedoms to which the Czech Republic is bound, laws and other legal norms in relation to members of national minorities. The Council's competence is defined by Act No 273/2001, on the rights of members of national minorities and amending certain acts, as amended, Government Regulation No 98/2002, laying down the conditions and method of providing grants from the State budget for the activities of members of national minorities and for supporting the integration of members of the Roma community, and by its Statute and Rules of Procedure.

Fourteen national minorities continued to be represented on the Council, namely the Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese minorities. A representative of the Jewish community, which has shown no interest in being considered a national minority and derives its identity from the confessional question, also participates as a permanent guest. During 2017–2022 the Council noted an application from the Georgian minority who would like to expand the Council's ranks; their application is currently being considered. In 2018, the Council's Statute was changed. The term of office of the representatives of national minorities on the Council is now four years without any limitation on reappointment.<sup>4</sup> This satisfied the demand of some representatives of national minorities who criticised the limitation of the mandate to two consecutive terms.

The items discussed at the Council meeting on 22 October 2019<sup>5</sup> included an application of the German national minority to extend the protection of the German language under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the possibility of introducing announcements in Polish at railway stations and stops in the historical region of Cieszyn Silesia. In relation to the first point, a new ad hoc working group was established in 2019. This was the *Working Group on the possibility of extending the protection of the German language under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* (hereinafter the "WG"). The first meeting of this new WG took place on 16 December 2019. The meeting resulted in the WG members requesting a more detailed justification from the representatives of the German minority regarding their application for greater protection of the German language until the end of February 2020. On 6 February 2020<sup>6</sup>, the Council took note of information on the progress in the preparation of a new Government Regulation that would replace the existing Government Regulation No 98/2002, laying down the conditions and method of providing grants from the State budget for the activities of members of national minorities and for supporting the integration of members of the Roma community. At the Council meeting on 11 September 2020<sup>7</sup>, information was given on the progress of the German minority's application to extend the protection of the German language under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The Working Group on the possibility of extending the protection of the German language under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages met on 1 September 2020. The members of the Working Group were presented with a Memorandum (justification of application for extended protection) of the German national minority and a statement on the matter from the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe. Representatives of all the ministries concerned (the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) expressed their comments on the Memorandum and agreed on future steps.

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<sup>4</sup> Government Resolution No 346 of 30 May 2018.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-178156/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/zapis-ze-zasedani-rady-ze-dne-6--2--2020-179774/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-ze-dne-11--zari-2020-184342/>

On 8 January 2021<sup>8</sup>, the Council held a further meeting to consider information from the Ministry of Transport on the results of negotiations concerning the introduction of Polish language announcements at railway stations and stops. It was noted that the whole process has been delayed. The next item concerned information regarding the progress of the extension of the protection of the German language under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. In this regard, the Council adopted Resolution No 3/2021 in which it supports efforts to protect German as a national minority language traditionally used in the territory of the Czech Republic more effectively and requested the Minister of Foreign Affairs to submit a relevant proposal; it also requested the Minister of Foreign Affairs to include in the proposal the earlier recommendation of the Government Council for National Minorities concerning the protection of the written Croatian language with an emphasis on the promotion of the Gradistan variety of Croatian in accordance with Council Resolution No 172 of 26 April 2016 on item 1. At the Council meeting on 18 June 2021<sup>9</sup>, the information of the Ministry of Transport on the results of the negotiations concerning the introduction of announcements in Polish language at railway stations and stops was discussed. The Polish minority expressed dissatisfaction with the form of the recording in Polish (inappropriate dialect), but the process was already nearing finalisation. The next Council meeting was held on 7 December 2021<sup>10</sup>. The meeting was informed about the progress in the extension of the protection of the German language under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the protection of the Croatian language under Part II of the Charter. It was stated that the material was in the inter-ministerial comment procedure. It was also noted that the *task of announcements in Polish at stations and stops had been completed*, now using the corrected recordings. Therefore, announcements in Polish are used in the entire territory inhabited by the Polish minority in the Cieszyn Silesia, namely in municipalities that have railway lines and at the same time the technology to make announcements (there are no announcements at some small stops, not even in Czech, because they lack the technology). The announcements are operational in the following municipalities:

- Mosty u Jablunkova zastávka / Mosty koło Jabłonkowa przystanek
- Mosty u Jablunkova / Mosty koło Jabłonkowa
- Bocanovice / Boconowice
- Návsí / Nawsie
- Hrádek / Gródek
- Bystřice / Bystrzyca
- Vendryně / Wędrynia
- Třinec centrum / Trzyniec centrum
- Třinec / Trzyniec
- Třinec-Konská / Trzyniec-Końska
- Ropice zastávka / Ropica przystanek
- Český Těšín / Czeski Cieszyn
- Chotěbuz / Kocobędz
- Petrovice u Karviné / Piotrowice koło Karwiny

In 2022, at the Council meeting on 18 October 2022, an item was discussed regarding the Reflection on the 2021 Population and Housing Census Results. It was pointed out that there was a growing problem with the indication of nationality. The census question on nationality is voluntary and open-ended, so there is no list of nationalities. Since 2011, the form has indicated that respondents can choose up to two nationalities. It is also stated that this question is answered on a voluntary basis. That is also why the number of persons who have not declared any nationality is growing. The reasons may differ, most often it is that some respondents find this topic *irrelevant* nowadays, while another group finds it too *sensitive* to answer. A proposal was made

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-ze-dne-8--ledna-2021-186451/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/zapis-z-jednani-rady-vlady-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-18--6--2021-190020/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-vlady-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-ze-dne-7--12--2021-194707/>

at the meeting that the quorum for calculating the number of members of a national minority in a municipality should be calculated not from the whole, but only from the set of those who have declared a nationality. If such a modification was to be adopted, it would be necessary to amend the legislation [Act No 128/2000, on municipalities (municipal constitution) and Act No 129/2000, on regions (regional constitution)]. However, a resolution was passed to discuss the possible changes to law. This discussing was initiated by the Government Commissioner for Human Rights herself. As regards the proposal to extend the protection of the German language under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, it was said that the *comments on the material had now been settled*, where the most work had to be done on the new explanatory memorandum to the material. The material was discussed and approved at the Government meeting on 14 December 2022.

## Language-specific part

### I. Polish

#### Article 6 – Information

Information about the rights and obligations of national minorities under the Charter is provided through the communications of the Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities and also directly at meetings of the Government Council for National Minorities, which are attended by representatives of minorities, the State administration, and regional and local governments. A specific example is the methodology of the Ministry of the Interior on the establishment of committees for national minorities in municipalities and regions and on the designation of place names in the languages of national minorities.<sup>11</sup> The impetus to develop and distribute this methodology arose from the activities of the Government Council for National Minorities. By resolution of the Government Council for National Minorities No 11/2021 of 18 June 2021, the Ministry of the Interior was asked to prepare, by 31 August 2021, a methodological opinion in response to the 2021 Population and Housing Census, regarding the needs of municipalities for assessing the number of citizens claiming a nationality other than Czech in connection with the establishment of council committees for national minorities in accordance with laws on territorial self-governing units and the marking of streets in the language of a national minority in accordance with Act No 128/2000, on municipalities (municipal constitution), as amended. The Ministry of the Interior has sent this methodology to all affected municipalities in the Czech Republic.

#### Article 7(1) – Objectives and principles

##### *a) Recognition of the regional and minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

##### *b) Respect for the geographical area of regional and minority languages*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language. The relevant geographic area is considered to be the Czech part of Cieszyn Silesia.

##### *c) Action to promote regional and minority languages in order to safeguard them*

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.mvcr.cz/odk2/clanek/informace-ke-zrizovani-vyboru-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-a-oznacovani-ulic-v-jazyce-narodnostni-mensiny-v-souvislosti-se-scitanim-lidu-domu-a-bytu-2021.aspx>



#### **d) Encouragement of the use of regional and minority languages**

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

#### **e) Development of links between groups using different languages**

The platforms for deepening ties between the individual minorities are the Government Council for National Minorities, as well as the Committees for National Minorities in the regions concerned (Prague, the South Moravian Region, the Moravian-Silesian Region, the Karlovy Vary Region and the Ústí Region). In addition to working meetings, these bodies also organise social gatherings (National Minorities Day, Advent/Christmas gatherings, etc.) In Prague, there is the *House of National Minorities*, which houses the associations of the Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Russian, Ruthenian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian and Ukrainian minorities, which also serves this purpose. The organisations (not only those speaking the minority languages listed above) may use the common areas – exhibition hall, conference room, and a common room with café – to present their particular culture, regardless of the regional affiliation of the minority language speakers.

The international festival *Prague Heart of Nations* is another platform for understanding between minority and majority societies. Other similar events supported by State resources at the regional level include the *Babylonfest, They Live Among Us* (Brno), the *Festival of National Minorities in Orlová*, the *Cultures of Podyjí Nations Festival* in Mikulov and the *International Folklore Festival* in Jablunkov.

#### **f) Support for the teaching and study of regional and minority languages**

The Polish minority is the only national minority in the Moravian-Silesian Region, thanks to its large number and concentration, that can benefit from minority education financed from public budgets. There are several schools in the Moravian-Silesian Region where education is provided only in the Polish language or bilingually, both in the Czech and Polish languages, in accordance with Section 14(5) of the Education Act.

According to the data of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (the “MEYS”), there are currently 32 nursery schools with Polish or Czech-Polish language of instruction in the Czech Republic. All these nursery schools are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region in the districts of Karviná and Frýdek-Místek. These kindergartens were attended by a total of 830 children in the school year 2021/2022, who were enrolled in 45 classes.

The number of primary schools with Polish as the language of instruction in the 2021/2022 school year was 24, all of which are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region. These schools had a total of 136 classes attended by 2,040 pupils.

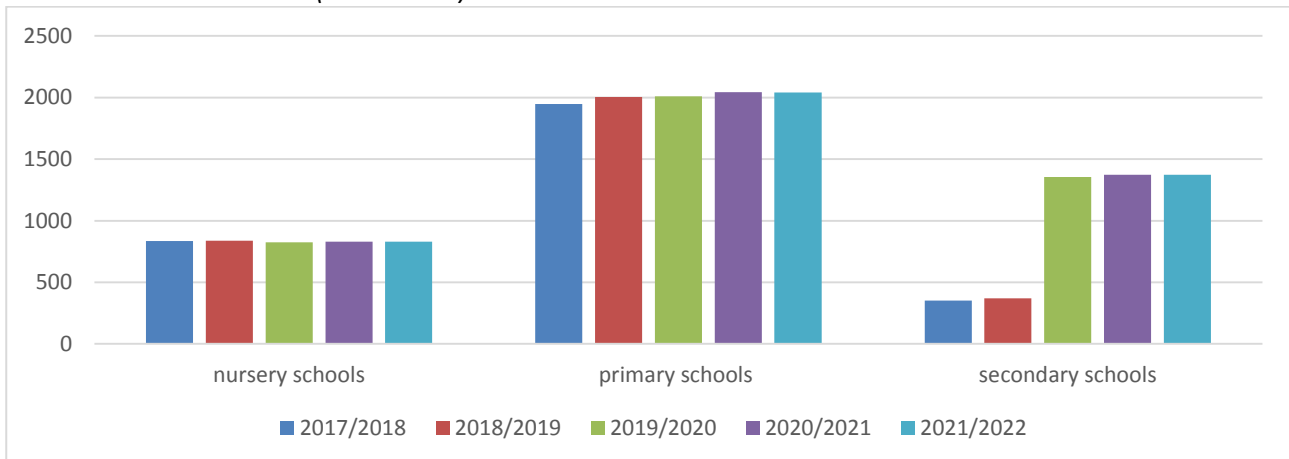
There are also secondary schools in the Moravian-Silesian Region where Polish is the language of instruction or one of the languages of instruction. The only secondary school where Polish is the only language of instruction is the *Polish Grammar School – Polskie Gimnazjum im. Juliusza Słowackiego, Český Těšín*, contributory organisation. Other secondary schools with Polish listed as language of instruction for at least one field of study in the School Register are the Secondary School of Industry, Karviná, a contributory organisation, the Business Academy, Český Těšín, a contributory organisation and the Secondary School of Health, Karviná, a contributory organisation. A total of 1,373 students attended these secondary schools in the 2021/2022 school year.

*Tab. 11 Polish education (2017–2022)*

	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Nursery schools	835	839	826	830	830
Primary schools	1,947	2,006	2,010	2,045	2,040

Secondary schools	353	371	1,356 <sup>12</sup>	1,373	1,373
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Chart 11 Polish education (2017–2022)



In the chart above, we can see an increase in the number of pupils in Polish schools, especially in primary schools. In nursery schools, the figures are rather stagnant. As far as secondary schools are concerned, until the 2018/2019 school year the MEYS reported data exclusively on Polish pupils; from 2019/2020 onwards, it reports data on all pupils attending Polish secondary schools or Czech-Polish schools, yet a slight increase can be noted. More detailed information, including tables by school, can be found in Part I. Polish, Article 8 – Education.

In the reporting period, the Czech Republic provided funds from its budget for the teaching and studies of the Polish language. The information is also available in the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic (grants from the MEYS for educational activities in the Polish language).

#### **g) Study and research on regional and minority languages at higher education institutions**

See Part I. Polish, Article 8(1)(f)(iii) Adult and continuing education.

#### **i) Transnational exchanges**

The Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Schools in Český Těšín (the “PC CT”) is active in the field of cross-border Czech-Polish cooperation, especially in the field of inclusive education. In 2017-2022, the PC CT continued to implement 3 cross-border projects.

Within the framework of the INTERREG VA Czech Republic-Poland programme, the PC CT is a partner of the flagship project “Increasing language competences of future graduates on the cross-border labour market” (lead partner – Palacký University in Olomouc, partners – PC CT and Uniwersytet Wrocławski). For future graduates from the Czech Republic and Poland, workshops are prepared to develop communication competences, promote learning neighbouring languages and mutual understanding of both cultures.

Within the framework of the INTERREG VA Czech Republic-Poland programme, the PC CT is a partner of the “accent@net” project (lead partner – Euroschola Institute in Třinec, Silesian University in Katowice and the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation NOVUM). Along the entire Czech-Polish border, in all Euroregions, until 2021, actions will be implemented within the framework of 4 main activities: networking – networking of Czech and Polish schools; job-shadowing – exchange internships for teachers; online consultations for Czech-Polish cooperation; and the creation of the Czech-Polish publication “Mosaic of Cultures”.

<sup>12</sup> Until the 2018/2019 school year, the Ministry of Education and Science reported data only on Polish pupils; from 2019/2020 onwards, it reports data on all pupils attending Polish secondary schools or Czech-Polish schools.

“Traditions and customs of the region” – a project within the INTERREG VA Czech Republic-Poland Programme. The Micro-Project Fund deals with regional education in the Czech-Polish border region of Cieszyn Silesia and consists in presenting the traditions and customs of the region in different seasons.

#### **Article 7(2) – Unjustified restrictions on the use of a minority language**

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

#### **Article 7(3) – Promoting mutual understanding between language groups – Educational objectives and media**

The MEYS is currently revising the framework curricula, which, once revised, should include more detailed information about national minorities, including their geographical, historical and cultural aspects of life. The subject should be taught in Years 5 to 9 of primary education. The MEYS has also offered to cooperate with experts on national minority issues to work on the revision of the Framework Educational Programmes, thus responding, among other things, to a request from the Polish minority.

Programmes of Czech Television and Czech Radio remain the primary platforms for mutual understanding in the mass media. Programmes about national minorities regularly broadcast by Czech Television include the documentary series *Babylon*, which has been on television since 2004. Ethnic minority broadcasts on Czech Radio consist of several programmes. The programmes *Mezi Námi* (Among Us), hosted by Tajana Mančalová, and *My a oni* (Us and Them), hosted by Goranka Oljača, are not focused on a specific minority.

#### **Article 7(4) – Consultation mechanisms**

Speakers of regional or minority languages may use the options enacted in the legislation to actively participate in addressing the issues relating to national minorities through Committees for National Minorities and at meetings of the Council.

According to the results of the 2021 census, unfortunately, no region meets the legal conditions that would make it obligatory to establish a National Minorities Committee (due to the decreasing interest in stating nationality in the census, the number of proclaimed members of national minorities in any region does not reach 5%).

However, the institutional provision of the exercise of the rights of members of national minorities in the regions in the years 2017–2022 is described in the table below, which lists the consultation mechanisms used for communication between national minorities and the public administration. Of the five existing committees, four were established on the basis of Section 78(2) of Act No 129/2000, on regions (regional constitution), as amended, and one was established beyond the scope of this Act. A detailed description of the situation in each region is provided below.

*Tab. 12 Committees, commissions and working groups in the regions (2017–2022)*

Region	Consultation mechanism (Committee, Commission, Working Group)	legal obligation <sup>13</sup>
<b>South Bohemian</b>	-	
<b>South Moravian</b>	Committee for National Minorities	NO
<b>Karlovy Vary</b>	Committee for National Minorities	YES
<b>Hradec Králové</b>	-	
<b>Liberec</b>	Commission of the Liberec Regional Council for National Minorities, Foreigners and Social Inclusion	NO
<b>Moravian-Silesian</b>	Committee for National Minorities	YES
<b>Olomouc</b>	Working Group on Ethnic Minorities and Foreigners	NO

<sup>13</sup> The conditions have been fulfilled giving rise to a legal obligation to establish the Committee for National Minorities in accordance with Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities (municipal constitution), as amended.

<b>Pardubice</b>	Commission of the Pardubice Regional Council for the Integration of the Roma Community and Other Ethnic Groups	NO
<b>Plzeň</b>	Social Affairs Committee	NO
<b>Capital City of Prague</b>	Committee for National Minorities	YES
	Advisory Council for Roma Minority Affairs	NO
<b>Central Bohemian</b>	-	
<b>Ústí nad Labem</b>	Committee for National Minorities	NO
<b>Vysočina</b>	Working Group of Service Providers for National and Ethnic Minorities, Homeless Persons and Victims of Crime	NO
<b>Zlín</b>	-	

As regards the institutional provision of the exercise of the rights of members of national minorities in statutory cities and municipalities, the establishment of Committees for National Minorities is again based on the census. The results of the 2021 census have again reduced the number of municipalities with the obligation to establish a Committee for National Minorities. A list of these municipalities can be found on the website of the Ministry of the Interior (the “MoI”).<sup>14</sup> During 2022, the existing committees were still in place, with changes taking place after the municipal elections in the autumn of 2022.

The institutional provision of the exercise of the rights of members of national minorities in the statutory cities in the years 2017–2022 is described in the table below, which lists the consultation mechanisms used for communication between national minorities and the public administration. Of the total of four committees, two were established by law (Karviná and Třinec) and two (Brno and Chomutov) were established in excess of the law, specifically Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities (municipal constitution), as amended. Some other statutory cities set up differently named consultation mechanisms, such as commissions or councils.

*Tab. 13 Committees, commissions and working groups in statutory cities*

<b>City</b>	<b>Consultation mechanism (Committee, Commission, Council, Working Group)</b>	<b>legal obligation<sup>15</sup></b>
<b>Brno</b>	<b>Committee for National Minorities</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>České Budějovice</b>	-	
<b>Děčín</b>	-	
<b>Frýdek-Místek</b>	-	
<b>Havířov</b>	-	
<b>Hradec Králové</b>	Commission for Social, Health and Family Policy	NO
<b>Chomutov</b>	<b>Committee for National Minorities</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Jablonec nad Nisou</b>	-	
<b>Jihlava</b>	-	
<b>Karlovy Vary</b>	-	
<b>Karviná</b>	<b>Committee for National Minorities</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Kladno</b>	-	
<b>Liberec</b>	Council for Foreigners, National Minorities and Other Ethnicities	NO
<b>Mladá Boleslav</b>	Commission for the Integration of Ethnic and National Minorities	NO
<b>Most</b>	Commission for Social Affairs and National Minorities	NO
<b>Olomouc</b>	-	
<b>Opava</b>	-	
<b>Ostrava</b>	-	

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.mvcr.cz/odk2/clanek/informace-ke-zrizovani-vyboru-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-a-oznacovani-ulic-v-jazyce-narodnostni-mensiny-v-souvislosti-se-scitanim-lidu-domu-a-bytu-2021.aspx>

<sup>15</sup> The conditions have been fulfilled giving rise to a legal obligation to establish the Committee for National Minorities in accordance with Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities (municipal constitution), as amended.

<b>Pardubice</b>	Community Planning Group for Foreigners, Nationalities and Ethnic Minorities	NO
<b>Plzeň</b>	Commission for Social Affairs and National Minorities	NO
<b>Prostějov</b>	Working Group on Community Planning for National Minorities and Foreigners	NO
<b>Přerov</b>	-	
<b>Teplice</b>	-	
<b>Třinec</b>	<b>Committee for National Minorities</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Ústí nad Labem</b>	-	
<b>Zlín</b>	-	

The table below provides an overview of the municipalities in which a Committee for National Minorities (or another body, such as a commission or working group) was established in 2017–2022, both on the basis of Section 117(3) of Act No.128/2000, on municipalities (municipal constitution), as amended, and beyond the scope of that Act. The table is based on data provided by the regional authorities.

Tab. 14 Committees for National Minorities or other advisory bodies at municipal level

Municipality	advisory bodies established by law <sup>16</sup>
<b>Aš</b>	YES
<b>Bílá Voda</b>	NO
<b>Bukovec</b>	YES
<b>Bystřice (okr. Frýdek-Místek)</b>	YES
<b>Česká Lípa</b>	NO
<b>Česká Třebová</b>	NO
<b>Český Těšín</b>	YES
<b>Dolní Lomná</b>	YES
<b>Hnojník</b>	YES
<b>Horní Suchá</b>	YES
<b>Hrádek</b>	YES
<b>Cheb</b>	NO
<b>Chotěbuz</b>	YES
<b>Jablunkov</b>	YES
<b>Kobylá nad Vidnavkou</b>	NO
<b>Košařiska</b>	YES
<b>Milíkov</b>	YES
<b>Mosty u Jablunkova</b>	YES
<b>Návsí</b>	YES
<b>Nýdek</b>	YES
<b>Petrovice u Karviné</b>	YES
<b>Písečná (okr. Frýdek-Místek)</b>	YES
<b>Semněvice</b>	NO
<b>Smilovice (okr. Frýdek-Místek)</b>	YES
<b>Stonava</b>	YES
<b>Střítež</b>	YES
<b>Těrlicko</b>	YES
<b>Třanovice</b>	YES
<b>Vendryně</b>	YES

<sup>16</sup> The conditions have been fulfilled giving rise to a legal obligation to establish the Committee for National Minorities in accordance with Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities (municipal constitution), as amended.

## Article 7(5) – Application of the principles to non-territorial languages

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language. Polish continues to have the character of a territorially defined language; the relevant geographical area is considered to be the Czech part of Cieszyn Silesia.

***The following commitments for Polish apply in the Moravian-Silesian Region, in the districts of Frýdek-Místek and Karviná. These are commitments under Part III of the Charter. Measures to promote the use of regional or minority languages in public life in accordance with the commitments made under Article 2(2).***

## Article 8<sup>17</sup>(1) – Education

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

### **a) i, ii Pre-school education**

- a) i to make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or
- a) ii to make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or

The Polish minority is the only national minority in the Moravian-Silesian Region, thanks to its large number and concentration, that can benefit from minority education financed from public budgets. There are several schools in the Moravian-Silesian Region where education is provided only in the Polish language or bilingually, both in the Czech and Polish languages, in accordance with Section 14(5) of the Education Act.

According to the data of the MEYS, there are currently 32 nursery schools with Polish or Czech-Polish language of instruction in the Czech Republic. All these nursery schools are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region. These kindergartens were attended by a total of 830 children in the school year 2021/2022, who were enrolled in 45 classes. A list of these nursery schools is available in the table below.

Tab. 15 List of nursery schools where the language of instruction is Polish (as of the 2021/2022 school year)

Name of school	Street address	Place	Number of classes	Number of children
Nursery school – Przedszkole	House No 1	Vendryně	2	26
Nursery school	House No 70	Dolní Lomná	1	16
Nursery school	Školní 800	Jablunkov	3	62
Nursery school Przedszkole	House No 615	Vendryně	1	9
Nursery school – Przedszkole	House No 74	Bukovec	1	25
Nursery school – Przedszkole	House No 440	Bystřice	3	58
Nursery school	Pod Výtopnou 190	Návsí	1	18
Nursery school – Przedszkole	House No 60	Písek	1	14
Nursery school	Konská 419	Třinec	1	13
Nursery school – Przedszkole	House No 104	Milíkov	1	18
Nursery school	House No 170	Hrádek	2	30
Nursery school – Przedszkole	House No 446	Hnojník	2	37
Nursery school – Przedszkole	House No 788	Mosty u Jablunkova	1	19
Nursery school	Lutyňská 400	Orlová	1	15
Nursery school	Moskevská 162/1	Český Těšín	3	55

<sup>17</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Polish in the field of education: paragraph 1a)(i/ii), b)i/ii, c)i/ii, d)ii, e)iii, f)iii, g), h), i), paragraph 2 (10 points in total).

Nursery school	Hrabinská 1016/51	Český Těšín	1	21
Nursery school	Polní 1832/10	Český Těšín	1	25
Nursery school	Akátová 1361/17	Český Těšín	1	24
Nursery school	Školní 11	Albrechtice	1	20
Nursery school	Koperníkova 652	Dolní Lutyně	1	17
Nursery school	Selská 429/14	Haviřov	1	24
Nursery school	House No 326	Stonava	1	17
Nursery school	Těrlická 407/5	Horní Suchá	2	30
Nursery school	Dr. Olszaka 155/1	Karviná	3	62
Nursery school	Přehradní 243/9	Těrlicko	1	24
Nursery school – Przedszkole	House No 311	Ropice	1	24
Nursery school – Przedszkole	Dolní Líštná 172	Třinec	1	25
Nursery school – Przedszkole	Štefánikova 772	Třinec	1	16
Nursery school – Przedszkole	SNP 447	Třinec	2	40
Nursery school – Przedszkole	Třinec-Nebory 126	Třinec	1	11
Nursery school – Przedszkole	Oldřichovice 210	Třinec	1	27
Nursery school	House No 70	Košařiska	1	8

### **b) i, ii Primary education**

b) i to make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or

b) ii to make available a substantial part of primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or

The number of primary schools with Polish as the language of instruction in the 2021/2022 school year was 24, all of which are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region. These schools had a total of 136 classes attended by 2,040 pupils.

*Tab. 16 List of primary schools where the language of instruction is Polish (as of the 2021/2022 school year)*

Type of school	Name	Street address	Place	Number of classes	Number of pupils
Reduced Years	Primary school	House No 66	Bukovec	3	37
All Years	Primary school	House No 366	Bystřice	11	175
Reduced Years	Primary school	Pod Výtopnou 190	Návsí	3	38
Reduced Years	Primary school	House No 104	Milíkov	2	21
Reduced Years	Primary school	House No 77	Hrádek	3	34
All Years	Primary school – Szkoła Podstawowa	House No 6	Hnojník	9	150
Reduced Years	Primary school	House No 750	Mosty u Jablunkova	1	10
All Years	Primary school	House No 234	Vendryně	9	135
Reduced Years	Primary school	Lutyňská 400	Orlová	1	17
All Years	Primary school	Havlíčková 213/13	Český Těšín	20	391
Reduced Years	Primary School	Polní 1832/10	Český Těšín	3	47
Reduced Years	Primary school	Školní 11	Albrechtice	2	22



All Years	Primary school	Koperníkova 652	Dolní Lutyně	6	43
All Years	Primary school with Polish language of instruction	Selská 429/14	Havířov	6	67
Reduced Years	Primary school with Polish language of instruction	House No 326	Stonava	2	12
All Years	Primary school	Těrlická 407/5	Horní Suchá	8	103
All Years	Primary school – Szkoła Podstawowa	Dr. Olszaka 156/2	Karviná	9	154
Reduced Years	Primary school	Přehradní 243/9	Těrlicko	2	20
All Years	Primary school	Školní 438	Jablunkov	15	267
Reduced Years	Primary school	House No 70	Dolní Lomná	1	16
Reduced Years	Primary school with Polish language of instruction	House No 146	Ropice	3	31
All Years	Primary school	Nádražní 10	Třinec	13	208
Reduced Years	Primary school	Oldřichovice 210	Třinec	2	21
Reduced Years	Primary school – Szkoła Podstawowa	House No 70	Košařiska	2	21

**c) i, ii; d) ii Secondary and technical education**

- c) i to make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or  
c) ii to make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or  
d) ii to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or

There are also secondary schools in the Moravian-Silesian Region where Polish is the language of instruction or one of the languages of instruction. The only secondary school where Polish is the only language of instruction is the Polish Grammar School – Polskie Gimnazjum im. Juliusza Słowackiego, Český Těšín, contributory organisation. Other secondary schools with Polish listed as language of instruction for at least one field of study in the School Register are the Secondary School of Industry, Karviná, a contributory organisation, the Business Academy, Český Těšín, a contributory organisation and the Secondary School of Health, Karviná, a contributory organisation. A total of 1,373 students attended these secondary schools in the 2021/2022 school year. The list of primary and secondary schools is provided in the following table.

*Tab. 17 List of secondary schools where the language of instruction is Polish (as of the 2021/2022 school year)*

Name	Street address	Place	Language of instruction	Number of pupils
<b>Secondary School of Industry</b>	Žižkova 1818/1a	Karviná	Czech, Polish	348
<b>Polish Grammar School – Polskie Gimnazjum</b>	Havlíčková 213/13	Český Těšín	Polish	327
<b>Business Academy</b>	Sokola-Tůmy 402/12	Český Těšín	Czech, Polish	317
<b>Secondary School of Medicine</b>	Borovského 2315/1	Karviná	Czech, Polish	381

**e) iii Education in higher education institutions**

*if, due to the role of the State in relation to higher education institutions, sub-paragraphs i and ii cannot be applied, to encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in regional or minority languages, or the possibility of studying these languages as university or higher education subjects;*



In accordance with Act No 111/1998, on higher education institutions and amending certain other acts, the competence of the MEYS in the Czech Republic in this regard is clearly defined in Section 87 of the Act and the organisation of study programmes is entirely the responsibility of higher education institutions within the framework of their autonomy guaranteed under this Act. International agreements also promote language education.

Studies of Polish language or Polish language as a language of instruction are implemented at the following higher education institutions, in the following fields of study.

*Tab. 18 Polish Higher Education (2017–2022)*

<b>Name of higher education institution</b>	<b>Field of study</b>
<b>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</b>	Polish studies
	Polish language and literature
	Polish with orientation on Commercial Practice, Services and Travel
<b>Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava</b>	Polish philology
	Polish language and literature
	Polish for translation
	Polish for business (single-subject)
	Central European historical studies focused on Czech, Polish and Slovak history
	Lower secondary school teacher training in Polish language and literature
<b>Faculty of Arts, Charles University</b>	Upper secondary school teacher training in Polish language and literature
<b>Faculty of Arts, Charles University</b>	Slavonic studies with specialisation in Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian, general and comparative Slavonic, Slovak studies
<b>Faculty of Arts, Palacký University in Olomouc</b>	Polish philology
	Polish for translators
	Polish oriented at economy, law and tourism
<b>Faculty of Arts, University of Pardubice</b>	Slavonic Studies of the European Union – Polish

**f) iii Adult and continuing education**

*if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of adult education, to favour and/or encourage the offer of such languages as subjects of adult and continuing education;*

**g) Teaching history and culture**

*to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of history and culture which is reflected in the regional or minority language;*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

**h) Teacher training**

*to provide the basic and further training of teachers necessary to implement those of paragraphs a) to g) that were accepted by the State party;*

Teacher training for the Polish minority education system continued to be provided in the past period through the Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Schools, based in Český Těšín (see Part I. Polish, paragraph 1, Article 7, i) *Transnational exchanges*). Further teacher training is also provided by the professional organisation of Polish school teachers in the Cieszyn area – the Polish Teachers Association (*Towarzystwo Nauczycieli Polskich*), which cooperates with both the Polish and Czech ministries of education.

The main activities of the PC CT are based on the Charter of the Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Schools in Český Těšín, the tasks and long-term programmes of the MEYS. The activities of the Polish Centre are carried out according to the approved plan of the main tasks of the MEYS in the following areas:

#### Support of minority education

This primarily means meeting the needs of schools and school facilities with instruction in Polish, including the support of pupils with special educational needs, the publication (with financial support from the MEYS) and distribution of methodological aids – *Jutrzenka* magazine (70/104th year) for the first level and *Ogniwo* magazine (70th year) for the second level of primary schools. In all schools and school facilities with Polish as the language of instruction, the PC CT also focuses on the use and support of the mother tongue. In the selected competitions and olympiads, especially those in the field of mathematics, it prepares Polish versions for pupils. The Polish Centre prepares and issues new teaching materials for schools with Polish as the language of instruction, such as a primer and maths workbooks for lower secondary schools.

Cooperation with Poland is particularly important. As part of the continuing education of teachers, a year-long cycle of workshops on formative assessment took place. These were intended for head teachers and the teaching staff of schools with Polish as the language of instruction. This cycle was organised thanks to a project entitled *Implementation of Formative Education in Schools with Polish as the Language of Instruction in the Czech Republic*, submitted by the Polish educational institution Centre for Citizenship Education (Centrum Edukacji Obywatelskiej) from Warsaw to the Polish Ministry of National Education.

The PC CT cooperates closely with Polish organisations in the region. The closest partner organisations are the above-mentioned *Association of Polish Teachers in the Czech Republic* and the *Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic*.

#### **i) Supervision, monitoring and reporting obligations**

*to set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of regional or minority languages and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public.*

The Council plays the role of monitoring body for issues concerning national minorities, including the use of minority languages, although it has no executive powers. The results of the monitoring are the annual Reports on the Situation of National Minorities, consulted by the Government and published on the website of the Office of the Government.<sup>18</sup> A supervisory role is played by the MEYS.

#### **Article 8(2) – Education in other territories**

*With regard to education in territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the contractual parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of the regional or minority language at all the appropriate stages of education.*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.vlada.cz/scripts/detail.php?pgid=87>

## Article 9(1) – Judicial authorities<sup>19</sup>

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

### **a) ii, iii, iv Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings**

- a) ii to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language; and/or
- a) iii to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language; and/or
- a) iv that it shall be possible to produce, on request, documents connected with legal proceedings in the relevant regional or minority language, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the person concerned;

In accordance with to Section 2(14) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the bodies in charge of criminal proceedings conduct proceedings and draw up their decisions in the Czech language. However, anyone who declares that he/she does not speak Czech is entitled to use his/her mother tongue or a language he/she claims to speak before the bodies in charge of criminal proceedings. A declaration that the person does not speak Czech is sufficient. This right is guaranteed by the Code of Criminal Procedure to all persons involved in criminal proceedings (such as witnesses or victims), not only to the accused.

It should be noted that the choice of the language to be used by the accused in criminal proceedings is up to the accused. In principle, it is sufficient if he/she declares that he/she does not know the Czech language, he/she is not obliged to prove this in any way and the relevant body in charge of criminal proceedings is not called upon to examine the level of his/her knowledge of the Czech language. The declaration can be made at any stage of the criminal proceedings, even after the accused has already declared that he/she knows the Czech language.

With regard to the requirements of this Charter, the draft new Code of Criminal Procedure considers *extending the right of members of national minorities who have traditionally and long lived in the Czech Republic to use the language of their national minority in criminal proceedings*. Under the proposed legislation, the accused (and not only the accused) will have the right to make submissions and acts in the language of his/her national minority if he/she declares the wish to *use that language*. Thus, an accused who is a member of a national minority will newly be able to use the language of his/her national minority in criminal proceedings even if he/she speaks Czech. Therefore, the proposed legislation will be more in line with the meaning and purpose of the relevant provisions of the Charter and the Minorities Act.

The submission of documents in minority languages, notwithstanding the declaration within the meaning of Section 2(14) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, is allowed in relation to documentary evidence, since, in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, “Evidence may be anything that can help to clarify the case, in particular testimonies of the accused and witnesses, expert opinions, items and documents relevant to the criminal proceedings, and examinations. Each party may find, present, or propose to produce evidence.” The Czech legal order does not require the attachment of a translation into Czech as a condition for the admissibility of documents related to criminal proceedings. In such a case, the relevant body in charge of criminal proceedings will engage a translator to translate the document into Czech. Any evidence, regardless of its form or language, must be taken into account by the relevant body in charge of criminal proceedings in its decision-making, in accordance with the principle of substantive truth, and it must deal with it in its decision-making, the same as any other evidence. The above conclusions are confirmed by the recent case law of the Constitutional Court, namely the ruling of 15 February 2016, file No I. ÚS 368/15, in which the Constitutional Court stated that *“the bodies in charge of criminal proceedings are always obliged*

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<sup>19</sup> The Czech Republic has accepted the following commitments for Polish in the area of judicial authorities: paragraph 1a)ii; a)iii; a)iv; b)ii; b)iii; c)ii; c)iii; d); paragraph 2a) (9 points in total)

*to carefully assess whether the evidence from which the incriminating evidence is derived was obtained in a manner that calls into question the reliability of the information contained therein, and if there is any doubt as to the reliability of the evidence thus obtained, whether it was subsequently examined in an objective manner. It is also essential for the assessment of the reliability of the evidence that the means of evidence be obtained and preserved in such a way that there is no doubt whether it could have been altered, changed or substituted for another means of evidence, be it intentionally, negligently or by mere accident (preservation of the integrity of the evidence). Finally, the bodies in charge of criminal proceedings must assess whether the means of evidence used is adequate to the nature of the information obtained, or whether, in view of the nature of the fact to be proved, it is necessary to carry out a qualified (e.g. expert) examination, or to capture the information by questioning or other special means of evidence, while fully respecting the requirements imposed on the measures of inquiry by the Code of Criminal Procedure. Only such a procedure can be assessed as consistent with the contradictory principle of criminal proceedings, which conditions the full exercise of the right to defence [see Article 6(3) of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms]. If serious doubts arise in the measures of inquiry and evaluation of the evidence as to the reliability of the evidence relied upon to prove the guilt of accused in the offence charged, it is the duty of the court to deal with them reliably and convincingly in the grounds for conviction.”*

Section 28(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides that *“If the need to translate the content of a document, testimony or other procedural act arises, or if the accused exercises the right referred to in Section 2 (14), a translator shall be co-opted; the same applies for appointing an interpreter to a person with whom it is impossible to communicate otherwise than through the communication systems for deaf and deaf-blind persons. The interpreter may also be the court reporter. Unless the accused states the language that they understand or states a language or dialect that is not the language of his nationality or the official language of the country he is a citizen of, and there is no person registered for such a language or dialect in the register of interpreters, the authority involved in criminal proceedings shall appoint an interpreter for the language of their nationality or the official language of the country he is a citizen of. In the case of a person without a citizenship, it shall be understood as the State where he has a permanent residence, or the State of his origin. If the accused makes use of the right referred to in Section 2(14), the interpreter shall, at his request, also interpret his consultation with the defence counsel which is directly related to the procedural acts and the consultation during the procedural acts.”*

### ***b) ii, iii Use of minority languages in civil proceedings***

- b) ii to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or*
- b) iii to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;*

The right to be heard in court in one’s mother tongue, which is a regional or minority language in the Czech Republic within the meaning of the European Charter and the Framework Convention, stems from Article 25(2)(b) of the Charter, according to which citizens belonging to a national or ethnic minority have the right to use their language in official communication, and from Article 37(3) and (4) of the Charter (equality of parties, right to an interpreter). Furthermore, Section 18(2) of the Code of Civil Procedure is crucial for the purposes of civil court proceedings, according to which the court shall appoint an interpreter to a party whose mother tongue is a language other than Czech as soon as such a need becomes apparent in the proceedings. The above provision is interpreted as meaning that the right to an interpreter belongs to anyone who requests one, regardless of whether that person also speaks Czech or not. At the same time, the court may provide an interpreter on its own initiative if the need for it becomes apparent during the proceedings. A party to the proceedings may also make submissions to the court in his/her mother tongue. A party to the proceedings must be informed by the court of the right to use their mother tongue in accordance with Section 118(4) of the Code of Civil Procedure, as soon as the court discovers during the proceedings (e.g. from the content of the file or direct contact with the participant at the meeting) that the participant’s mother tongue is a language other than Czech.

## General information on the legal regulation of interpreting activities in the Czech Republic

New legislation has been adopted under the Ministry of Justice (the “Moj”), which came into effect on 1 January 2021:

- Act No 354/2019, on court interpreters and court translators, as amended by Act No 166/2020
- Decree No 506/2020, on interpreting and translation activities
- Decree No 507/2020, on the remuneration and compensation of court interpreters and court translators

Decree No 608/2020, on the determination of language proficiency and language examinations for the performance of interpreting activities (issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports), entered into effect on 1 January 2021.

The new legislation (as well as the previous legislation<sup>20</sup>) regulates the conditions for the performance of interpreting and translation activities<sup>21</sup>, i.e. who can become a court interpreter or court translator – what conditions must be met, the suspension and termination of the authorisation to perform interpreting or translation activities, the list of court interpreters and court translators, the rights and obligations of court interpreters and court translators, the appointment of ad hoc “court interpreters” and “court translators”, interpreting and translating acts (their particulars, registration of interpreting and translating acts), remuneration of court interpreters and court translators, supervision and infractions.

### ***c) ii, iii, d) Use of minority languages in proceedings concerning administrative matters***

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

There has not been any change under these points over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

### **Article 9(2)(a) – Validity of national legal documents in a minority language**

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

There is no such restriction in Czech law. Only the general requirement of certainty of legal acts (regardless of the form and method of communication) as a condition for their perfection is established, in addition to the possibility to clarify the expression of will between the parties subsequently with ex tunc effects (Section 553 of the Civil Code). Also in accordance with Article 13(2), national legislation does not restrict the use of minority languages in commercial transactions.

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<sup>20</sup> Act No 36/1967, on experts and interpreters, as amended, and Decree No 37/1967, implementing the Act on Experts and Interpreters, as amended.

<sup>21</sup> The new legislation distinguishes interpreting and translation activities, court interpreter and court translator, etc.

## **Article 10 – Public administration and public service authorities <sup>22</sup>**

### **Article 10(1)(a)(iv) – Use of minority languages within the administrative districts of the State**

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

#### **a) iv Submission of applications in a minority language**

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

### **Article 10(2) – Use of minority languages in public services**

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

#### **b), e), f) Use of minority languages within the administrative districts of the State**

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

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

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

The previous fourth periodical report contained information on the amendment of the Municipalities Act. There have been no further developments in relation to minority legislation in the Municipalities Act. A methodological opinion was prepared in cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior (the “MoI”) and the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) for the needs of municipalities to assess the number of citizens claiming a nationality other than Czech in connection with the establishment of Committees for National Minorities under the laws on territorial self-government units and the marking of streets in the language of a national minority under the Act on Municipalities.

With regard to informing speakers of regional or minority languages about the holding of elections or local referendums in the languages of national minorities, the relevant measures were described in detail in the third periodical report and there have not been any changes in subsequent periods.

#### **g) Use of traditional place-names**

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

Under the grant programme to Support of the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, thematic area C, bilingual names in municipalities are supported. The bilingual designation refers mainly to areas of compact Polish settlement in the Czech part of Cieszyn Silesia. Since the ratification of the Charter in 2007, these signs have been gradually installed in municipalities, with the degree of bilingualism determined by each municipality individually on the basis of recommendations from its

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<sup>22</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Polish in the area of public administration and public service: paragraph 1a)iv, paragraph 2b), e), f), g), paragraph 4a), paragraph 5, (7 points in total).

Committee for National Minorities. It ranges from bilingual signs on official buildings, to bilingual signs in public spaces, to road signs marking the entrance and exit of the village.

Tab. 19 Grants from the Charter Implementation Programme for the installation of bilingual names (by municipality, total for programme duration, years covered by the periodic report in bold)

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Total financial support for 2007–2021 (CZK)</i>	<i>Financial support in 2017–2021 (CZK)</i>	<i>Year installed</i>
Albrechtice / Olbrachcice	239,130.3	150,000.0	2007, 2009, <b>2017</b>
Bocanovice / Boconowice	14,113.0	-	2007
Bukovec / Bukowiec	59,331.0	-	2007
Bystřice / Bystrzyca	25,756.4	-	2008
Český Těšín / Czeski Cieszyn	1,223,684.0	-	2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013
Dolní Lomná / Łomna Dolna	35,000.0	-	2007
Hnojník / Gnojnik	105,526.0	51,000.0	2008, 2011, 2012, <b>2019</b>
Horní Suchá / Sucha Górna	141,126.0	-	2007, 2009
Hrádek / Gródek	95,859.1	35,000.0	2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, <b>2021</b>
Chotěbuz / Kocobędz	61,000.0	-	2013
Jablunkov / Jabłonków	483,127.0	260,851.0	2009, 2012, 2016, <b>2018</b>
Komorní Lhotka / Ligotka Kameralna	76,000.0	-	2013
Milíkov / Milików	46,746.3	-	2008, 2013
Mosty u Jablunkova / Mosty koło Jabłonkowa	16,200.7	-	2009
Nýdek / Nydek	28,779.0	22,000.0	2007, <b>2017</b>
Smilovice / Śmiłowice	14,272.8	-	2007, 2010
Stonava / Stonawa	47,634.1	-	2007, 2009
Střítež / Trzycież	45,990.4	10,000.0	2008, 2009, <b>2017</b>
Těrlicko / Cierlicko	157,589.3	-	2008, 2009, 2012
Třanovice / Trzanowice	168,662.0	-	2007, 2010
Třinec / Trzyniec	191,000.0	-	2012
Vendryně / Wędrynia	146,738.6	64,493.0	2007, 2009, <b>2018</b>
<b>total</b>	<b>3,295,226.0</b>	<b>593,344.0</b>	

#### Article 10(4)(a) – Translation and interpretation

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

*translation or interpretation as may be required;*

Under the grant programme for the implementation the Charter from the budget of the Office of the Government, one of the thematic areas that has been included in the support is translation and interpreting into regional or minority languages. There has not been any change under these points over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

#### Article 10(5) – Use or adoption of surnames in the regional or minority languages

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

When preparing the previous periodical reports, the MoI mentioned the provisions of Act No 301/2000, on record books, name and surname and amending certain related acts, as amended (hereinafter the “Act on Record Books”), which fulfil the rights of members of national minorities and the obligations of the Czech

Republic under the Charter. Specifically, this concerns the legal regulation of the use of names and surnames in the language of a national minority, as well as the right of women to use their surnames with no differentiation of grammatical gender. As of 1 January 2022, women can apply to have their surname non-differentiated without having to prove that they meet one of the exhaustively listed conditions (a foreigner, a citizen with permanent residence abroad, a citizen whose husband or partner is a foreigner, a citizen whose parent is a foreigner, or a citizen of other than Czech nationality). Thus, the right of women to have their surnames in a non-differentiated form has been significantly liberalised, as the need to prove, for example, membership of a national minority, has been eliminated.

An amendment to the Act on Record Books is currently being prepared. This includes the issue of the rights of members of national minorities. The right to use a name or surname in the language of a national minority should be further extended to include, inter alia, *the possibility of changing one's maiden name into the language of a national minority*. It should also be possible to *conclude a marriage or registered partnership in the language of a national minority*. This option will be subject to the following conditions:

- in the last two censuses, at least 10% of the citizens of the municipality in whose territorial district the declaration is made have always declared that nationality (identical solution to the one in Section 29 of the Municipalities Act);
- both spouses or persons wishing to enter into a civil partnership request it with the consent of both spouses or persons wishing to enter into a civil partnership;
- the official performing marriage and the registrar speak the language of this national minority.

## **Article 11 – Mass media** <sup>23</sup>

### **Article 11(1)(a), (b), (c) – Broadcasting in minority languages in radio and television**

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

- a) *to the extent that radio and television carry out a public service mission:*
  - iii *to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages;*
- b) *ii to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;*
- c) *ii to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;*

Act No 231/2001, on radio and television broadcasting, imposes an obligation on broadcasters to compile their programming in such a way as to provide a balanced offer for all citizens, taking into account their age, gender, colour, faith, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin and membership of a minority group.

The obligation to broadcast radio and television programmes in minority languages is also implemented through Act No 483/1991, on Czech Television and Act No 484/1991, on Czech Radio. These regulations impose similar obligations on both public service media, namely as follows:

- a) to produce and disseminate programmes and provide a balanced offer of programmes for all groups of the population, taking into account their freedom of religion or belief, culture, ethnic or national

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<sup>23</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Polish in the field of mass media: paragraph 1a)iii, b)ii, c)ii, d, e)i, paragraph 2, (6 points in total).



origin, national identity, social origin, age or gender, so that these programmes reflect the diversity of political, religious, philosophical and artistic views, with a view to fostering mutual understanding and tolerance and promoting the cohesion of a pluralistic society;

- b) to develop the cultural identity of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic, including members of national or ethnic minorities.

As far as Polish language broadcasting is concerned, Czech Television offers the programme *Wiadomości w języku polskim*. This programme was originally broadcast only in the Moravian-Silesian region, but today, it is available online all over the Czech Republic. It is a regular weekly programme. It is 8–10 minutes long.

Czech Radio has a programme for the Polish minority called *Wydarzenia (Aktualności Radia Czeskiego v Ostrawie)*. The editorial office provides up-to-date information in the Polish language by broadcasting for Polish citizens from Monday to Friday after the news at 19:00; it is 25–30 minutes long. It offers current information and journalistic contributions about daily and exceptional events concerning social and cultural organisations, institutions and citizens belonging to the Polish minority living in the Czech Republic. The programme also plays songs in Polish, sometimes in the Cieszyn dialect. *Wydarzenia* are a continuation of the *Kwadrans Polskich Aktualności* programme, which was broadcast by Czech Radio for a number of years until the end of 2013.

The MoC (Media and Audiovisual Department) implements a grant programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities, for which funds are allocated annually from the State budget.

In 2017, 2018, 2019 the value of the Grant Programme was CZK 20,850,000. The Programme funding from the Ministry of Culture was increased in excess of the budget to CZK 25,000,000 in 2020, to CZK 24,850,000 in 2021, only to return to the original budgeted value of CZK 20,850,000 in 2022. Under this Programme, the production of programmes for radio and television broadcasting in minority languages may also be supported on the basis of submitted projects. The following media projects have been supported through this Programme. For more information, see the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

In 2020–2022, Regionální televize CZ, spol. s r.o., has received funding to continue their profile pieces about national minority personalities – They Live Among Us. In 2020 it was CZK 210,420; in 2021 CZK 291,200; and in 2022 CZK 85,600. These amounts relate to profiles about personalities from the Polish, German, Roma and Slovak minorities.

#### **Article 11(1)(d) – Support of the production and distribution of audio-visual and audio works in regional or minority languages**

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

Act No 496/2012, on audiovisual works, does not provide for a specific support area for projects related to the issue of national or ethnic minorities, but it is possible to use the general categories of creation, production and distribution of cinematographic works and promotion of cinematography. This would be investment support. The assignment of co-production status to a specific audio-visual work can be another instrument of support for regional or minority languages. A producer can apply for support both in the Czech Republic and in the country of co-production (this is often the case with projects prepared with Slovak, Polish and German partners).

In accordance with Act No 239/2992, on the State Cultural Fund of the Czech Republic, it is possible to provide support for cultural, minority and regional projects (including audio and music recordings) which are intended to preserve and develop the culture of national minorities in the Czech Republic.

In accordance with Article 25(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and Section 13 of the Minorities Act, the production and distribution of sound recordings and audiovisual works in regional or minority languages is supported by the MoC's Grant Programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities.

#### **Article 11(1)(e)(i) – Support of printed publications**

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

On the basis of Government Regulation No 98/2002, laying down the conditions and method of providing grants from the State budget for the activities of members of national minorities and for supporting the integration of members of the Roma community, the aforementioned programme (Support for the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities) is being implemented under the authority of the Ministry of Culture. Within the framework of this scheme, resources are allocated annually from the State budget, and it is possible, on the basis of projects submitted, to support the publication of periodicals in national minority languages or the production of programmes for broadcasting on radio and television in national minority languages. The grant may cover up to 70% of the project budget; in exceptional cases, this share may be increased up to 100%.

Traditionally, Polish minority projects receive the highest volume of funds. Its share in the value of the grant scheme fluctuates, and the absolute value of the funds provided also fluctuates in relation to the value of the Programme and the number of applications for support. In the individual years, the share of support stood at 29.5%, 28.8%, 28.5%, 26.8%, 27.7% and 26%.

- In 2017, the amount was CZK 6,142,000 and two projects were supported. CZK 5,150,000 was spent on the project of publishing the Głos – Hlas (Voice) newspaper, which is published twice a week by the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic. Furthermore, the monthly magazine Zwrot – Návrat (Return), published by the Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic, was supported with CZK 992,000.
- In 2018 it was CZK 6,200,000; CZK 5,050,000 – Voice; CZK 950,000 – Return.
- In 2019 it was CZK 5,950,000; CZK 5,000,000 – Voice; CZK 950,000 – Return.
- In 2020 it was CZK 6,715,600; CZK 5,415,600 – Voice; CZK 1,300,000 – Return.
- In 2021 it was CZK 6,890,000; CZK 5,650,000 – Voice; CZK 1,240,000 – Return.
- In 2022 it was CZK 6,030,000; CZK 4,830,000 – Voice; CZK 1,200,000 – Return.

For more information, see the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

#### **Article 11(2) – The right to receive broadcasts from neighbouring countries**

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

The system of radio and television broadcasting in the Czech Republic complies with the standards set by the Council of Europe and EU requirements. Based on the constitutionally guaranteed rights arising from the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Convention on Transfrontier Television, the EU Directive on audio-visual media services, as well as other documents of a facultative nature, these principles are secured.

#### **Article 12(1) – Cultural activities and cultural facilities** <sup>24</sup>

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

#### **a), f), g) Support of accessibility and archiving of works in minority languages and participation by users of minority languages in the planning of cultural activities**

*a) to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;*

*f) to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;*

*g) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the regional or minority languages;*

Each year, MoC (Department of Regional and National Culture) announces, in accordance with Government Resolution No 122 of 21 February 2007 on the Government Regulation amending Government Regulation No 98/2002, laying down the conditions and method of providing grants from the State budget for the activities of members of national minorities in the Czech Republic, as amended by Government Regulation No 262/2005, a grant selection procedure for projects under the “Support of Cultural Activities of Members of National Minorities Living in the Czech Republic” programme. In 2017, CZK 9,275,000 was earmarked for this programme [the National Institute of Folk Culture in Strážnice received a grant for the International Folklore Festival programme “Domovina” (Homeland) – CZK 300,000 – outside of the grant selection procedure through the Department of Contributory Organisations]; in 2018, it was CZK 10,600,000; in 2019, it was CZK 10,242,994 [the National Institute of Folk Culture in Strážnice received a grant for the International Folklore Festival programme “Domovina” (Homeland) – CZK 300,000 – outside of the grant selection procedure through the Department of Contributory Organisations]; in 2020, it was CZK 10,150,000; in 2021, it was CZK 12,550,025 (the refunds caused by the measures around Covid-19 in 2020 were added); in 2022, it was CZK 10,150,000 once again.

Support was provided for events and year-round activities, especially for civic associations and organisations bringing together national minorities, such as meetings of minorities on the occasion of important holidays, activities of choirs, traditional folk dance groups, folklore festivals and presentations of folk art, exhibitions and performances for children and youth, research and documentation of the activities of national minorities (Croatian, German, Polish, Roma and Slovak minorities). The “Support of Cultural Activities of Members of National Minorities Living in the Czech Republic” programme.

#### 2017

The Polish national minority received a grant of CZK 2,046,835 for association projects:

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<sup>24</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Polish in the field of mass media: paragraph 1a), f), g), paragraph 2, paragraph 3, (5 points in total).

- GÓROLE, folklore ensemble, Mosty u Jablunkova – *International festival of folk groups and folk ensembles 2017.*
- Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Documentation Centre of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Cultural activities of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic in 2017.*
- Macierz Szkolna w Republice Czeskiej, Matice školská v České republice (Mother of Schools in the Czech Republic), Český Těšín – *15th Festival of Children’s Songs.*
- Polish Arts Association Ars Musica, Český Těšín – *Popularisation of choral singing, folk music and theatrical forms at a high artistic level.*
- Polish Singing Society Collegium Cantorum, Český Těšín – *Development of the art of choral singing.*
- Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Cultural and Social Activities and documentation activity of the PZKO in the 70th anniversary of the Union.*
- Association of the Friends of Polish Books, Český Těšín – *Já čtu tobě a ty mně (I am reading to you and you are reading to me) 2017.*
- Association for Artistic and Leisure Activities, Třinec – *Support for the activities of the HUTNÍK Choir.*
- Association of the Polish Youth in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Student Culture Days 2017, Independent.pl – Encounter with Polish independent culture.*

## 2018

The Polish national minority received a grant of CZK 2,148,000:

- GÓROLE, folklore ensemble, Mosty u Jablunkova – *International festival of folk groups and folk ensembles 2018.*
- Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Documentation Centre of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Cultural activities of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic in 2018.*
- Polish Arts Association Ars Musica, Český Těšín – *Popularisation of choral singing, folk music and theatrical forms at a high artistic level.*
- Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Cultural and Social Activities and documentation activity of the PZKO.*
- Polish Singing Society Collegium Cantorum, Český Těšín – *Development of the art of choral singing.*
- Association of the Friends of Polish Books, Český Těšín – *Já čtu tobě a ty mně (I am reading to you and you are reading to me) 2018.*
- Association for Artistic and Leisure Activities, Třinec – *Support for the activities of the HUTNÍK Choir.*
- Association of the Polish Youth in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Student Culture Days, Independent.pl – Encounter with Polish independent culture.*

## 2019

The Polish national minority received a grant of CZK 2,756,000 for association projects:

- GÓROLE, folklore ensemble, Mosty u Jablunkova – *International festival of folk groups and folk ensembles 2019.*
- Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Documentation Centre of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Cultural activities of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic in 2019.*
- Macierz Szkolna w Republice Czeskiej, Matice školská v České republice (Mother of Schools in the Czech Republic), Český Těšín – *16th Festival of Children’s Songs.*
- Local group of the Polish Cultural and Educational Union in Jablunkov, Jablunkov – 72. International folk festival “Gorolski Świąto”.

- Polish Arts Association Ars Musica, Český Těšín – *Popularisation of choral singing, folk music and theatrical forms at a high artistic level.*
- Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Cultural and Social Activities and documentation activity of the PZKO, Festival PZKO 2019.*
- Polish Singing Society Collegium Canticorum, Český Těšín – *Development of the art of choral singing.*
- Association of the Friends of Polish Books, Český Těšín – *Já čtu tobě a ty mně (I am reading to you and you are reading to me) 2019.*
- Association for Artistic and Leisure Activities, Třinec – *Support for the activities of the HUTNÍK Choir.*
- Association of the Friends of Polish Books, Český Těšín – *Já čtu tobě a ty mně (I am reading to you and you are reading to me) 2019.*
- Association of the Polish Youth in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Młode Zaolzie - Mladé Zaolzí (Young Trans-Olza), Independent.pl – Encounter with Polish independent culture 2019.*

## 2020

Some of the projects were not implemented because of Covid-19, the grants were returned. The Polish national minority received a grant of CZK 2,184,000:

- GÓROLE, folklore ensemble, Mosty u Jablunkova – *International festival of folk groups and folk ensembles 2020.*
- Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Documentation Centre of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Cultural activities of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic in 2020.*
- Polish Arts Association Ars Musica, Český Těšín – *Popularisation of choral singing, folk music and theatrical forms at a high artistic level.*
- Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Cultural and Social Activities and documentation activity of the PZKO.*
- Polish Singing Society Collegium Canticorum, Český Těšín – *Development of the art of choral singing.*
- Association of the Friends of Polish Books, Český Těšín – *Já čtu tobě a ty mně (I am reading to you and you are reading to me) 2020.*
- Association for Artistic and Leisure Activities, Třinec – *Support for the activities of the HUTNÍK Choir.*
- Association of the Polish Youth in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Młode Zaolzie - Mladé Zaolzí (Young Trans-Olza), ZAOLZIE.PL.*

## 2021

Some of the projects were not implemented and the grants were returned due to Covid-19 pandemic. The Polish national minority received a grant of CZK 2,313,000 for association activities:

- GÓROLE, folklore ensemble, Mosty u Jablunkova – *International festival of folk groups and folk ensembles.*
- Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Documentation Centre of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Cultural activities of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic.*
- Polish Arts Association Ars Musica, Český Těšín – *Popularisation of choral singing, folk music and theatrical forms at a high artistic level.*
- Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Cultural and Social Activities and documentation activity of the PZKO, Polish Days 2021.*
- Association of the Friends of Polish Books, Český Těšín – *Já čtu tobě a ty mně (I am reading to you and you are reading to me) 2020.*

- Association for Artistic and Leisure Activities, Třinec – *Support for the activities of the HUTNÍK Choir.*
- Association of the Polish Youth in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Młode Zaolzie - Mladé Zaolží (Young Trans-Olza), Těrlické filmové léto – Cierlickie Lato Filmowe 2021 (Summer of Films in Těrlicko).*

## 2022

The Polish national minority received a grant of CZK 1,935,000 for association activities:

- GÓROLE, folklore ensemble, Mosty u Jablunkova – *International festival of folk groups and folk ensembles 2022.*
- Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Cultural activities of the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic.*
- Macierz Szkolna w Republice Czeskiej, Matice školská v České republice (Mother of Schools in the Czech Republic), Český Těšín – *17th Festival of Children's Songs.*
- Polish Arts Association Ars Musica, Český Těšín – *Popularisation of choral singing, folk music and theatrical forms at a high artistic level.*
- Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Cultural and Social Activities and documentation activity of the PZKO.*
- Association for Artistic and Leisure Activities, Třinec – *Support for the activities of the HUTNÍK Choir.*
- Association of the Polish Youth in the Czech Republic, Český Těšín – *Summer of Films in Těrlicko.*

The Department of Regional and National Culture uses a grant scheme for the support of foreign contacts in the field of amateur artistic activities. This facilitates the presentation of our top ensembles in minority languages referred to above at prestigious foreign festivals and competitions, while significantly contributing to stronger links between these cultures and languages directly in the countries of their origin. It also helps to spread awareness of Czech regional and national culture more effectively. The Department also implements a scheme of support for regional cultural traditions on the occasion of significant anniversaries of municipalities and towns, cultural and historical events and important personalities of Czech origin in the field of culture with supra-regional significance.

The scheme for the support of foreign contacts in the field of amateur artistic activities also finances the participation of ensembles abroad. In 2018, the project of the applicant Polish Arts Association Ars Musica, Český Těšín, entitled "XIII Warszawski Międzynarodowy Festiwal Chóralny "Varsovia Cantat" 2018, Poland" was supported with the amount of CZK 10,000.

Within the authority of the Museums Department of the Ministry of Culture, activities corresponding to the objectives of the Charter are carried out by the *Moravian Museum, Silesian Museum, Museum of Romani Culture, Lidice Memorial and the National Open Air Museum.*

### Silesian Museum

The Museum Library targets the acquisition of works in original languages for minorities living in the region. In particular, this means the Polish national minority. The library has established partnerships with several university, museum and library institutions in Poland.

Current list of cultural institutions in Poland collaborating with the Library of the Silesian Museum:

- Muzeum Gornośląskie – BYTOM
- Biblioteka Śląska - KATOWICE
- Biblioteka Uniwersytetu Śląskiego – KATOWICE
- Muzeum Śląskie – KATOWICE
- Centrum Dziedzictwa Przyrody Górnego Śląska – KATOWICE

- Muzeum Narodowe – KRAKÓW
- Uniwersytet Jagielloński- Biblioteka Jagiellońska – KRAKÓW
- Instytut Botaniki Uniw. Jagiellońskiego – KRAKÓW
- Instytut Systematyki i Ewolucji Zwierząt PAN– KRAKÓW
- Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN – KRAKÓW
- Muzeum Archeologiczne – KRAKÓW
- Biblioteka Naukowa PAU i PAN - KRAKÓW
- Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii PAN – Oddział w Łodzi – ŁÓDŹ
- Biblioteka Uniwersytecka – ŁÓDŹ
- Biblioteka Główna Uniwersytetu Marii Curie Skłodowskiej – LUBLIN
- Państwowy Instytut Naukowy – Instytut Śląski – OPOLE
- Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk – POZNAŃ
- Muzeum Archeologiczne – POZNAŃ
- Instytut Archeologii UAM – POZNAŃ
- Muzeum Budownictwa Ludowego w Sanoku – SANOK
- Muzeum Narodowe – SZCZECIN
- PAN – Instytut Historii – WARSZAWA
- Biblioteka Polskiego Towarzystwa Botanicznego – WARSZAWA
- Instytut Sztuki PAN – WARSZAWA
- Państwowy Instytut Geologiczny – WARSZAWA
- PAN – Muzeum i Instytut Zoologii - WARSZAWA
- Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne – WARSZAWA
- Narodowy Instytut Dziedzictwa – WARSZAWA
- Uniw. Wrocławski Instytut Archeologii – WROCŁAW
- Muzeum Narodowe – WROCŁAW
- Uniwersytet Wrocławski – Instytut Historii Sztuki – WROCŁAW
- Biblioteka Uniwersytecka – WROCŁAW
- Uniw. Wrocławski – Muzeum Przyrodnicze – WROCŁAW
- Polskie Towarzystwo Ludoznawcze – WROCŁAW

Some of the projects or activities supported by the Department of Arts, Libraries and Creative Sectors in the field of the arts indirectly contribute to the fulfilment of the obligations set out for the Czech Republic in Article 12(1)(a) of the Charter and in the related Article 12(2) of the Charter.

An example is the support of the year-round artistic activities of the Těšín Theatre, which has a Polish stage alongside the Czech one. The Těšín theatre receives annual grants of several million CZK. Specifically: in 2020, the Těšín Theatre was granted a total of CZK 6.7 million, in 2019, it amounted to CZK 4.4 million; in 2018 to CZK 3.9 million. It is clear that the grants are continuously increasing.

The library support area managed by the Unit of Literature and Libraries also supports projects aimed at acquiring books in the languages of national minorities, specifically the Polish national minority, as well as events introducing other cultures (in accordance with Government Regulation No 288/2002). This includes, for example, the support of the Regional Library of Karviná or the Municipal Library of Český Těšín. Grant up to tens of thousands of CZK are provided here, with regard to the priorities of the Ministry of Culture. For instance: In 2018, the Regional Library of Karviná received a grant of CZK 54,000; in 2019, it received CZK 40,000, in 2020, CZK 30,000 and in 2021 CZK 40,000. The grant amount depends on the number and quality of projects. The Municipal Library of Český Těšín received CZK 30,000 in 2021 and CZK 30,000 in 2019. These grants are not high (e.g. compared to those provided in the field of professional arts), but they are relevant for library operators and contribute to the libraries' ability to properly provide services to members of the Polish national minority in accordance with Act No 257/2001.

Financial support of projects contributing to the fulfilment of the Charter's purpose is provided on an ongoing basis under the authority of the Department of Arts, Libraries and Creative Sectors, depending primarily on

budgetary possibilities, following the evaluation of individual projects by expert advisory bodies and according to the decisions of the Minister of Culture.

Tab. 20 Overview of grants provided to library operators

Year	Grant recipient	Project	Grant in CZK
2017	Municipality of Mosty u Jablunkova	Purchase of library stocks for the Polish national minority	10,000
2017	Regional Library of Karviná	Supplementation of the library's stocks of Polish and Slovak literature as part its cultural activities	20,000
2017	Municipality of Ropice	Acquisition of children's books in Polish	10,000
2017	Jablunkov Culture and Information Centre	Kniha mezi generacemi (A book between generations)	15,000
2017	Municipality of Vendryně	Od prvňáčků k dospělým (From first graders to adults)	15,000
2018	Municipality of Horní Suchá	Replacement and supplementation of library stocks published in Polish in the Horní Suchá Municipal Library	20,000
2018	Stonava Primary School and Nursery School	Replacement of old library stocks for readers of all ages, especially families with children, from the Polish national minority in the Local Library in Stonava	30,000
2018	Municipality of Vendryně	Od prvňáčků k dospělým (From first graders to adults)	15,000
2018	Municipality of Hrádek	New Polish books for young readers	10,000
2018	Regional Library of Karviná	Supplementation of the library's stocks of Polish and Slovak literature as part its cultural activities	23,000
2019	Municipal Library of Český Těšín	International cooperation of libraries/11th year of the International Literary Festival on Olza Český Těšín and Cieszyn. Purchase of books in Polish	30,000
2019	Regional Library of Karviná, contributory organisation	Supplementation of the library's stocks of Polish literature as part its cultural activities	23,000
2019	Jablunkov Culture and Information Centre, contributory organisation	Intergenerational meeting of seniors and children in the region	25,000
2020	Municipality of Ropice	Acquisition of books in Polish	10,000
2020	Stonava Primary School and Nursery School	Supplementation of Polish literature for Polish minority readers of all ages, especially for mothers with children in the Local Library	20,000
2020	Regional Library of Karviná, contributory organisation	Expansion of the library's stocks of Polish literature, with emphasis on updating the outdated collection of educational literature for all ages	20,000
2021	Regional Library of Karviná, contributory organisation	Supplementation of the library's stocks of Polish literature to meet the needs of all ages, with an emphasis on children.	12,000



2021	Jablunkov Culture and Information Centre, contributory organisation	Náš region rázovitý (Our distinctive region)	15,000
2021	Municipal Library of Český Těšín	International Literary Festival on Olza / 12th year. Purchase of books in Polish	30,000
2022	Regional Library of Karviná, contributory organisation	Bibliotherapy as a way to meet the needs of readers, including the replenishment of the library's stocks of Polish literature	27,000
2022	Stonava Primary School and Nursery School	Supplementation of Polish literature for Polish minority readers of all ages, especially for mothers with young children in the Local Library	15,000

Between 2018 and 2021, the Research and Development Department supported the consortium project DG18P02OVV064 entitled “Legal, historical and social aspects of new and traditional minorities in the Czech Republic”, whose beneficiaries are the Charles University – Faculty of Law; the Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences; the Silesian University in Opava – Faculty of Public Policies in Opava; and the Silesian Museum.<sup>25</sup> The project dealt, among other things, with the Polish and German minorities in Silesia and northern Moravia and relations with the Roma minority in the town of Most.

#### Sub-programme 134D212 – Support for the reproduction of assets of regional cultural facilities

In 2018, the following project was supported: Matice slezská, pobočný spolek v Dolní Lomné (Mother of Silesia, Dolní Lomná branch) – replacement of wooden benches in the Křínov auditorium (EDS 134D212000027). Grant recipient: Matice slezská, pobočný spolek v Dolní Lomné, o.p.s. The aim of the action was to remove the degrading wooden parts of the auditorium (benches) and replace them with new wooden elements removable for the winter months. Total costs: CZK 725,271; the grant from the budget chapter 334 – MoC was CZK 600,000.

#### **Article 12(2) – Cultural activities in other regions**

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

#### **Article 12(3) – Presentation of the cultures associated with minority languages abroad**

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

#### **Article 13 – Economic and social life**<sup>26</sup>

##### **Article 13(1)(c) – Taking action (protection/intervention) against the discrimination of minority languages**

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

<sup>25</sup> See <https://www.isvavai.cz/cep?s=jednoduche-vyhledavani&ss=detail&n=0&h=DG18P02OVV064>.

<sup>26</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Polish in the area of economic and social life: paragraph 1c), paragraph 2e) (2 points in total).

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

On 17–18 February 2022, an online hearing was held before the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, where the Ministry of Culture, through the Head of the Bilateral Cooperation Unit of the International Relations Department, participated in the discussion of the PERIODIC REPORT ON THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS. The report reflects, among other things, the rights to participate in the cultural sphere of life for all, public access to cultural goods and the protection and promotion of minority culture and language. It captures the main and most significant issues and recommends mostly general but workable solutions.

### **Article 13(2)(e) – Information on consumer rights in minority languages**

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

e) *to arrange for information provided by the competent public authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in regional or minority languages.*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Polish language.

### **Article 14(a), (b) – Cross-border exchanges <sup>27</sup>**

*The Parties undertake:*

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

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

Cross-border cultural exchanges with Slovakia, Poland and Germany (under the authority of the International Relations Department of the Ministry of Culture) are carried out in accordance with valid cultural agreements and implementing programmes.

Representatives of the International Relations Department were invited to a meeting by Deputy Minister of Culture JUDr. Petra Smolíková, who met with the President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), Mr Loránt Vincze, on 11 October 2019 at the Ministry. The delegation consisted mostly of representatives of the Czech minority abroad, but it also included Tomasz Pustówka from the Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic. The aim of FUEN is to gain support in Europe to create a framework for better protection of persons belonging to national or linguistic minorities in Europe. The President of the organisation, L. Vincze, positively assessed the existing frameworks for the protection of national minorities in the Czech Republic, which provide minorities in the Czech Republic with greater protection than what is common in other EU countries. In general, the international delegation evaluated positively the existing support provided by the Ministry of Culture to minorities and their cultural projects.

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<sup>27</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Polish in the area of cross-border exchanges: a), b) (2 points in total).

## **II. Slovak**

### **Article 6 – Information**

See Part I. Polish, Article 6 – Information.

### **Article 7(1) – Objectives and principles**

#### ***a) Recognition of the regional and minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth***

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language.

#### ***b) Respect for the geographical area of regional and minority languages***

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. Slovak continues to be a non-territorial language in the Czech Republic, with a higher number of users in large cities (as a result of migration for work and study) and in border areas (new settlers after the removal of Germans).

#### ***c) Action to promote regional and minority languages in order to safeguard them***

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

#### ***d) Encouragement of the use of regional and minority languages***

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

#### ***e) Development of links between groups using different languages***

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(1) – Objectives and Principles, e).

#### ***f) Support for the teaching and study of regional and minority languages***

Thanks to the mutual intelligibility of Czech and Slovak, Slovak pupils are educated in the mainstream. Slovak-speaking students often speak and write in Slovak during lessons, and the teacher responds in Czech, which is common especially in the higher education environment.

Therefore, teaching directly in Slovak is supported mostly by Slovak regional associations. The most frequent outputs of the projects are methodological and professional materials, seminars and other educational events for pupils and teachers, visits to cultural events in the language of the national minority, language courses for children (e.g. Bona Fide), dance activities focused on learning about regional traditions in the country of origin (e.g. Půčik, LIMBORA), publications and books for children in the language of the national minority (e.g. Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak Minority in the Czech Republic). Literary competitions for pupils are also important, e.g. the Ján Kollár competition, which develops the language and linguistic communication in the Slovak language, and the Lidice for the 21st Century competition, which is also attended by pupils from Slovakia.

#### ***g) Study and research on regional and minority languages at higher education institutions***

See Part II. Slovak, Article 8(1)(f)(iii) Adult and continuing education.

### ***i) Transnational exchanges***

Cross-border cultural exchanges with Slovakia (under the authority of the International Relations Department of the Ministry of Culture) are carried out in accordance with valid cultural agreements and implementing programmes. In the case of the Slovak implementation programme, the Parties undertook to support, within their respective capabilities, the cultural activities of the Slovak national minority living in the territory of the Czech Republic and the Czech national minority living in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Cross-border cooperation with the Slovak Republic was influenced by the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the independent Czechoslovak State, which fell in 2018, so many joint projects also referred to this event. The cross-border cooperation project financed from EU funds – Interreg V-A Slovakia – Czech Republic – also continued.

#### Exhibition 1918–1938: First Republic

This permanent exhibition, which was opened in 2018 on the 100th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic on the 3rd floor of the Trade Fair Palace, includes a presentation of artworks and design from the region of Slovakia and the former Subcarpathian Rus between 1918 and 1938. In terms of Slovakia, the artistic life in Bratislava and Košice as artistic centres of the First Republic is presented. The exhibition presents the rich artistic production and artistic activity of the young state in 1918–1938. In addition to paintings and sculptures by leading Czech, Slovak, Czech-German and Ruthenian artists, the exhibition also includes works from the famous French collection, which the Czechoslovak State purchased shortly after its foundation in the 1920s and 1930s. The exhibition project is not limited to works of art; it also has interdisciplinary overlaps by presenting other cultural and artistic areas of the First Republic (book production, design, applied graphic design, ...).

Keeping its focus in time and space, the project presents significant events in the field of visual culture during the period of the First Republic, with an emphasis on the cosmopolitan and multinational character of its territory. This approach aims not only to present with historical fidelity the richness and diversity of the young state's culture, but also to serve as a lesson for today, when ignorance of the past often results in xenophobic attitudes. The exhibition also has a rich educational and professional accompanying programme.

Lectures in Slovak by specialists from Slovakia were held to accompany this collection exhibition, such as:

#### 18 May 2022, Art of the 1920s and 1930s in Eastern Slovakia and Subcarpathian Rus.

The guided tour by curator Miroslav Kleban from the East Slovak Gallery in Košice focused on culture and art between the First and Second World War in Eastern Slovakia. Košice and Uzhhorod, as the two cultural capitals of the easternmost part of the First Republic, were multicultural centres where Slovak, Czech and Hungarian artists worked and found political and cultural asylum, as well as the often important stimuli for their own artistic work. We speak of this period as Košice Modernism, the golden age of art and culture in the interwar period full of progressive and avant-garde ideas.

#### 15 June 2022, Other Modernism / 20 Years of Modernism in Slovakia

What was modernism like in Slovakia between the world wars? How did it differ from Czech and European modernism? How was it different? Katarína Bajcurová, curator of modern and contemporary art at the Slovak National Gallery, presented the main features and differences of the development of modern art in Slovakia during a guided tour of the exhibition *1918 – 1938: First Republic*.

### Czech-Slovak / Slovak-Czech exhibition

This exhibition mapped all the key moments of the turbulent 20th century, but also the specific fates of ordinary people. As much as 1,200 objects accompanied by audiovisual documents and interactive elements reminded visitors of what life was like in Czechoslovakia, what values it professed and how it still inspires the world today. The project included an accompanying programme including special events for schools. The exhibition opened in April 2018 at Bratislava Castle and was on display at the National Museum (NM) from 28 October 2018 to 30 June 2019.

### Promotion of cultural heritage in the border region of Horňácko and Kopanice

The project, funded by the Interreg V-A Slovakia – Czech Republic programme, involved a joint regional campaign addressing individual target groups from both the Czech and Slovak Republics. The aim of the project was to raise awareness of the cultural and natural attractions of the area – especially the national cultural monument Windmill in Kuželov, which is managed by the Technical Museum in Brno (TMB). The project helped develop personal contacts in both border areas, which was supported by the fact that the population in the area is intertwined by family and economic relations from the past.

### International meeting of barrel organ players

This is a traditional meeting of barrel organ players organised by the TMB in the streets of Brno with participants from Slovakia and other European countries. (held annually).

### **Article 7(2) – Unjustified restrictions on the use of a minority language**

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language.

### **Article 7(3) – Promoting mutual understanding between language groups – Educational objectives and media**

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(3) – Promoting mutual understanding between language groups – Educational objectives and media.

### **Article 7(4) – Consultation mechanisms**

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(4) – Consultation mechanisms.

### **Article 7(5) – Application of the principles to non-territorial languages**

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. Slovak is still a non-territorial language in the Czech Republic.

***The following commitments for Slovak apply nationwide. These are commitments applied under Part III of the Charter – Measures to promote the use of regional or minority languages in public life in accordance with the commitments made under Article 2(2).***

### **Article 8(1) – Education<sup>28</sup>**

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

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<sup>28</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Slovak in the field of education: paragraph 1a)iv, b)iv, e)iii, g), i), paragraph 2 (6 points in total).

**a) iv, b) iv** *Pre-school and primary education*

a) iv if the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of pre-school education, to favour and/or encourage the application of the measures referred to under i to iii above;

b) iv to apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient;

See Part II. Slovak, Article 7(1) – Objectives and principles, f) Support for the teaching and study of regional and minority languages. There has been no change in this point during the monitoring period with regard to Slovak, the support remains at the level of grant programmes (see Part I. of this report), projects enabling teaching in Slovak are supported through the grant programme of the MEYS to support education in national minority languages and multicultural education and the grant programme to support the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

**e) iii** *Education in higher education institutions*

if, due to the role of the State in relation to higher education institutions, sub-paragraphs i and ii cannot be applied, to encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in regional or minority languages, or the possibility of studying these languages as university or higher education subjects;

Studies of Slovak language or Slovak language as a language of instruction are implemented at the following higher education institutions, in the following fields of study.

Tab. 21 Slovak Higher Education (2017–2022)

Name of higher education institution	Field of study
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	Paleoslavic and Slavic languages
	Slovak language and literature
Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava	Central European historical studies focused on Czech, Polish and Slovak history
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Slavonic studies with specialisation in Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian, general and comparative Slavonic, Slovak studies

**g) Teaching history and culture**

to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of history and culture which is reflected in the regional or minority language;

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language.

**i) Supervision, monitoring and reporting obligations**

to set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of regional or minority languages and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public.

See Part I. Polish, Article 8(1)(i) Supervision, monitoring and reporting obligations.

**Article 8(2) – Education in other territories**

With regard to education in territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the contractual parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language

*justifies it, to allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of the regional or minority language at all the appropriate stages of education.*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. The commitments for Slovak under the Charter apply nationwide.

#### **Article 9(1) – Judicial authorities**<sup>29</sup>

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

##### **a) ii, iii, iv Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings**

- a) ii to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language; and/or*
- a) iii to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language; and/or*
- a) iv that it shall be possible to produce, on request, documents connected with legal proceedings in the relevant regional or minority language, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the person concerned;*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. Unlike other minority languages, the Czech legal system allows for the use of Slovak without a translator or interpreter in many legal and official acts. This is due to the mutual intelligibility of the Czech and Slovak languages and the historical tradition of our common State. This applies to many aspects of social life throughout the country. For example, the Code of Administrative Procedure (Act No 500/2004) provides as follows: *“Communication within the procedure shall be carried out and documents executed in the Czech language. Parties to the procedure may also communicate and file submissions in the Slovak language.”* [Section 16(1)]. Act on Tax Administration and Fees (Act No 337/1992) *“Official language: Before the tax administrator, the negotiations are conducted in Czech or Slovak. All written submissions shall be made in Czech or Slovak...”* [Section 3(1)], etc.

##### **b) ii, iii Use of minority languages in civil proceedings**

- b) ii to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or*
- b) iii to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. See Part II. Slovak, Article 9(1)(a)(ii), (iii), (iv) Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings.

##### **c) ii, iii, d) Use of minority languages in proceedings concerning administrative matters**

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

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<sup>29</sup> The Czech Republic has accepted the following commitments for Slovak in the area of judicial authorities: paragraph 1a)ii; a)iii; a)iv; b)ii; b)iii; c)ii; c)iii; d); paragraph 2a) (9 points in total)

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. See Part II. Slovak, Article 9(1)(a)(ii), (iii), (iv) Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings.

### **Article 9(2)(a) – Validity of national legal documents in a minority language**

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. See Part II. Slovak, Article 9(1)(a)(ii), (iii), (iv) Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings.

### **Article 10 – Public administration and public service authorities<sup>30</sup>**

#### **Article 10(1) – Use of minority languages within the administrative districts of the State**

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

##### **a) iv, v Submission of applications and documents in a minority language**

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

*a) v to ensure that users of regional or minority languages may validly submit a document in these languages;*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. See Part II. Slovak, Article 9(1)(a)(ii), (iii), (iv) Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings.

#### **Article 10(2) – Use of minority languages in public services**

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

##### **b), e), f) Use of minority languages within the administrative districts of the State**

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

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

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. See Part II. Slovak, Article 9(1)(a)(ii), (iii), (iv) Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings.

#### **Article 10(3)(c) – Use of minority languages in public services**

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

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<sup>30</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Slovak in the area of public administration and public service: paragraph 1a)iv a)v, paragraph 2b), e), f), paragraph 3c), paragraph 4a), paragraph 5, (8 points in total).



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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. See Part II. Slovak, Article 9(1)(a)(ii), (iii), (iv) Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings.

#### **Article 10(4)(a) – Translation and interpretation**

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

*translation or interpretation as may be required;*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. See Part II. Slovak, Article 9(1)(a)(ii), (iii), (iv) Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings. Under the grant programme for the implementation of the Charter from the budget of the Office of the Government, one of the thematic areas that has been included in the support is translation and interpreting into regional or minority languages.

#### **Article 10(5) – Use or adoption of surnames in the regional or minority languages**

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

Slovak surnames are formed in the same way as Czech surnames. Czech public administration systems allow the use of specific Slovak characters (ä, ĺ, í, ô, ř). As regards the differentiation of names, see Part I. Polish, Article 10(5).

#### **Article 11 – Mass media <sup>31</sup>**

##### **Article 11(1)(a), (b), – Broadcasting in minority languages in radio and television**

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

- a) *to the extent that radio and television carry out a public service mission:*
  - iii *to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages;*
- b) *ii to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;*

See Part II. Slovak, Article 11(1).

Czech Television and Czech Radio have long broadcast programmes that include the Slovak language. On Czech Television, the Slovak language is used mainly in the programme about national minorities, *Babylon*. It is a regular weekly programme that reports on all national minorities. It is about 25 to 30 minutes long. It is also customary for news reports to be in Slovak (without subtitles) if someone speaks Slovak in the first place. Every week, Czech Television also broadcasts a travel magazine called *Objektiv*, which is not minority-oriented but has a presenter who speaks Slovak.

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<sup>31</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Slovak in the field of mass media: paragraph 1a)iii, b)ii, d, e)i, paragraph 2, (5 points in total).

Czech Radio broadcasts the programme *Stretnutie* (Meeting). It is a journalistic, current affairs, cultural and social magazine. The programme is broadcast twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, for 15 minutes in all regions, and once a week on Sundays, for 55 minutes on the national station Radiožurnál.

The MoC (Department of Media and Audiovisual) implements a grant Programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities. Under this programme, the production of programmes for radio and television broadcasting in minority languages may also be supported on the basis of submitted projects. The following media projects have been supported through this programme.

- The *Slovak Mosaic* project, realised by the Bona Fide association, which is a radio programme in Slovak broadcast on Radio ZET. The project received CZK 90,000 in 2017–2019; CZK 139,000 in 2020; CZK 255,000 in 2021; and CZK 95,000 in 2022.

#### **Article 11(1)(d) – Support of the production and distribution of audio-visual and audio works in regional or minority languages**

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. See Part I. Polish, Article 11(1)(d) – Support of the production and distribution of audio-visual and audio works in regional or minority languages.

#### **Article 11(1)(e)(i) – Support of printed publications**

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

See Part I. Polish, Article 11 – Mass media, Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

Considering the Slovak projects, this is the third highest support for a national minority within the Programme, with support around 13%. In the individual years, the share of support stood at 13.3%, 13%, 12.8%, 13.6%, 12.7% and 10.8%.

Three projects were regularly supported during the reporting period. These were two magazines and one media project. *Listy Slovákov a Čechov* (Papers of the Slovaks and Czechs) is published by the Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak National Minority in the Czech Republic, which is the project guarantor. Two other associations contribute to its production. *Slovenské dotyky* (Slovak Touches) is published by the Slovak-Czech Club. The media project is *Slovenská mozaika* (Slovak Mosaic).

- In 2017, projects for the publication of magazines received CZK 2,680,000, of which the Papers received CZK 1,400,000.
- In 2018, this amounted to CZK 2,615,000; CZK 1,335,000 to the Papers.
- In 2019, this amounted to CZK 2,570,000; CZK 1,335,000 to the Papers.
- In 2020, the grant was CZK 3,270,000, with each project receiving CZK 1,635,000.
- In 2021, CZK 2,931,000 was provided, of which CZK 1,435,000 to the Papers.
- In 2022, the amount was CZK 2,500,000, with each of the projects supported by CZK 1,250,000.

#### **Article 11(2) – The right to receive broadcasts from neighbouring countries**

*The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and*

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

See Part I. Polish, Article 11(2) – The right to receive broadcasts from neighbouring countries. Slovak programmes are also part of the offer of the main Czech service providers, which enable the reception of television broadcasts throughout the Czech Republic. The Slovak TV stations on offer include – RTVS 1, RTVS 2, RTVS 24, TA3, Markíza, JOJ, etc.

## **Article 12 – Cultural activities and cultural facilities**<sup>32</sup>

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

### **a), f), g) Support of accessibility and archiving of works in minority languages and participation by users of minority languages in the planning of cultural activities**

*a) to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;*

*f) to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;*

*g) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the regional or minority languages;*

The Department of Arts, Literature and Libraries – Unit of Professional Arts provides grants from the State budget for various cultural projects; however, the artistic or professional quality of the project is decisive for the granting of the support, not whether minority languages are used (represented) in the implementation of the project.

Some of the projects or activities supported by the Department indirectly contribute to the fulfilment of the obligations set out for the Czech Republic in the aforementioned Article 12(1)(a) of the Charter and also in the related Article 12(2) of the Charter.

## 2017

The following projects were supported – total amount allocated: CZK 2,000,000:

- Association ETNICA, Prague – *Revived Traditions and Prague Heart of Nations*.
- Slovak Limbora Association, Prague – *Limbora in 2017, Limbora – 25th anniversary*.
- BONA FIDE, Prague – *Rozprávky (Fairy Tales)*.

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<sup>32</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Polish and Slovak in the area of mass media: for Polish: paragraph 1a), f), g), paragraph 2, paragraph 3 (5 points in total); for Slovak: paragraph 1a), f), g), paragraph 2, paragraph 3 (5 points in total).

- Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak National Minority in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Documentation of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic and the Slovak culture in the Czech Republic.*
- Šarvanci folk ensemble, Prague – *Šarvanci folk ensemble in its fifteenth year, Folklore evenings for the public.*
- Community of Slovaks in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Matej Hrebenda Prize 2017.*
- Slovak-Czech Club, Prague, *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic (22nd year), Comprehensive programme of cultural activities of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic.*
- Slovak Literary Club in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Kvarteto, Live workshop of Slovak writers.*

## 2018

A grant of CZK 2,400,000 was provided for the implementation of association projects:

- Association ETNICA, Prague – *Revived Traditions and Prague Heart of Nations – 20th anniversary,*
- Slovak Limbora Association, Prague – *Limbora in 2018, Children’s ensembles Limborka and Malá Limborka in 2018.*
- BONA FIDE, Prague – *Rozprávky (Fairy Tales).*
- Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak National Minority in the Czech Republic, Prague – *The Centre in the Czech Republic on the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia.*
- Půčik folk ensemble, Brno – *Dance workshop of Slovak folk dances.*
- Šarvanci folk ensemble, Prague – *Šarvanci folk ensemble in its fifteenth year, Folklore evenings for the public.*
- Slovak-Czech Club, Prague, *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic (23rd year), Comprehensive programme of cultural activities of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic.*
- Slovak Literary Club in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Kvarteto, Live workshop of Slovak writers.*

## 2019

A grant of CZK 1,506,000 was provided for the implementation of Slovak projects:

- BONA FIDE, Prague – *Festival of Czech and Slovak production for children, Rozprávky (Fairy tales).*
- Czech-Slovak Scene, Prague – *Showcase of the Slovak national minority theatre.*
- Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak National Minority in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Slovakia in Czechoslovakia – milestones.*
- Půčik folk ensemble, Brno – *Půčik folk ensemble in 2019.*
- Jánošíkov dukát, Brno – *International Festival of Slovak Folklore in the Czech Republic – Jánošíkov dukát 2017.*
- Slovak-Czech Club, Prague, *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic (24th year), Comprehensive programme of cultural activities of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic.*
- Slovak Literary Club in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Kvarteto (+ 2), Live workshop of Slovak writers.*

## 2020

Some of the projects were not implemented because of Covid-19, the grants were returned. A grant of CZK 2,600,000 was provided for the implementation of Slovak projects:

- Association ETNICA, Prague – *Revived Traditions and Prague Heart of Nations – 20th anniversary.*

- Slovak Limbora Association, Prague – *Limbora in 2018, Children’s ensembles Limborka and Malá Limborka in 2018.*
- BONA FIDE, Prague – *Rozprávky (Fairy Tales).*
- Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak National Minority in the Czech Republic, Prague – *The Centre in the Czech Republic on the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia.*
- Půčik folk ensemble, Brno – *Dance workshop of Slovak folk dances.*
- Šarvanci folk ensemble, Prague – *Šarvanci folk ensemble in its fifteenth year, Folklore evenings for the public.*
- Slovak-Czech Club, Prague, *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic (23rd year), Comprehensive programme of cultural activities of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic.*
- Slovak Literary Club in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Kvarteto, Live workshop of Slovak writers.*

## 2021

Some of the projects were not implemented and the grants were returned due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Slovak projects received grants in the amount of CZK 2,515,000:

- Association ETNICA, Prague – *Revived Traditions and Prague Heart of Nations.*
- Slovak Limbora Association, Prague – *Limbora – 70 years, Children’s ensembles Limborka and Malá Limborka in 2021.*
- BONA FIDE, Prague – *Festival of Czech and Slovak production for children, ROZPRÁVKY JSOU POHÁDKY (Czech and Slovak fairy tales are the same).*
- Czech-Slovak Scene – *Showcase of the Slovak national minority theatre.*
- Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak National Minority in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Research and documentation of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic and accompanying cultural programmes.*
- Půčik folk ensemble, Brno – *Půčik folk ensemble in 2021, 30 years of the Půčik folk ensemble.*
- Šarvanci folk ensemble, Prague – *Folklore evenings and dance workshops for public, Regular activity of the Šarvanci folk ensemble.*
- JÁNOŠÍKOV DUKÁT, z.s. - *International Festival of Slovak Folklore in the Czech Republic – Jánošíkov dukát 2021.*
- Slovak-Czech Club, Prague, *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic, Comprehensive programme of cultural activities of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic.*
- Slovak Literary Club in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Kvarteto, Live workshop of Slovak writers.*

## 2022

A grant of CZK 2,608,000 was provided for association activities:

- Association ETNICA, Prague – *Revived Traditions and Prague Heart of Nations.*
- Slovak Limbora Association, Prague – *Limbora – 70 years, Children’s ensembles Limborka and Malá Limborka in 2021.*
- BONA FIDE, Prague – *Festival of Czech and Slovak production for children, ROZPRÁVKY JSOU POHÁDKY (Czech and Slovak fairy tales are the same).*
- Czech-Slovak Scene – *Showcase of the Slovak national minority theatre.*
- Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak National Minority in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Research and documentation of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic and accompanying cultural programmes.*
- Půčik folk ensemble, Brno – *Půčik folk ensemble in 2021, 30 years of the Půčik folk ensemble.*

- Šarvanci folk ensemble, Prague – *Folklore evenings and dance workshops for public, Regular activity of the Šarvanci folk ensemble.*
- JÁNOŠÍKOV DUKÁT, z.s. - *International Festival of Slovak Folklore in the Czech Republic – Jánošíkov dukát 2021.*
- Slovak-Czech Club, Prague, *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic, Comprehensive programme of cultural activities of the Slovak national minority in the Czech Republic.*
- Slovak Literary Club in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Kvarteto, Live workshop of Slovak writers.*

#### Programme for support of regional cultural traditions

Tab. 22 Support in the Programme for support of regional cultural traditions

Year	Recipient	Project	Grant amount
2017	Slovak-Czech Club, Prague	Josef Kainar 100	CZK 50,000
2018	Slovak-Czech Club, Prague	Slovak House in Prague commemorates Czech-Slovak anniversaries	80,000
2018	Czech-Slovak Scene, Prague 1	CZECH-SLOVAK EVENING IN PRAGUE on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia	100,000
2018	Slovak-Czech Club, Prague 6	Week of Czech-Slovak mutuality on the occasion of the centenary of Czechoslovakia	150,000
2019	Slovak-Czech Club, Prague	Ladislav Mňačko 100 – Czech-Slovak swimmer against the current	CZK 58,000
2020	Slovak-Czech Club, Prague	Božena Němcová and the Slovaks – 200 years since her birth	CZK 98,000
2021	Slovak-Czech Club	Hundred years since the birth of Czech Slavist and Slovakist Zdeňka Sojková	CZK 50,000
2022	Slovak-Czech Club	Conference – 150 years since the birth of Ivan Hálék	CZK 30,000

#### National Open Air Museum (NOAM)

The Wallachian Museum of Nature in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, as an organisational component of the NOAM, is a long-term partner of the International Festival of Slovak Folklore in the Czech Republic – Jánošíkov dukát.

#### **Article 12(2) – Cultural activities in other regions**

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. The commitments for Slovak apply nationwide.

#### **Article 12(3) – Presentation of the cultures associated with minority languages abroad**

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

The MoC (Department of Regional and National Culture) uses a grant scheme for the support of foreign contacts in the field of amateur artistic activities. This facilitates the presentation of our top ensembles in

minority languages referred to above at prestigious foreign festivals and competitions, while significantly contributing to stronger links between these cultures and languages directly in the countries of their origin. It also helps to spread awareness of Czech regional and national culture more effectively.

In 2020, a grant of CZK 80,000 was awarded to the *Půčik folk ensemble*, Brno, which was to participate in the International Festival Santa Lucia in Mexico. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 epidemic, the recipient was unable to use the funds and ultimately did not participate in the festival.

### **Article 13 – Economic and social life**<sup>33</sup>

#### **Article 13(1)(c) – Taking action (protection/intervention) against the discrimination of minority languages**

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

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language.

#### **Article 13(2)(e) – Information on consumer rights in minority languages**

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

*e) to arrange for information provided by the competent public authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in regional or minority languages.*

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language.

### **Article 14(a), (b) – Cross-border exchanges**<sup>34</sup>

*The Parties undertake:*

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

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

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Slovak language. Cross-border cultural exchange with Slovakia is carried out in accordance with the Cultural Agreements and the Implementing Programmes.

In 2020, a project proposal was submitted under the Visegrad Fund in cooperation with the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Polish and Hungarian partners to research migration processes in Central Europe after the Second World War. This project, entitled *Post-WWII Migration Flows in the V4 States in the Context of*

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<sup>33</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Slovak in the area of economic and social life: paragraph 1c), paragraph 2e) (2 points in total).

<sup>34</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for Polish and Slovak in the area of cross-border exchanges: for Polish: a), b) (2 points in total); for Slovak: a), b) (2 points in total).

*Propaganda Studies*, was accepted for funding by the donor in December 2020 and was implemented during 2021.



### **III. German**

#### **Article 6 – Information**

See Part I. Polish, Article 6 – Information.

#### **Article 7(1) – Objectives and principles**

##### ***a) Recognition of the regional and minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth***

The following is directly stated in the submission report on the extension of the protection of the German language in the Czech Republic: *“The reasons for extending the protection of the German language lie in (...) the promotion of the German national minority, and in particular its culture and language, which have been an important part of the history and culture of the Czech lands for centuries. Therefore, extending the protection of the German language is also a symbolic act and a sign of openness to the German national minority.”*

##### ***b) Respect for the geographical area of regional and minority languages***

In extending the protection of German under Part III of the Charter, a model similar to that used for Polish was chosen, i.e. with the delimitation of districts. In the case of German, the concerned districts are as follows: the districts of Cheb, Karlovy Vary and Sokolov in the Karlovy Vary Region; the district of Liberec in the Liberec Region; the district of Ústí nad Labem in the Ústí nad Labem Region; the district of Český Krumlov in the South Bohemia Region; the district of Opava in the Moravian-Silesian Region; and the district of Svitavy in the Pardubice Region. These are the districts with the largest number of German-speaking inhabitants.

##### ***c) Action to promote regional and minority languages in order to safeguard them***

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

Furthermore, association KHER, which supports Romani authors in the process of creating and publishing their books, also makes a significant contribution to the promotion and development of Romani literature. Many of the works are published in both Romani and Czech, thus making a significant contribution not only to the promotion and development of the Romani language, but also to the understanding of Romani culture. According to available information, it is financially supported by the MoC and the MEYS.<sup>35</sup>

##### ***d) Encouragement of the use of regional and minority languages***

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

##### ***e) Development of links between groups using different languages***

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(1) – Objectives and Principles, e).

##### ***f) Support for the teaching and study of regional and minority languages***

The German national minority is dispersed in the Czech Republic; therefore, unlike the Polish minority, it cannot take advantage of the possibility to establish national minority schools in accordance with Section 14 of the Education Act. The attention of the German minority thus turns, in practical terms, both to private education and to the teaching of certain subjects in schools in German as a foreign language. In accordance with Decree No 9/2013, laying down the procedure for authorising the teaching of certain subjects in a

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<sup>35</sup> For further details, see [www.kher.cz](http://www.kher.cz).

foreign language, the MEYS authorises schools to teach certain subjects in German. This applies to both primary and secondary schools.

The Primary School of German-Czech Understanding and Thomas Mann Grammar School is a private school established in 1991 by the German minority in the Czech Republic. It offers education for Czech and German children in Years 1 to 5 with German as a foreign or mother tongue. It prepares pupils for studying at the Thomas Mann Grammar School, which is an eight-year grammar school offering German lessons. German is the language of instruction at the bilingual Austrian Gymnasium in Prague, which was founded on the basis of an international treaty.

Another project that is important in terms of the MEYS language policy is the bilingual and extended German language teaching programme offered within the German Language Certificate (KMK Zertifikat) project. In the Czech Republic, one bilingual six-year section is currently working in cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany at the F. X. Šalda Grammar School in Liberec, and one bilingual eight-year section at the German School in Prague. German teachers and heads of the German section work at the grammar schools. Teachers of selected subjects in German and section leaders are sent to the Czech Republic by the Central Office for Education Abroad of the Federal Administrative Office. Bilingual graduates receive both Czech and German school-leaving certificates, which allow them to enter universities in the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. Bilingual grammar schools have a specially adapted Framework Education Programme that respects the specifics of bilingual education. In 2021–2022, a pilot project was launched to start teaching in German in two classes of primary schools in Jablonec nad Nisou and Cheb, in cooperation with the Office of the Government and the MEYS.

Support is also provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic. More detailed information on the number of pupils studying German can be found in Chapter III. German, Article 8 – Education.

### ***g) Study and research on regional and minority languages at higher education institutions***

See Part III. German, Article 8(1)(f)(iii) Adult and continuing education.

### ***i) Transnational exchanges***

The MoC cooperates with various partners in the field of German language teaching, especially the *Goethe Institute*. The MoC supports its actions to develop multilingualism not only in our schools but also across our society. Activities in 2021 were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Actions to promote minority languages were limited, and when they did take place, it was mostly online. Below are two actions that took place online to support the teaching of German.

On 11 May 2021, the Education Department of the Plzeň Region and the *Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic*, in cooperation with the MEYS and the Council of Europe's European Centre for Modern Languages, organised a two-day online training course for German language teachers on teaching German using the CLIL method. Furthermore, the *Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic*, in cooperation with the German Embassy, the Goethe Institute and other active partners in the field of German language teaching organised online meetings to support the teaching of German and to support the teaching of German as a national minority language called Austausch-Kaffee during the pandemic. A total of 4 meetings were held with the participation of MEYS representatives.

The MEYS representatives participate in regular meetings of the partners of the *Šprechtíme* (We Speak German) campaign, which takes place under the auspices of the MEYS. This is an important project supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Embassy of the Republic of Austria in the Czech Republic, which represents a joint action plan to support the teaching of German in the Czech Republic.

Czech-German activities are also extensive within the framework of extracurricular youth activities, such as the activities of the TANDEM Coordination Centre for Czech-German Youth Exchanges in Plzeň, supported,

among other things, from the resources of the MEYS. The Coordination Centres provide advisory services and support State and non-State institutions and organisations of both countries in the implementation and intensification of Czech-German youth exchanges and international cooperation in the field of youth work. The Tandem has a national scope. Its aim is to bring young people together. The Tandem offers financial support for Czech-German meetings of children and young people, especially in the after-school and pre-school areas, implements the Professional Practice Support Programme and facilitates the European Voluntary Service in Germany. Important tasks of the Tandem include facilitating contacts between Czech and German organisations and supporting their partnerships.

#### **Article 7(2) – Unjustified restrictions on the use of a minority language**

Extension of the protection of German under Part III. of the Charter should prevent unjustified restrictions on the use of minority languages.

#### **Article 7(3) – Promoting mutual understanding between language groups – Educational objectives and media**

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(3) – Promoting mutual understanding between language groups – Educational objectives and media.

#### **Article 7(4) – Consultation mechanisms**

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(4) – Consultation mechanisms.

#### **Article 7(5) – Application of the principles to non-territorial languages**

Although German in the Czech Republic is nowadays rather non-territorial, the model chosen for extending protection under Part III is similar to that used for Polish, i.e. with the delimitation of districts. In the case of German, the concerned districts are as follows: the districts of Cheb, Karlovy Vary and Sokolov in the Karlovy Vary Region; the district of Liberec in the Liberec Region; the district of Ústí nad Labem in the Ústí nad Labem Region; the district of Český Krumlov in the South Bohemia Region; the district of Opava in the Moravian-Silesian Region; and the district of Svitavy in the Pardubice Region. These are the districts with the largest number of German-speaking inhabitants.

***The following commitments for German apply in the districts of Cheb, Karlovy Vary and Sokolov in the Karlovy Vary Region; the district of Liberec in the Liberec Region; the district of Ústí nad Labem in the Ústí nad Labem Region; the district of Český Krumlov in the South Bohemia Region; the district of Opava in the Moravian-Silesian Region; and the district of Svitavy in the Pardubice Region. These are commitments applied under Part III of the Charter – Measures to promote the use of regional or minority languages in public life in accordance with the commitments made under Article 2(2).***

#### **Article 8(1) – Education <sup>36</sup>**

##### **a) ii, b) ii      *Pre-school and primary education***

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

a) ii      *to make available a substantial part of pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*

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<sup>36</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for German in the field of education: paragraph 1a)ii, b)ii, c)ii, d)ii, e)i, g), h), i), paragraph 2 (9 points in total);

b) ii to make available a substantial part of primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or

The right to education in the language of a national minority is guaranteed by the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms in Article 25(2)(a), *“Citizens belonging to national and ethnic minority groups are also guaranteed, under the conditions set down by law: a) the right to education in their own language”*. This right is further regulated by Section 11 of the Minorities Act *“(1) Members of national minorities living traditionally and for a long time on the territory of the Czech Republic have the right of upbringing and education in their mother tongue at schools, pre-school and school institutions under conditions determined by special legal regulations. (2) Members of national minorities according to paragraph 1 are allowed under conditions determined by special legal regulations to establish a) private schools using the language of a national minority as the teaching language or teaching the language of a national minority as a school subject; b) private pre-school and school institutions”*. The Education Act further conditions education in the language of a national minority on the establishment of a Committee for National Minorities in the relevant municipality and the interest of members of the national minority.

In accordance with Section 14(1) of the Education Act – *A municipality, region, or the Ministry, as appropriate, shall provide education in the language of the national minority for members of national minorities in nursery schools, primary schools, and secondary schools in municipalities in which a Committee for National Minorities has been established in accordance with special legislation, provided that the conditions established by this Act are met*. The obligation to provide education for members of national minorities in the language of the national minority applies only to municipalities in which a Committee for National Minorities has been established in accordance with Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities (municipal constitution), as amended. This committee is established by a municipality in whose territorial district at least 10% of the citizens declaring a nationality other than Czech live according to the last census.

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According to Section 14(2): *“A nursery school class may be established if at least 8 children with national minority affiliation enrol in education in the language of a national minority, and a primary school class may be established if at least 10 pupils with national minority affiliation enrol in education in the language of a national minority; a nursery school or a primary school with a national minority language may be established provided that all classes are filled on average with at least 12 children or pupils belonging to a national minority per class.”*

According to Section 14(3): *“A class of the relevant year of a secondary school may be established if at least 12 pupils belonging to a national minority enrol for education in the language of a national minority; a secondary school with a language of a national minority may be established provided that all classes are filled on average with at least 15 pupils belonging to a national minority.”* An exception to the minimum number

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<sup>37</sup> However, according to Pavla Katzová’s commentary to the Education Act, these provisions must be interpreted in the context of other provisions of the Act. *“In my opinion, the formulation ‘shall ensure ..., provided that the conditions established by this Act are met’ does not imply an automatic obligation on the part of the municipality, the region or the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to always establish a given class of school or a given school if the conditions of qualified interest of members of a given national minority in such education set out in Section 14(2) and (3) of the Education Act are met. It is also necessary to take into account other legal provisions, such as Section 177 of the Education Act, according to which municipalities and regions shall take care in providing education and school services to ensure that the development of education and school services is consistent with the interests of the citizens of the municipality and region, the needs of the labour market, the demographic development and development of their territory, and the availability of education and school services according to local conditions. This means that if it could be deduced from the circumstances of a particular case that the establishment of a given school class or school would not be in accordance with, for example, the demographic development in a given municipality or region, given that the qualified interest of members of a given national minority can only be assumed in the short term with respect to the number of children of the corresponding age living in the territory of the municipality or region, the municipality or region is not obliged to establish the given class or school. However, in such a case, it is appropriate to proceed in accordance with Section 14(4) of the Education Act, which allows for mutual cooperation between the designated founders in providing such education. Commentary available in ASPI.*

of pupils may be granted on the basis of Section 23(4) of the Education Act. The Commentary to the Education Act in ASPI states that the establishment of a school or class in the language of a national minority also requires a qualified interest in such education by members of that minority.

According to Section 14(4): *“When organising education in the language of a national minority, the availability of such education shall be taken into account. Education in the language of a national minority may also be provided by an association of municipalities, or several municipalities may agree among themselves or with the region on the method of providing such education, including financing.*

According to Section 14(5): *“If the above conditions are not met, the head teacher may, with the consent of the founder, determine in the school’s educational programme the subjects or parts thereof in which education is provided bilingually, both in the Czech language and in the language of a national minority.”*

Therefore, the Education Act therefore allows for a variant where, if a sufficient number of members of a national minority do not live in the municipality, the school may, with the consent of the founder, which is usually the municipality (3,635 cases) or the region (306 cases), but also the Ministry of Education (50 cases)<sup>38</sup>, provide minority education *of its own volition*.

According to Section 14(6): *“Schools with teaching in the language of a national minority shall issue certificates of completion, certificates of apprenticeships, and certificates of bilingual graduation, in Czech and in the language of a national minority.*

Therefore, the right to establish schools in a minority language is already guaranteed in the current legislation, but it is conditional on the establishment of a Committee for National Minorities in the relevant municipality and the interest of members of the national minority. However, based on the results of the census, the conditions for establishing a Committee for National Minorities are not met in any municipality in the Karlovy Vary Region in the districts of Cheb, Karlovy Vary and Sokolov, in the Liberec Region in the district of Liberec, in the Ústí nad Labem Region in the district of Ústí nad Labem, in the South Bohemian Region in the district of Český Krumlov, in the Moravian-Silesian Region in the district of Opava and in the Pardubice Region in the district of Svitavy. In fact, the number of persons from the German minority did not reach 10% in any municipality in the 2021 census.

However, German can be taught as a first foreign language in primary schools, although English is preferred as the first foreign language by schools and parents. See also Part III. German, Article 7(1) – Objectives and principles, f) Support for the teaching and study of regional and minority languages.

*Tab. 23 Currently (school year 2021/22), German is taught in the following numbers of primary schools (including the regional perspective):*

Territory		Total	pupils learning German as a foreign language	
			total	of which as the first foreign language
<b>Czech Republic</b>		849,257	211,136	6,432
of which	<b>Capital City of Prague</b>	104,791	22,975	1,445
	<b>Central Bohemia Region</b>	120,752	24,842	11
	<b>South Bohemian Region</b>	48,710	17,625	556
	<b>Plzeň Region</b>	44,395	15,434	540
	<b>Karlovy Vary Region</b>	21,105	7,705	1,007

<sup>38</sup> For 2020 data, see <https://www.vzdelavacisluzby.cz/dokumenty/poradenstvi-pro-vedouci-pracovniky-ve-skolstvi/1017286.pdf>.

<b>Ústí nad Labem Region</b>	66,726	20,503	1,552
<b>Liberec Region</b>	36,159	12,187	580
<b>Hradec Králové Region</b>	42,390	8,635	0
<b>Pardubice Region</b>	41,515	8,351	36
<b>Vysočina Region</b>	39,476	10,235	10
<b>South Moravian Region</b>	96,135	25,159	690
<b>Olomouc Region</b>	47,705	10,019	5
<b>Zlín Region</b>	44,911	10,882	0
<b>Moravian-Silesian Region</b>	94,487	16,584	0

Some subjects are taught in German in the following schools:

- Marjánka Primary School, Prague 6, Bělohorská 52
- Primary School of General Zdeněk Škarvada, Ostrava-Poruba, contributory organisation

**c) ii; d) ii      *Secondary and technical education***

*c) ii      to make available a substantial part of secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*

*d) ii      to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or*

The same rules as above apply to teaching in a minority language in secondary schools. Therefore, access to education in a minority language is also subject to the same restrictions. Furthermore, specific provisions apply in secondary schools regarding the school-leaving (matura) examinations.

According to Section 79(1) of the Education Act: *The profile part of the matura examination consists of an examination in Czech language and literature and, if the pupil has chosen a foreign language in the common part of the matura examination, an examination in this foreign language and 2 or 3 other compulsory examinations. The number of other compulsory examinations for a given field of education is determined by the Framework Education Programme. In schools and classes with a national minority language of instruction, one of the compulsory examinations is the examination in the national minority language.*

According to Section 81(9) of the Education Act: *Pupils of schools and classes with a national minority language as the language of instruction have the right to take the common and profile part of the matura examination in the Czech language or in the language of a national minority, with the exception of the examination in the subject of Czech language and literature, which they take in the Czech language.*

Therefore, the right to establish secondary schools with a national minority language as the language of instruction is already regulated in the current legislation, but it is conditional, as is the case with nursery school and primary schools, on the establishment of a Committee for National Minorities in the relevant municipality and on the interest of members of the national minority. The same rules as above apply to teaching in a minority language in secondary schools. Therefore, access to education in a minority language is also subject to the same restrictions. Furthermore, specific provisions apply in secondary schools regarding the school-leaving (matura) examinations.

Currently, there are secondary schools, including technical and vocational schools, where the language of instruction is German or where some subjects are taught in German.

- Austrian Grammar School in Prague
- F. X. Šalda Grammar School, Liberec 11, Partyzánská 530, contributory organisation

- Dr. Karel Polesný Grammar School Znojmo, contributory organisation
- Grammar School, Příbram, Legionářů 402
- Grammar School Kroměříž
- English-Czech Grammar School AMAZON s.r.o.

**e) i Education in higher education institutions**

*to make available university and other higher education in regional or minority languages; or*

The German language can be studied at higher education institutions in a relatively wide range of Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree and Doctoral programmes, from teaching to philology, translation and interpreting to international studies. These are offered at Charles University in Prague, Masaryk University in Brno, Palacký University in Olomouc, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, University of Ostrava, Technical University in Liberec, University of Hradec Králové, University of Pardubice, J.E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, Silesian University in Opava and University of West Bohemia in Plzeň.

On the other hand, it is more a study of the language of a national minority rather than studying in the language of a national minority, which would include the study of non-philological fields. It is currently not possible to study, for example, at a medical university department with German as the language of instruction, and this applies to all minority languages.

Studies of German language or German language as a language of instruction are implemented at the following higher education institutions, in the following fields of study.

*Tab. 24 German Higher Education (2017–2022)*

Name of higher education institution	Field of study
<b>Faculty of Arts, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice</b>	Czech-German area studies
	European area studies – Czech Republic and German-speaking countries
	German language and literature
	German language oriented on secondary education
<b>Faculty of Education, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice</b>	German language oriented on education
	Teacher training in German language
	Lower secondary school teacher training – German language
<b>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</b>	German language and literature
	Upper secondary school teacher training in German language and literature
<b>Faculty of Education, Masaryk University</b>	Teacher training in foreign languages – German language
	German language oriented on education
	Lower secondary school teachers' aid training in German language and literature
	Upper secondary school teacher training in German language and literature
	Lower secondary school teacher training in foreign languages – German
	Lower secondary and language school teacher training in German language
<b>Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava</b>	German for translation
	German for business
	German philology
	German language and literature

	Upper secondary school teacher training in German language and literature
<b>Faculty of Philosophy and Science, Silesian University in Opava</b>	Corpus linguistics oriented at a specific language group (English, German)
	German
	German for professional practice
	German for school practice
<b>Faculty of Science, Humanities and Education, Technical University of Liberec</b>	German language oriented on education
	Lower secondary school teacher training – German language
<b>Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové</b>	Foreign languages for tourism – German language
	German language oriented on education
	Primary school teacher training in German language
	Lower secondary school teacher training in German language and literature
<b>Faculty of Arts, J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem</b>	Intercultural German studies
	Intercultural German studies in the Czech-German context
	German philology
	German language for school practice
	Lower secondary school teacher training in foreign languages – German
<b>Faculty of Education, J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem</b>	German language and literature
<b>Faculty of Humanities, Charles University</b>	German and French philosophy
<b>Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University</b>	Czech-German studies
	German and Austrian studies
	German and Central European studies / Deutsche und Mitteleuropäische Studien
<b>Faculty of Arts, Charles University</b>	German for intercultural communication / Interkulturelle Kommunikation und Translation Tschechisch - Deutsch
	Intercultural communication: Czech and German for translation and interpreting / Interkulturelle Kommunikation: Übersetzen und Dolmetschen Tschechisch-Deutsch
	German
	German for intercultural communication
	German language and literature
	German language and literature oriented on education
	Translation and interpretation – German
	Translation: Czech - German
	Interpreting: Czech - German
	Upper secondary school teacher training in German language and literature
<b>Faculty of Education, Charles University</b>	German language and literature with didactics
	German language oriented on education
	German language oriented on education



	Lower and upper secondary school teacher training in German language
	Training teachers of general subjects at lower and higher secondary Schools – German language
<b>Faculty of Arts, Palacký University in Olomouc</b>	German philology
	German literature
	German language
<b>Faculty of Education, Palacký University in Olomouc</b>	German language oriented on applied economics
	German language oriented on translation and interpreting
	German language oriented on education
	Lower secondary school teacher training in German language
<b>Faculty of Arts, University of Pardubice</b>	German Language for economic practice
	German language for professional practice
<b>Faculty of Humanities, Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín</b>	German for business administration
<b>Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň</b>	German language oriented at education
	Upper secondary school teacher training in German language

### ***g) Teaching history and culture***

*to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of history and culture which is reflected in the regional or minority language;*

The teaching of the history of culture with special regard to national minorities, and thus their languages, is anchored in the Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education (FEP PE), which is the key binding curriculum document in the field of primary education. The cross-cutting theme of Multicultural Education also includes educational content related to the following aspects: ethnicity – the equality of all ethnic groups and cultures; the difference of people, but also their mutual equality; the position of national minorities; basic information about different ethnic and cultural groups living in Czech and European society; different ways of life, different ways of thinking and perception of the world; manifestations of racial intolerance – their recognition and reasons for their occurrence. A revision of the FEP PE is currently underway and the issue of national minorities and their languages will remain included.

### ***h) Teacher training***

*to provide the basic and further training of teachers necessary to implement those of paragraphs a) to g) that were accepted by the State party;*

The German minority is not as numerous as the Polish minority (German 24,632, Polish – 38,218, according to the 2021 census). Moreover, compared to the Polish minority, it is much more spread out throughout the Czech Republic, so it does not have higher than 2% representation in any of the districts. According to the above data, it cannot be expected that a large number of schools will be established, perhaps rather individual schools on a voluntary basis. The establishment of a pedagogical centre for German education is thus not proposed for this reason.

If the need occurs for further training of teachers for the German minority school system, it will probably be included in the activities of the existing National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic as an organisation established by the Ministry of Education.

**i) Supervision, monitoring and reporting obligations**

*to set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of regional or minority languages and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public.*

See Part I. Polish, Article 8(1)(i) Supervision, monitoring and reporting obligations.

**Article 8(2) – Education in other territories**

*With regard to education in territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the contractual parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of the regional or minority language at all the appropriate stages of education.*

German is taught throughout the Czech Republic, albeit as a foreign rather than a minority language. Nevertheless, access to German language teaching is provided across the board.

**Article 9(1) – Judicial authorities**<sup>39</sup>

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

**a) ii, iii, iv Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings**

- a) ii to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language; and/or*
- a) iii to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language; and/or*
- a) iv that it shall be possible to produce, on request, documents connected with legal proceedings in the relevant regional or minority language, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the person concerned;*

See Part I. Polish, Article 9 – Judicial authorities, Use of minority languages in criminal proceedings.

**b) ii, iii Use of minority languages in civil proceedings**

- b) ii to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or*
- b) iii to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;*

See Part I. Polish, Article 9 – Judicial authorities, Use of minority languages in civil proceedings.

**c) ii, iii, Use of minority languages in proceedings concerning administrative matters**

- c) ii to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense; and/or*
- c) iii to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;*

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<sup>39</sup> The Czech Republic has accepted the following commitments for German in the area of judicial authorities: paragraph 1a)ii; a)iii; a)iv; b)ii; b)iii; c)ii; c)iii; d); paragraph 2a) (9 points in total)

The provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure apply to proceedings before administrative courts in a subsidiary manner, in accordance with Section 64 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (cf. also the judgment of the Supreme Administrative Court of 30 January 2014, ref. No 5 Azs 25/2013-28). Moreover, Section 36(2) of the Code of Administrative Procedure expressly provides that the costs of engaging an interpreter shall be borne by the State.

The cited judgment states that the court shall appoint an interpreter *“if a specific fact arises in the proceedings which indicates the need for an interpreter and if, after examination by the court, it appears that a party needs an interpreter in order to properly exercise their rights in the court proceedings. Such a concrete fact is, of course, in the first place, the party themselves requesting the appointment of an interpreter. However, another such fact may be that a party begins to communicate with the court in a language other than Czech, or that it is apparent from their speeches (conducted in Czech) that they cannot communicate sufficiently well in Czech.”*

It can thus be summarised that the conclusions set out for the civil proceedings apply. As in the case of civil proceedings, the administrative courts have concluded that a foreign language document can be submitted; at the same time, it is not always necessary to have a translation of a foreign language document if the court and the parties to the proceedings understand its content and there is no dispute about it (judgment of the Supreme Administrative Court of 10 August 2016, ref. No 5 Azs 160/2016-26 and judgment of 14 March 2019, ref. No 5 Azs 29/2018-29).

#### **d) Avoiding additional interpretation costs**

*to take steps to ensure that the application of sub-paragraphs i and iii of paragraphs b) and c) above and any necessary use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned.*

The case law of both civil and administrative courts is not settled on whether the translation should be carried out by the court itself or whether the document should be translated by a party. Some decisions exclude translation by the court and leave this obligation to the parties (judgments of the Supreme Court of 17 July 2018, file No 20 Cdo 2302/2017 or the judgment of 4 June 2019, file No 20 Cdo 549/2019), other decisions, on the contrary, assume translation directly from the court (judgment of the Supreme Court of 16 March 2016, file No 23 Cdo 1656/2015 or the judgment of 8 December 2020, file No 32 Cdo 1408/2019). Other decisions see translation by the court as a sign of proactive helpfulness (resolution of the Supreme Court of 15 May 2019, file No 30 Cdo 2595/2018), but not an obligation, or they leave this issue unresolved (judgment of the Supreme Administrative Court of 10 August 2016, ref. No 5 Azs 160/2016-26 or judgment of 14 March 2019, ref. No 5 Azs 29/2018-29).

The uncertainty about the entity responsible for the translation is also reflected in the treatment of the costs of translation. The Supreme Courts have not yet expressed their views on this issue and in particular on whether the costs of translation can also be subsumed under the costs associated with the fact that a party is acting in its mother tongue.

In view of the current regulation in Section 16(4) of the Code of Administrative Procedure and Section 76(4) of the Tax Code, it seems appropriate to interpret the costs of translation as being borne by the State; therefore, Article 9(1)(d) is already fulfilled according to this interpretation of the MoJ. An amendment to the Code of Civil Procedure could also be considered to clarify these issues so that the interpretation is unambiguous, although in the expert opinion of MoJ, the Article is already being effectively implemented.

#### **Article 9(2)(a) – Validity of national legal documents in a minority language**

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

In accordance with Section 134 of the Code of Civil Procedure, documents issued by the courts of the Czech Republic or by other State authorities within the scope of their powers, as well as documents which are

declared public by special regulations, confirm that they are the order or declaration of the authority which issued the document and, unless the contrary is proved, the truth of what is certified or confirmed therein. The same conclusion applies in the system of administrative justice.

## **Article 10 – Public administration and public service authorities** <sup>40</sup>

### **Article 10(1)(a)(iv) – Use of minority languages within the administrative districts of the State**

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

#### *a) iv Submission of applications in a minority language*

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

At the constitutional level, Article 25 of the Charter guarantees citizens belonging to national and ethnic minorities the right to use their language in official communication under conditions established by law. The exercise of this right does not require interaction with other members of the national minority in question. This article is followed by Section 9 of the Minorities Act (which extends this right to the courts), which provides, inter alia, that the conditions for exercising this right are regulated by special legal regulations.

The procedure of executive authorities, authorities of local self-government units and other authorities, legal persons and natural persons when they exercise powers in the field of public administration (administrative authority) is regulated by the Code of Administrative Procedure. Section 16(4) provides that “A citizen of the Czech Republic who is a member of a national minority established traditionally and in the long term within the territory of the Czech Republic shall have the right to use the language of such national minority in submissions and oral hearings. Where the respective administrative authority has no officials speaking the language of the national minority, the citizen shall arrange for the services of an interpreter included on the list of interpreters. The costs of interpretation and costs of translation shall be, in such a case, borne by the administrative authority.”

The Code of Administrative Procedure does not explicitly name national minorities that have traditionally and long lived in the Czech Republic, but when interpreting this concept, the administrative authorities shall rely in particular on the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages or the relevant declaration of the Czech Republic. Citizens of the Czech Republic belonging to these minorities may, in accordance with the above-mentioned provision, make submissions and act in the language of their national minority in procedures regulated by the Code of Administrative Procedure (in particular in administrative proceedings or when applying for various certificates). As already mentioned above, if the competent administrative authority has no officials speaking the language of the national minority, the citizen shall arrange for the services of an interpreter included on the list of interpreters, in which case the costs of interpreting and the costs of translation shall be borne by the administrative authority.

Therefore, in relation to the procedures provided for in the Code of Administrative Procedure, compliance with the Article in question is assured. Payment of the costs of interpreting and the costs of translation shall be governed by the Act on Court Interpreters and Court Translators<sup>41</sup> and its implementing legislation.

An identical regulation can be found in Section 76(4) of the Tax Code – “A citizen of the Czech Republic who is a member of a national minority established traditionally and in the long term within the territory of the Czech Republic<sup>41</sup>) shall have the right to use the language of such national minority in submissions and oral

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<sup>40</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for German in the area of public administration and public service: paragraph 1a)iv, paragraph 2b), paragraph 5, (3 points in total).

<sup>41</sup> Act No 354/2019, on court interpreters and court translators.

*hearings before the tax administrator. Where the respective tax administrator has no officials speaking the language of the national minority, the citizen shall arrange for the services of an interpreter included on the list of interpreters. The costs of interpretation and costs of translation shall be, in such a case, borne by the tax administrator.”*

Procedures under the Trade Licensing Act are subject to the Code of Administrative Procedure, i.e. also to the regulation contained in Section 16(4) of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

### **Article 10(2)(b) – Use of minority languages in public services**

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

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

### **Article 10(5) – Use or adoption of surnames in the regional or minority languages**

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

The protection of the names and surnames of members of national minorities in the Czech legal system is ensured by the Act on Record Books and the Civil Code: Section 26(3) of the Act on Record Books. See also Part I. Polish, Article 10(5) – Use or adoption of surnames in the regional or minority languages.

### **Article 11 – Mass media <sup>42</sup>**

#### **Article 11(1)(a), (b), (c) – Broadcasting in minority languages in radio and television**

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

- a) to the extent that radio and television carry out a public service mission:
  - iii to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages;**
- b) ii to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;*
- c) ii to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis;*

See also Part I. Polish, Article 11 – Mass Media.

Czech Radio broadcasts a journalistic and cultural social magazine in German called *Sousedé* (Neighbours), subtitled Czech-German magazine for the German minority in Bohemia. The programme is broadcast every Friday at 19:45; it is about 12–15 minutes long. This programme is broadcast by all regional studios of Czech Radio.

Czech Television regularly broadcasts the weekly programme *Babylon* and the monthly programme *Sousedé* (Neighbours), subtitled “New Service Magazine About and For National Minorities”. The programmes offer reports on various national minorities in the Czech Republic, including the German minority. Both

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<sup>42</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for German in the field of mass media: paragraph 1a)iii, b)ii, c)ii, d, e)i, paragraph 2, (6 points in total).

programmes average about 30 minutes. The programmes are also freely available on the Czech Television website.

The MoC (Media and Audiovisual Department) implements a grant programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities, for which funds are allocated annually from the State budget.

In addition to this programme, there is also a radio station called *Halloradio Hultschin*, run by a local German association in Hlučín.

#### **Article 11(1)(d) – Support of the production and distribution of audio-visual and audio works in regional or minority languages**

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

See Part I. Polish, Article 11 – Mass media, Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

Between 2020 and 2022, the Rádio+web+more project of the Association of Germans in Bohemia was supported, which participated in the preparation of a minority broadcast in German on Czech Radio. The sessions are also available on Facebook. In 2020, the project was supported with CZK 100,000; in 2021 with CZK 80,000; and in 2022 with CZK 50,000.

#### **Article 11(1)(e)(i) – Support of printed publications**

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

The weekly *Prager Zeitung* is published in German in the Czech Republic. The first issue of this monthly magazine was published at the end of 1991. Another German periodical published in the Czech Republic is *Landeszeitung der Deutschen in Böhmen, Mähren und Schlesien*, published by the Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic. Furthermore, the monthly *Landesecho* is also published in German by the Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic.

The publication of the *Landesecho* is supported by the Programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities.

The Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic published the following publications in 2017–2022:

- Landesecho, circulation 2,000 copies (each for a year), national monthly.
- Egerländer Bladl, regional monthly, circulation 150 copies, central Cheb region.
- Heimatruf, regional monthly, circulation 80 copies, southern Cheb region.
- Mitteilungsblatt Pilsen, magazine for association members – quarterly, 50 copies.
- Hallo Freunde, Mor. Třebová – magazine for association members – bimonthly, 100 copies.
- Mitteilungsblatt Reichenberg – magazine for association members – quarterly, 100 copies.
- Troppauer Nachrichten – magazine for association members in Opava – bimonthly, 100 copies.
- Teschner Nachrichten – magazine for association members in Havířov – bimonthly, 100 copies.
- Mitteilungsblatt Komotau – magazine for members in Chomutov – quarterly, 100 copies.
- Nachrichtendienst – association newspaper in Brno – bimonthly, 50 copies.

The MoC also supported projects concerning the German minority in the grant Programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities. Support for these

projects represented around 7.5% of the value of the grant programme, a proportion that has increased slightly since 2020 thanks to the new Radio+web+more project (*see above*).

In the individual years, the share of support stood at 7.7%, 7.2%, 7.6%, 8.15% and 8.2% and 7.6%. In addition to the media project Radio+web+more, three projects were regularly supported. The *Landesecho* – the Land Echo monthly magazine, is the main contributor; two regional periodicals are also supported: Troppauer Nachrichten, the Opava newsletter, and Heimatruf – the Voice of Home.

- In 2017, these three projects received a total of CZK 1,621,000. CZK 44,000 went to the publication of the Troppauer Nachrichten (TN) newspaper, published by the Silesian German Union; CZK 27,000 went to the Heimatruf (H) magazine project, published by the Association of Germans in Bohemia, which is written in the German dialect of Cheb; and CZK 1,400,000 went to the Landesecho (L) project, published by the Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic.
- In 2018 the amount was CZK 1,507,000; regional projects were supported in the same amount as in 2017 and L received a grant of CZK 1,436,000.
- In 2019, CZK 1,589,000 was released – L CZK 1,515,000; TN CZK 44,000; H CZK 30,000.
- In 2020, the grants were worth CZK 1,937,160 – L CZK 1,515,000; TN and H remained same as in 2019.
- In 2021, the grants amounted to CZK 1,951,000 – L CZK 1,840,000; TN CZK 74,000; H CZK 37,000.
- In 2022 it was CZK 1,760,000 – L CZK 1,690,000; TN CZK 40,000; H CZK 30,000.

#### **Article 11(2) – The right to receive broadcasts from neighbouring countries**

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

The system of radio and television broadcasting in the Czech Republic complies with the standards set by the Council of Europe and EU requirements. In addition to constitutionally guaranteed rights arising from the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Convention on Transfrontier Television, the EU Directive on audio-visual media services, as well as other documents of a facultative nature, these principles are secured.

The freedom to receive radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language which is used in the same or similar form as a regional or minority language is ensured in the sense that the signal from transmitters in Germany and Austria is not interfered with and German television programmes are therefore available in the adjacent areas.

German-language programmes are also part of the offer of the main Czech service providers, which enable the reception of television broadcasts throughout the Czech Republic. The German-language TV stations on offer include – ARD, ZDF, RTL, Arte, ÖRF, etc.

## Article 12(1) – Cultural activities and cultural facilities<sup>43</sup>

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

### **a) Supporting a form of expression typical of a minority language**

*a) to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;*

Support for the culture of national minorities is based on Article 25(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and Article 12 of the Minorities Act. The right to develop the culture of national minorities is implemented through grants from the State budget. The conditions for the provision of grant are set by Government Regulation No 98/2002, laying down the conditions and method of providing grants from the State budget for the activities of members of national minorities and for supporting the integration of members of the Roma community. The grant provider in this area, which announces and carries out grant procedures and decides on the targeted provision of grants, is the MoC, which acts in cooperation with the Government Council for National Minorities.

The German minority was supported in the grant programme Support for Cultural Activities of Members of National Minorities according to the following scheme.

#### 2017

The German national minority received a grant of CZK 398,000:

- The Association of Germans – regional group Hřebečsko, Moravská Třebová – *23rd Annual Days of Czech-German Culture – Music and culture connects.*
- The Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, Prague – *Anniversary cultural meeting of the German minority 2017.*
- The Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Nationwide activities of the Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture.*
- The Association of Germans in Bohemia, Nečtiny – *Vandrující Chebští muzikanti.*

#### 2018

The German national minority received a grant of CZK 440,000:

- The Association of Germans – regional group Hřebečsko, Moravská Třebová – *24th Annual Days of Czech-German Culture – Music and culture connects.*
- The Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, Prague – *Large cultural meeting of the German minority 2018.*
- The Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Nationwide activities of the Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture, Cultural activities of the Association of Germans and friends of German culture, basic organisation Kraslice, in the Czech Republic.*

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<sup>43</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for German in the field of mass media: paragraph 1a), f), g), paragraph 2, paragraph 3, (5 points in total).



- The Association of Germans in Bohemia, Nečtiny – *Vandrující Chebští muzikanti*.

## 2019

A grant of CZK 450,000 was provided for the implementation of projects:

- The Association of Germans – regional group Hřebečsko, Moravská Třebová – *25th Annual Days of Czech-German Culture – Music and culture connects*.
- The Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, Prague – *Large cultural meeting of the German minority 2019*.
- The Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Nationwide activities of the Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture, Cultural activities of the Association of Germans and friends of German culture, basic organisation Kraslice, in the Czech Republic*.
- The Association of Germans in Bohemia, Nečtiny – *Vandrující Chebští muzikanti*.

## 2020

The German national minority received a grant of CZK 448,000:

- The Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture, Prague – *Cultural activities of the Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture, basic organisation Kraslice, in the Czech Republic*.
- The Association of Germans in Bohemia, Nečtiny – Mediabook “Malboum daham” (“Painters at Home”).

## 2021

The German national minority received a grant of CZK 342,000:

- The Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture in the Czech Republic, Prague – *Cultural activities of the Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture, basic organisation Kraslice, in the Czech Republic*.
- The Association of Germans in Bohemia, Nečtiny – Mediabook “Malboum daham” (“Painters at Home”).

## 2022

A grant of CZK 242,000 was provided for association activities:

- The Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, Prague – *Large cultural meeting of the German minority in the Czech Republic*.
- The Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture, Prague – *Cultural activities of the Association of Germans and Friends of German Culture, local group Kraslice in the Czech Republic*.

## National Museum – Presentation of the folk culture of Sorbs

The presentation of the folk culture of Sorbs took place on 14 May 2022 at the Czech Museum of Music. From 17:00 to 18:30 there was a lecture by prof. PhDr. Petr Kaleta, Ph.D., who works at the Department of History at the Faculty of Education of Masaryk University. The lecture entitled *History and Culture of Sorbs* introduced the audience to the history of this Slavic nation from its arrival on German territory to the present day, their

language, symbols, familiarised the audience with well-known personalities who have contributed to the promotion of Sorbian culture and language, presented traditional folk customs and costumes, Sorbian organisations, important buildings in Lusatia, education, etc.

From 19:00 to 20:00 there was a performance of the Sorbian folk dance group *Schmerlitz*, accompanied by the Serbian folklore group Sprjewjan and reproduced music. The event was originally scheduled to take place in October 2020, but had to be postponed twice due to the Covid-19 epidemic. The event was organized by the National Museum with the financial support of the Czech-German Future Fund. The foreign partner of the project was the Sorbian organisation Domowina, Bund Lausitzer Sorben.

### Moravian Museum

Within the framework of the project for the integration of foreigners called *Czech – in*, guided tours connected with children’s workshops for some minorities living in Brno and its surroundings took place in selected exhibitions in 2019–2022. Guided tours are always interpreted into the relevant language and visitors receive basic information in their native language about the exhibition, as well as small gifts.

### Construction and opening of the Mendel Trail in Brno

The trail was inaugurated on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of J. G. Mendel’s birth on International DNA Day on 25 April 2022. The trail, consisting of a network of information panels in the city centre, also has a German version accessible via QR codes. Gregor Mendel was a German-speaking resident of Brno. The trail refers to the fact that Brno was a bilingual city with a large German minority until 1945.

### Department of the History of Literature at the Art-historical Museum of the Moravian Museum

In addition to the above Department, the German Cultural Association of the Brno Region, an organisation of the local German minority, participated in the organisation of the international conference *Sláva azuru* (Glory to the Azure), which took place on 20 October 2021 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary Ludvík Kundera’s birth.

### Zubrnice Open Air Museum

The interpretation of the culture of the Czech Germans is a fundamental pillar of the Zubrnice Open Air Museum as an organisational component of the National Open Air Museum.

- *Rescuing the tombstones of a closed German cemetery*

In the spring of 2021, a two-day workcamp was organised in cooperation with the Omnium association, during which two dozen tombstones and other fragments of the graves of the original German inhabitants were rescued from a landfill established in 1968 in connection with the destruction of the Zubrnice cemetery. The event was praised by the media and the museum was approached by the Museum of Ústí nad Labem with a suggestion to hold an exhibition of tombstones. This exhibition was subsequently realised directly in a closed street in the city centre. The purpose of this unconventional exhibition, entitled *Cemetery on the Street* and subtitled *Ruhe sanft!/Rest in peace?* (end of July – end of August 2021), which had a nationwide reach and sparked heated public debate, was to use the “Zubrnice case” to draw attention to the problematic attitude of contemporary society regarding the issue of abandoned and disappearing German cemeteries in general. A leaflet was printed for the exhibition and a discussion with the public was held at the end.

The rescue of the tombstones and the subsequent organisation of an exhibition in the public space at the end of 2021 was followed by an exposition of a tombstone collection in Zubrnice. Artists and teachers of the Faculty of Art and Design at Jan Evangelista Purkyně University and the organisers of the

*Cemetery on the Street* exhibition then created an exhibition interpreting the history and fate of the Zubrnice cemetery. The exhibition also includes a proposal for the creation and placement of a symbolic monument of reconciliation/honour on the site of the closed cemetery. In 2022, it will be accompanied by a comprehensive bilingual leaflet.

- *Cooperation with descendants of the original population*

The cooperation took place within preparation of the exhibition *Zaniklé obce pod Bukovou horou* (Extinct municipalities under Buková hora), which the Zubrnice Open Air Museum prepared in cooperation with the Ústí nad Labem City Archives, and also in the preparation of the printed book *Průvodce po zaniklých obcích, osadách a samotách pod Bukovou horou* (Guide to the extinct municipalities, settlements and solitudes under Buková hora) (author Petr Karlíček). In the spring of 2021, an appeal to memorials was advertised in the displaced persons periodical *Aussiger Bote*, which brought in two valuable responses. The cooperation between the museum in Zubrnice and the archives in Ústí nad Labem resulted in valuable information and historical photographs, which were jointly published in a book by the museum and the archives at the end of 2021. Newly discovered and translated legends from the surroundings of Buková hora also became part of the exhibition.

- *Comics – guide to the Zubrnice Open Air Museum*

According to the plan, a promotional comic book of the museum was published in 2021, which draws attention in a playful way to the problematic post-war displacement of the German-speaking population.

### ***f) Support for direct participation of minority language users in cultural activities***

*to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;*

The direct participation by representatives of the German language users, i.e. members of the national minority, is systematically ensured at local, regional and central level.

In the areas concerned, Committees for National Minorities (the “Committee”) are established at local (municipal) level and they include representatives of the German national minority. In these Committees, they have the opportunity to positively influence the establishment of facilities and the planning of cultural activities in the municipality. At the regional level, these Committees are established in the Ústí nad Labem Region, the Karlovy Vary Region and the Moravian-Silesian Region. Similar bodies (though not formally committees) operate in other affected regions as well. In the Liberec Region, this is the Commission of the Liberec Region Council for National Minorities, Foreigners and Social Inclusion; in the Pardubice Region, this is the Commission of the Pardubice Region Council for the Integration of the Roma Community and Other Ethnic Groups. Committees are also established at the level of some municipalities and towns in the affected area. It is worth mentioning the statutory city of Chomutov, which is the only statutory city to establish its own Committee<sup>44</sup>; furthermore, Liberec has a Council for Foreigners, National Minorities and Other Ethnicities. Other municipalities and towns in the “German areas” that are establishing their own Committees include Aš, Česká Lípa<sup>45</sup>, Cheb and Kobylá nad Vidnavkou<sup>46</sup>.

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<sup>44</sup> Although the district of Chomutov was not included on the affected area list, it is an area with a continuous German settlement in the pre-war period.

<sup>45</sup> Although the district of Česká Lípa was not included on the affected area list, it is an area with a continuous German settlement in the pre-war period.

<sup>46</sup> Although the district of Jeseník, where Kobylá nad Vidnavkou is located, was not included in the list of the affected area, it is an area with a continuous German settlement in the pre-war period.

Representatives of the German national minority are also members of the Government Council for National Minorities, one of whom is its Vice-Chairperson and the other an ordinary member. They also have the opportunity to positively influence the establishment of facilities and the planning of cultural activities in this Government advisory body. Furthermore, representatives of the German national minority are also members of the Council's Grant Committee and the Working Group on National Minority Broadcasting.

***(g) Support for the creation of bodies responsible for collecting works produced in minority languages***

*to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the regional or minority languages;*

The separate Museums Department of the MoC, within the framework of its grant programmes, supports projects which, although not primarily based on the activities of members of national minorities, are related to members of national minorities in the territory of the Czech Republic. These are two grant programmes: "Support for educational activities in the museum sector" and "Support for exhibition and display projects".

Two projects concerning the German minority were supported in 2021 under the grant programme Support for exhibition and display projects: a project of the Františkovy Lázně City Museum called "Egerlandská veselka – lidová tradice a symbolika chebského venkova" (Egerland Wedding – Folk Tradition and Symbolism of the Cheb Countryside) (CZK 71,190); and a project of the Cheb Museum called "Tradiční architektura a zvyky na chebské vesnici" (Traditional Architecture and Customs in Villages around Cheb) (CZK 79,440). Educational activities within are also supported within these exhibitions.

Interpretation of the Czech-German culture is a fundamental pillar of the Zubrnice Open Air Museum, an organisational unit of the National Open Air Museum, a contributory organisation of the Ministry of Culture, which also belongs to the separate Museums Department of the Ministry of Culture.

Since 2018, the Research and Development Department (RDD) has supported the consortium project DG18P02OVV064 entitled "Legal, historical and social aspects of new and traditional minorities in the Czech Republic", whose beneficiaries are the Charles University – Faculty of Law; the Institute of Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences; the Silesian University in Opava – Faculty of Public Policies in Opava; and the Silesian Museum.<sup>47</sup>

**Article 12(2) – Cultural activities in other regions**

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

The implementation of cultural activities in languages other than Czech is supported by the MoC (see the list of allocated grants above). The MoC does not take territorial (regional) competence into account when supporting cultural activities, so activities of the German national minority are supported indiscriminately throughout the territory of the Czech Republic.

If Germans originally lived mainly in the Czech borderlands and in the large cities, today they live relatively dispersed throughout the territory, which was caused both by the policy of dilution of the German minority by the communist regime and by natural migration to the centres of the country. Nowadays, the German national minority is quite strongly represented in Prague, where the umbrella organisation entitled the Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic is based. Prague is also home to the House of National Minorities, where the German national minority also carries out its activities. The aforementioned

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<sup>47</sup> See <https://www.rvvi.cz/cep?s=jednoduche-vyhledavani&ss=detail&n=0&h=DG18P02OVV064>.

Goethe-Institut, which is a cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach that promotes the knowledge of the German language abroad and fosters international cultural cooperation, should also be mentioned.

Prague is also home to the *Czech-German Future Fund*, which helps build bridges between Czechs and Germans. It purposefully supports projects that bring people from both countries together, and enable and deepen insights into their worlds, their shared culture and history. Since 1998, the Future Fund has provided more than CZK two billion for about 12,000 projects.

Due to our common history and the ever-present cultural heritage of the German-speaking minority in the Czech environment, literature in German is available in a large number of town and municipal libraries in the Czech Republic, not only in the border region.

### **Article 12(3) – Presentation of the cultures associated with minority languages abroad**

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

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), through its embassies and the network of Czech Centres (a contributory organisation of the MFA), presents Czech culture abroad in all its geographical and historical breadth and richness as part of its public diplomacy, either by organising performances of Czech entities presenting regional and minority languages and cultures (e.g. music and folklore ensembles, theatre groups, folk arts and crafts) or by providing financial or logistical support to these entities. The MFA and the Czech Centres also support the development of Czech studies abroad, which includes, for example, the transfer of knowledge about specific Czech dialects, vernaculars and regional folk literature (e.g. in the form of lectures and seminars with lecturers from the Czech Republic).

The MoC (Department of Regional and National Culture) announces a special programme “Support of foreign contacts in the field of amateur artistic activities” every year. The programme is open to ensembles and members of national minorities. There is nothing to prevent the German minority from applying for support under this programme and representing the Czech Republic if they meet the conditions.

Between 2018 and 2021, research on the history and current status of the German minority in Czech Silesia and Northern Moravia was carried out within the framework of the NAKI II project DG18P02OVV064. In addition, there was occasional research cooperation with regional German associations, especially the *Kulturgessellschaft Troppau*.

### **Article 13 – Economic and social life <sup>48</sup>**

#### **Article 13(1)(c) – Taking action (protection/intervention) against the discrimination of minority languages**

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

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

According to Title One, Article 3(3) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, “*Nobody may be caused detriment to his or her rights merely for asserting his or her fundamental rights and basic freedoms*”. Therefore, practices that would discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities would be contrary to this Charter.

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<sup>48</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for German in the area of economic and social life: paragraph 1c), (1 point in total).

According to Act No 251/2016, on selected administrative infractions, Section 7(3) on Administrative infractions against social cohesion “A natural, legal or self-employed natural person shall commit an administrative infraction by (a) restricting or preventing a member of a national minority from exercising the rights of members of national minorities, or (b) causing harm to another because of his or her membership of a national minority or because of his or her ethnic origin, race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, language, belief or religion, age, disability, political or other opinion, membership of or activity in political parties or political movements, trade unions or other associations, social origin, property, ancestry, health or marital status.”

According to Section 2(3)(1) of Act No 198/2009, on equal treatment and legal means of protection against discrimination and amending certain acts (Anti-Discrimination Act), “Indirect discrimination means such an act or omission where, on the basis of an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice, a person is disadvantaged compared to others for one of the reasons listed in Section 2(3). It shall not constitute indirect discrimination if the provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim and the means of achieving it are proportionate and necessary.” Prohibited grounds of distinction under this Act include race, ethnicity and national origin.

*In light of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and the specific circumstances, practices intended to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities could potentially be punishable under the above laws.*

#### **Article 14(a), (b) – Cross-border exchanges**<sup>49</sup>

*The Parties undertake:*

- a) to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education;*
- b) for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/ or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.*

The Czech Republic has international agreements in the fields of culture and education with all neighbouring countries and countries where the language of the German national minority is spoken. Below is a list of the key agreements under which cross-border cooperation is implemented in relation to Germany.

#### Cooperation agreements between the Czech Republic and Germany

- Czech-German Declaration of 1997.
- The Czech-German Fund for the Future, which originated from the Czech-German Declaration, has existed since 1998.
- Treaty of 27 February 1992 on Good-neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation – Communication No 521/1992.
- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the posting of German teachers to schools in the Czech Republic – Communication No 71/2003 in the Collection of International Treaties.

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<sup>49</sup> The Czech Republic has made the following commitments for German in the area of cross-border exchanges: a), b) (2 points in total).

- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in education – Communication No 70/2003 in the Collection of International Treaties.
- Protocol between the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the Saxon State Ministry of the Interior on cooperation in the field of training and improvement of police qualifications – Communication No 66/2013 in the Collection of International Treaties.
- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on mutual recognition of the equivalence of documents of education in the field of higher education – Communication No 60/2008 in the Collection of International Treaties.
- Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in culture – Communication No 78/2001 in the Collection of International Treaties.
- Agreement between the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in science and technology of 1990..
- Arrangement between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic and the Bavarian State Ministry for Science, Research and Arts on cooperation in higher education – Communication No 46/2009 in the Collection of International Treaties.
- Agreement between the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the mutual employment of Czechoslovak and German citizens for the purpose of expanding their professional and linguistic skills – Communication No 135/2003 in the Collection of International Treaties.
- Agreement between the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation and youth exchange (Bonn, 29 November 1990).
- Arrangement between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic and the State Ministry of Culture of the Free State of Saxony on cooperation in the implementation of the Czech-German bilingual educational cycle at the Friedrich Schiller Gymnasium in Pirna (Prague, 20 November 1998) – No 309/1998.
- Protocol of the Second Meeting of the Joint Cultural Commission of the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany (Dresden, 14 November 2006).

## **IV. Romani**

### **Article 6 – Information**

See Part I. Polish, Article 6 – Information.

### **Article 7(1) – Objectives and principles**

#### ***a) Recognition of the regional and minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth***

The “Emancipation – promotion of equality, inclusion and participation” section of the Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation Strategy (Roma Integration Strategy) 2021–2030 includes a chapter entitled *Preservation and development of the Romani language*. The Romani language is perceived as an element of Roma identity, although those who do not speak Romani are also considered Roma. The group of Romani speakers is growing smaller with each new generation. Roma communicate more often in Romani with older family members (parents, grandparents), and on the contrary, they use other than Romani language more often in communication with their children, grandchildren, or with each other. Therefore, the Strategy emphasises the importance of preserving the Romani language.

#### ***b) Respect for the geographical area of regional and minority languages***

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Romani language. The Roma minority inhabits the entire territory of the Czech Republic.

#### ***c) Action to promote regional and minority languages in order to safeguard them***

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

#### ***d) Encouragement of the use of regional and minority languages***

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

The MoC (Media and Audiovisual Department) implements a grant programme to Support the Dissemination and Reception of Information in the Languages of National Minorities, for which funds are allocated annually from the State budget. The funds for projects implemented for the benefit of the Roma minority are gradually increasing, it is the second highest support. The share is also increasing thanks to new projects; it is around 16%. In the individual years of the reporting period, the share of support stood at 15.4%, 15.4%, 15.7%, 17.6%, 16.3% and 14.9%.

In 2020–2022, a project to produce music magazines by Roma musicians – *Amare lavutara* – was supported. The project is implemented by an association called TUKE TV. The project received CZK 233,000 in 2020; CZK 188,000 in 2021; and CZK 150,000 in 2022. Apart from the *Amare lavutara* media project, four more projects are regularly supported.

*Romano hangos* (Roma Voice), a newspaper format that is published 17 to 20 times a year by the Association of Roma in Moravia. Support in individual years – CZK 800,000; CZK 849,000; CZK 880,000; CZK 1,046,450; CZK 930,000; and CZK 760,000.

*Kereka* (Circle), a magazine for children and youth. It is published 6 to 8 times a year by the Democratic Alliance of Roma in the Czech Republic. The support was as follows – CZK 1,148,000; CZK 1,050,000; CZK 1,100,000; CZK 1,750,000; CZK 1,600,000; and CZK 1,350,000.



*Romano* (Roma Soul), published by Romea. This magazine is published 10 times a year and its support was as follows – CZK 830,000; CZK 880,000; CZK 850,000; CZK 900,000; CZK 840,000; and CZK 720,000.

The last supported project is the publication of the almanac *Romano džaniben* (Roma Knowledge), which is published twice a year by an association of the same name, which is mostly made up of workers and students of Romani Studies at the Faculty of Arts at Charles University in Prague. The support was as follows: CZK 443,000; CZK 440,000; CZK 440,000; CZK 463,000; CZK 526,000; and CZK 460,000.

Each year, MoC (Department of Regional and National Culture) announces, in accordance with Government Resolution No 122 of 21 February 2007 on the Government Regulation amending Government Regulation No 98/2002, laying down the conditions and method of providing grants from the State budget for the activities of members of national minorities in the Czech Republic, as amended by Government Regulation No 262/2005, a grant selection procedure for projects under the “Support of Cultural Activities of Members of National Minorities Living in the Czech Republic” programme.

### 2017

A project of the Roma national minority focused on the festival. The total grant amount was CZK 1,040,000.

- SLOVO 21, Prague – *KHAMORO World Roma Festival 2017*.

### 2018

The total amount of grant was CZK 1,230,000, of which the World Roma Festival KHAMORO 2018 received CZK 1,100,000.

- SLOVO 21, Prague – *KHAMORO World Roma Festival 2018*.
- Committee for the Compensation of the Roma Holocaust in the Czech Republic, Hořice.

### 2019

The amount of grant was CZK 1,250,000, of which the World Roma Festival KHAMORO 2019 received CZK 1,100,000.

- Slovo 21, Prague – *KHAMORO World Roma Festival 2019*.
- Committee for the Compensation of the Roma Holocaust in the Czech Republic, Hořice – *Travelling exhibition “Zaniklý svět” (Vanished world) – Ostrava and towns of the Moravian-Silesian Region*.

### 2020

Some of the projects were not implemented because of Covid-19, the grants were returned. The total amount of grant for the associations was CZK 1,255,000, of which the World Roma Festival KHAMORO 2020 received CZK 1,100,000.

- Slovo 21, Prague – *KHAMORO World Roma Festival 2020*.

### 2021

Some of the projects were not implemented and the grants were returned due to the Covid-19 epidemic. The grant amount was CZK 1,265,000, of which the World Roma Festival KHAMORO 2021 received CZK 1,100,000; the other project was not implemented.

- Slovo 21, Prague – *KHAMORO World Roma Festival 2021*.

- Committee for the Compensation of the Roma Holocaust in the Czech Republic, Hořice – *Travelling exhibition “Zaniklý svět” (Vanished world) – Liberec and 7 towns of the Liberec Region.*

## 2022

The amount of grant was CZK 1,250,000, of which the World Roma Festival KHAMORO 2022 received CZK 1,100,000.

- Slovo 21, Prague – *KHAMORO World Roma Festival 2022.*
- Committee for the Compensation of the Roma Holocaust in the Czech Republic, Hořice – *Zmizelý svět ve vzpomínkách pamětníků (The Vanished World as remember by witnesses).*

### **e) Development of links between groups using different languages**

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(1) – Objectives and Principles, e).

### **f) Support for the teaching and study of regional and minority languages**

The teaching of the Romani language in schools in the Czech Republic is not yet systematic, because current schools are confronted with several factors that complicate or prevent the teaching of Romani. This is primarily due to the lacking interest of parents of Roma children in this teaching. Parents are often of the opinion that a child should primarily learn the majority Czech language in order to easily integrate into the majority society. Parents often consider Romani to be a language used solely for internal family communication. A further complication has been noted by schools that have managed to establish Romani courses, but Romani children have not enrolled in these non-compulsory courses, either because of the lack of interest of the children and their parents or because of fears of subsequent stigmatisation by their majority classmates.

Although there is no systematic teaching of Romani in Czech schools, there are several schools that do include it as part of thematically related courses. The school is the Florián Bayer Primary School in Kopřivnice, where the Romani language was taught as part of the subject of multicultural education; the situation is similar at the Secondary Vocational School of Management and Law in Jihlava. At the prof. Z. Matějček Secondary School in Ostrava, the teaching of Roma Studies was part of social activities education, i.e. it was incorporated into the subject “work with minorities”.

*Tab. 25 In 2020, several new FEPW training programmes were accredited, including on the topic of education of Roma children and pupils with a different mother tongue*

Organisation (Company ID, name)	Name of training event	Target group
71477543 Mgr. Michaela Veselá	P – Roma children at risk of social exclusion	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
00671274 Secondary School and Nursery School, Liberec, Na Bojišti 15, contributory organisation	Roma issues	teacher – prevention methodologist
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational school teachers
		School facilities educators
25334514 Fakta s.r.o. – educational facilities and facilities for the further training of pedagogical workers	How to help Roma children at school	teacher – prevention methodologist
		Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Nursery school teachers
		Secondary vocational school teachers
		Special school teachers
	School facilities educators	

		Educational consultants
29145 CLU3V z.s.	Working with children/students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and with different mother tongue	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Nursery school teachers
		Teachers' aides
		School facilities educators
		Teachers – leaders of school interest groups and clubs
		Leisure educators
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Social and cultural aspects in teaching children and pupils with different mother tongue	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Nursery school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational school teachers
		Tertiary vocational school teachers
		Psychologists
		Leisure educators
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Practical examples of teaching Czech language for pupils with a different mother tongue in primary school I	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Teachers' aides
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Practical examples of teaching Czech language for pupils with a different mother tongue in secondary school and tertiary vocational school I	Secondary vocational school teachers
		Tertiary vocational school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Psychologists
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Practical examples of teaching Czech language – literature for pupils a different mother tongue in primary school II	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Teachers' aides
		Grammar school teachers
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Practical examples of teaching Czech language – literature for pupils a different mother tongue in secondary school and tertiary vocational school II	Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational school teachers
		Tertiary vocational school teachers
		Teachers' aides
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Evaluation and classification of pupils with a different mother tongue in humanities subjects in primary school	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Teachers' aides
		Head teachers and school facilities directors
		Educational consultants
		Special educators
Psychologists		
8687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Evaluation and classification of pupils with a different mother tongue in humanities subjects in secondary school and tertiary vocational school	Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational school teachers
		Tertiary vocational school teachers
		Teachers' aides
		Head teachers and school facilities directors
Educational consultants		

		Special educators
		Psychologists
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Evaluation and classification of pupils with a different mother tongue in science subjects in primary school	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Teachers' aides
		Head teachers and school facilities directors
		Educational consultants
		Special educators
		Psychologists
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Evaluation and classification of pupils with a different mother tongue in science subjects in secondary school and tertiary vocational school	Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational school teachers
		Tertiary vocational school teachers
		Teachers' aides
		Head teachers and school facilities directors
		Educational consultants
		Special educators
		Psychologists
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Social and cultural aspects in teaching children and pupils with different mother tongue – webinar	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Nursery school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational school teachers
		Tertiary vocational school teachers
		Psychologists
		Leisure educators
		Teachers' aides
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Practical examples of teaching Czech language for pupils with a different mother tongue in primary school I – webinar	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Teachers' aides
		Grammar school teachers
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Practical examples of teaching Czech language for pupils with a different mother tongue in secondary school and tertiary vocational school I – webinar	Secondary vocational school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Tertiary vocational school teachers
		Teachers' aides
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Practical examples of teaching Czech language – literature for pupils a different mother tongue in primary school II – webinar	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Teachers' aides
		Grammar school teachers
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Practical examples of teaching Czech language – literature for pupils a different mother tongue in secondary school and tertiary vocational school II – webinar	Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational school teachers
		Tertiary vocational school teachers
		Teachers' aides
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Evaluation and classification of pupils with a different mother	Primary school teachers
		Lower secondary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers

	tongue in humanities subjects in primary school – webinar	Head teachers and school facilities directors
		Educational consultants
		Teachers' aides
		Special educators
		Psychologists
08687242 Těšíme se do školy, z. ú.	Evaluation and classification of pupils with a different mother tongue in humanities subjects in secondary school and tertiary vocational school – webinar	Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational school teachers
		Tertiary vocational school teachers
		Head teachers and school facilities directors
		Educational consultants
		Teachers' aides
		Special educators
		Psychologists

In the area of inclusive education, an amendment to Decree No 27/2016, on the education of pupils with special educational needs and gifted pupils, as amended, introduced, with effect from 1 January 2020, the financing of teachers' aides in schools, classes or departments established in accordance with Section 16(9) of the Education Act as a standard position, taking into account the type of school and the disabilities of children and pupils. The actual work of teachers' aides in the schools, classes or departments of the day care centres concerned no longer requires a visit to the school counselling centre. This step is intended to ensure a reduction in administration, a systematic way of financing staff support and increased security for both the schools and after-school centres concerned and the teachers' aides themselves. This change affects special education within nursery schools and primary schools, special primary schools, preparatory primary school special education, the fields of education of the Practical School for One-Year and Practical School for Two-Years, special departments of after-school facilities and classes at schools for the performance of institutional education or protective education. All of the changes were prepared on the basis of a broad and detailed debate between the MEYS and the representatives of the professional public and the non-profit sector so that the draft Decree reflects the suggestions made to the greatest extent possible and takes into account the specifics of individual types of schools and special educational needs. The conditions for education of pupils with special educational needs are regularly evaluated through analyses and statistical data. To facilitate the implementation of this regulation, a methodological guideline has been issued<sup>50</sup>.

The Long-Term Plan for Education and Development of the Education System in the Czech Republic 2019–2023 sets out strategic objectives that should significantly affect the quality of education. The priority objectives in relation to inclusive education are as follow:

- streamline the system of school counselling facilities by introducing unified procedures for the provision of counselling services, especially in identifying special educational needs and exceptional talents and recommending support measures;
- promote equality of access to education at all levels of schools, enabling every child, pupil and student to develop their full potential in the company of their peers;
- strive for the maximum development of the potential of all children and pupils, including the development of their creativity;
- ensure equality of access to education at all levels and reduce the external selectivity of the system;
- ensure a common approach at the level of founders, municipalities with extended competence and regions.

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/socialni-programy/metodicky-pokyn-k-novele-vyhlaske-c-27-2016-sb-o-vzdelavani>

The Czech Republic's Education Policy Strategy 2030+ includes the strategic objective to reduce inequalities in access to quality education and to enable the maximum development of the potential of children, pupils and students, which is interwoven throughout this document. In the field of inclusive education, it aims for an education system that provides fair opportunities for access to quality education for all.

Further training of pedagogical workers in the area of inclusion is provided by the directly managed organisation of the MEYS – the National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic.

The MEYS and the MoLSA have issued a joint opinion on the registration of children for compulsory pre-school education.<sup>51</sup> This recommendation focuses on addressing the situation where a statutory representative does not register a child for pre-school education in a catchment-area or other nursery school and also does not choose individual education for the child. The aim of this measure is to overcome the consequences of failure to comply with the obligation to enrol a child in compulsory pre-school education, including situations that indicate a serious violation or neglect of the statutory representative's duties in caring for or educating the child.

*Tab. 26 Qualified estimate of the number of Roma children in nursery schools and preparatory classes of primary schools*

Qualified estimate of the number of Roma children		Number
<b>Total in nursery school</b>		6,954
<b>– of which</b>	under five years of age	2,757
	over five years of age	4,197
	with deferred compulsory school attendance	1,036
<b>Total in primary school preparatory class</b>		897

According to qualified estimates for the 2020/2021 school year, 6,954 Roma children are being educated in nursery schools, of whom 2,757 are under and 4,197 are over five years of age. A total of 897 Roma children were admitted to preparatory classes of primary schools and 1,036 were recommended for deferred compulsory school attendance. Compared to the 2019/2020 school year, the estimated number of Roma children with deferred compulsory schooling has decreased (1,049 > 1,036) and the estimated number of Roma children being educated in preparatory classes of primary schools has increased (888 < 897). The estimated number of Roma children over the age of five in nursery schools has also increased significantly (4,126 < 4,197).

The MEYS considers it important for the next period to increase the proportion of children participating in compulsory pre-school education, especially in its full-time form, and to remove the obstacles causing the non-participation of these children in education. A project was commissioned through the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic entitled “*Verification of the Impacts of the Introduction of Compulsory Final Year of Pre-School Education*”, the main objective of which is to map and describe the specific impacts and obstacles to the implementation of compulsory pre-school education. Based on the results of the research, measures will be taken to increase the proportion of children enrolled in pre-school education, focusing on areas of social disparity. The research focuses, among other things, on what measures should be taken to ensure children's access to pre-school education in a nursery school close to their homes, as this is considered the ideal way of fulfilling compulsory pre-school education for children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Other main topics of the research survey include awareness and support for the formation of attitudes of statutory representatives, the approach of schools to the education of children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, enrolment in nursery schools, the involvement of field workers, financial support, more specific definition of the outcomes of compulsory pre-school education, especially with regard to verifying the level of mastery of the expected outcomes in individual education, etc.

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/predskolni-vzdelavani/stanovisko-ministerstva-prace-a-socialnich-veci-a>.

Individual education is one of the ways of fulfilling compulsory pre-school education. As of 30 September 2020, according to the Statistical Yearbook of Education, 2,400 children out of a total of 109,686 five-year-olds in pre-school education were being educated individually<sup>52</sup>, i.e. 2.19%.

Section 34b of the Education Act stipulates that the director of a nursery school shall recommend to the statutory representative of a child who is being individually educated the fields in which the child is to be educated. These fields are based on the Framework Education Programme for pre-school education. The nursery school subsequently verifies the level of mastery of the expected outcomes in the individual fields in the period from the 3rd to the 4th month after the beginning of the school year and, if necessary, recommends further progress in education to the statutory representative. The statutory representative of a child who is being individually educated is obliged to ensure the child's participation in the verification. The director of the nursery school where the child has been admitted for pre-school education shall terminate the child's individual education if the child's statutory representative has failed to ensure the child's participation in the verification. Once a child's individual education has ended, the child cannot be individually educated again. Some individually educated children attend pre-school clubs or playgroups (i.e. facilities not registered in the register of schools and school facilities).

To support nursery schools in the situation where a statutory representative announces that he/she has decided to fulfil the compulsory pre-school education of his/her child in the form of individual education and to prevent children from being educated according to adjusted outcomes, a Methodological Recommendation on the course of individual education of children in nursery schools and verification of the achievement of expected outcomes has been issued<sup>53</sup>, which recommends, among other things, that a written record of the verification of the achievement of expected outcomes be made and signed by the child's statutory representative and a representative of the nursery school. The Czech School Inspectorate (CSI) is responsible for evaluating the conditions, course and results of education on the basis of the criteria<sup>54</sup> for a given school year. The CSI also monitors compliance with legal regulations relating to the provision of education and school services. Last but not least, it can be noted that the above-mentioned project "Verification of the Impacts of the Introduction of Compulsory Final Year of Pre-School Education" deals, among other things, with the possibility of adopting measures that would define the outcomes of compulsory pre-school education more specifically, especially with regard to verifying the level of achievement of the expected outcomes in individual education.

#### Qualified estimates of the number of Roma pupils in primary schools

By 30 September 2020, qualified estimates counted a total of 34,267 Roma pupils in all regions, i.e. 3.6% of the total number of pupils in primary schools. This is a year-on-year increase of 499 pupils. If we consider the overall increase in the number of pupils in primary schools, then Roma pupils account for 5.3% of that increase (the number of Roma pupils has increased faster than the number of pupils from the majority population). This may be one of the reasons for the higher percentage of Roma pupils being educated according to the Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education with Adjusted Outcomes (FEP PE AO)<sup>55</sup> in 2020 compared to 2019 (see the table below and the subsequent commentary).

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<sup>52</sup> This includes children in nursery schools, preparatory classes of primary schools and preparatory stages of special primary schools.

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.msmt.cz/file/50179/>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.csicr.cz/cz/Dokumenty/Kriteria-hodnoceni/Kriteria-hodnoceni-2020-2021>

<sup>55</sup> With regard to the increase in the number of Roma pupils educated according to the adjusted outcomes of the FEP PE AO, the MEYS reminds us that this is a support measure that provides differentiated educational support precisely according to individually differentiated needs and the evaluation of educational outcomes for all pupils with special educational needs, regardless of their ethnic or social origin. While the abolished FEP PE MMD set the same reduced level for all pupils with mild mental disabilities in all educational areas without differentiating the needs of individual pupils, the FEP PE AO allows pupils with mild mental disabilities to use adjusted outcomes, based on the recommendation of a school counselling facility, only in those areas where it is necessary for the student. Education according to the FEP PE AO is of the same quality. It ensures the individualisation of education according to the needs



Tab. 27 The transition of pupils from the FEP PE MMD to the FEP PE AO has enabled the development of the maximum educational potential of each pupil in key areas in mainstream primary schools.

Education Programme	Number of Roma pupils		Proportion of Roma pupils (%)	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
<b>FEP PE</b>	32,686	33,631	96.8	98.1
<b>of which FEP PE AO</b>	3,533	4,013	10.8	11.9
<b>FEP PE SPS</b>	612	629	1.8	1.8
<b>Total</b>	33,768	34,267	100	100

Note: The table does not include pupils educated according to the FEP PE MMD. For this reason, the error in the number for the proportion of Roma pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO has been corrected for 2019.

When comparing the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 school years, there is a positive trend in the number of Roma pupils being educated according to the Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education (the “FEP PE”), which has increased by 945 pupils year-on-year (from 32,686 Roma pupils in 2019 to 33,631 in 2020). 98.1% of Roma pupils in primary schools are educated according to the RVP ZV. When compared year-on-year, there is a significant increase in the proportion of Roma pupils educated according to the FEP PE (96.8% in 2019, 95.2% in 2018, and 92.5% in 2017).

11.9% of the total number of Roma pupils educated according to the unified FEP PE are being educated according to the FEP PE AO. The increase in the proportion of Roma pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO follows the changes in the number of Roma pupils educated according to the FEP PE (10.8% in 2019, 9.9% in 2018, and 7.1% in 2017). The increase in the proportion is due to the termination of the Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education with Mild Mental Disabilities (the “FEP PE MMD”), when for the first time in 2020/21 not a single pupil was educated according to this programme. At the same time, it is necessary to continue monitoring the degree to which Roma pupils are represented in the FEP PE AO in future years. In this context, we recall the different nature of the FEP PE AO, allowing differentiation of the approach to specific pupils, compared to the FEP PE MMD, as described above.

Looking at the proportion of Roma pupils among all pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO, we arrive at 25.3% (in 2019, the estimate of that proportion was 24.2%, in 2018 it was 27.5%). If we consider only pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO, the data again follow the oscillation of the above trends. The total number of pupils in this educational programme increased by 8.9% (from 14,572 to 15,870 pupils), the number of Roma pupils increased by 13.6% (from 3,533 to 4,013 pupils). However, this seemingly worse result must be interpreted in the context of termination of the FEP PE MMD in the 2019/2020 school year, when the last 470 Roma pupils in Year 9 were educated according to this programme. Thus, only pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO are promoted to higher Years in primary school, while pupils educated according to the FEP PE MMD are leaving, thus no longer listed in the report. If we remove the effect of the last year of the transition period from the data, then the share of Roma pupils in the increase in pupils educated according to educational programmes for pupils with mental disabilities would be 10.3%. The results of the research described below will be important for the interpretation of future developments. For the sake of completeness, it should also be noted that we already have a relatively low estimated absolute number of pupils, which is associated with a higher impact of errors on the result.

The table below shows the number of Roma pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO, broken down into regular classes and classes established in accordance with Section 16(9) of the Education Act. It is clear from the data that the proportion of Roma pupils educated in mainstream classes oscillates around 74%. It should be borne in mind that these are estimates with some imprecision and year-to-year fluctuations. Therefore, it is desirable to monitor longer-term trends. In any case, pupils are only included in classes established in accordance with Section 16(9) of the Education Act if their integration into a mainstream class is not possible and, in principle, only with their parents’ consent. If the parent does not agree, the pupil cannot be enrolled

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of the pupil so that everyone has a chance to excel and experience success. The individual approach and, more broadly, the application of formative assessment are aimed at this.



in the class. The possible causes of the overrepresentation of Roma pupils will be addressed in an analysis that is currently being commissioned, the aim of which is to determine why most Roma pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO are educated outside of mainstream schools/classes and strategies for how the MEYS will change this situation.

*Tab. 28 Number of pupils in the FEP PE AO*

Number of pupils in the FEP PE AO	2018	2019	2020
<b>Total number of Roma pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO</b>	3,450	3,533	4,013
<b>of which in classes established under Section 16(9) of the Education Act</b>	2,519	2,573	3,038
<b>i.e. the share (%) of the total number of Roma pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO</b>	73.0	72.8	75.7

The number of Roma pupils educated in 2020 within the framework of the educational programme for special primary schools (FEP PE SPS) is 629. Only 1.8% of Roma pupils in primary schools are being educated according to the FEP PE SPS, and there has been no year-on-year increase in that, although the overall proportion of Roma pupils in primary schools has increased.

*Tab. 29 Number of schools and pupils in educational programmes*

Number of schools and pupils in educational programmes	2019		2020	
	Number	Share in %	Number	Share in %
<b>Number of primary schools</b>	4,189	—	4,211	—
<b>Primary school pupils in total</b>	952,946	—	962,348	—
<b>– of which estimated Roma pupils</b>	33,768	3.5	34,267	3.6
<b>Primary school pupils educated according to the FEP PE incl. AO</b>	944,782	—	955,147	—
<b>– of which estimated Roma pupils</b>	32,686	3.5	33,631	3.5
<b>Primary school pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO</b>	14,572	—	15,870	—
<b>of which estimated Roma pupils educated according to the FEP PE AO</b>	3,533	24.2	4,013	25.3
<b>Primary school pupils educated according to the FEP PE special</b>	6,963	—	7,133	—
<b>– of which estimated Roma pupils</b>	612	8.8	629	8.8

The above data show a steady trend, with slight oscillations (compared to data from previous years); however, the significant trend will be the long-term one.

### ***g) Study and research on regional and minority languages at higher education institutions***

Scholarships from the Roma Education Fund are available for Roma students pursuing Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree or doctoral studies. These are being provided in 16 countries, mainly in Central and Eastern Europe, with the aim of contributing to raising the educational level of the Roma and desegregating the education system. In the Czech Republic, Romea has been administering the scholarships since 2010. For the 2016/2017 school year, 55 applications for support were submitted in the Czech Republic, of which 33 scholarships were awarded for a total of EUR 40,605 (CZK 1,080,093). Traditionally popular fields of study include teaching, social work, history, law, international relations, political science, economics, foreign languages (Russian), midwifery, and even chemistry or air traffic economics or occupational therapy. Roma students of higher education institutions without age limit, in full-time and distance learning, can apply.

The Verda Fund provides scholarships for Roma pupils and students who have already been admitted to secondary or higher education studies. The Fund has been a partner of the Drom Roma Centre for many

years, and its employees are involved in the administration of the Fund, assisting in the selection of applicants for scholarships and providing all relevant information. In recent years, applicants from among secondary school pupils have been significantly more prevalent. Given the method of selecting scholarship holders, i.e. by merit, the success rate, i.e. the number of pupils and students continuing their studies in the following year, increases and it is currently around 75%. In 2019/2020, a total of 60 applications were submitted for contribution from the Verda Fund, with the number of applications rising to 68 the following year. In the selection procedure, 54 students were selected in the year 2020/2021 and were awarded a total of CZK 425,000. Of this award, CZK 332,000 was paid out (78% of the originally granted amount). 43 students received the full scholarship, 6 students received half and 5 students were not paid anything. This was due to inconsistencies with the conditions for payment of the scholarship – e.g., a failing grade, unsatisfactory grade in conduct, failing to show up, failing to pass, or failing to provide the required documentation (grade certificate or certificates of completion of examinations for students of higher education institutions). Of the scholarship recipients, 3 students studied at a tertiary vocational school and 6 students at a higher education institution (2 successfully completed the tertiary vocational school, 1 completed Bachelor’s degree studies), others advanced to the next year. The Albatros Foundation is again one of the donors, contributing CZK 126,000. Cooperation with the Albatros Foundation was also deepened, especially in the form of expanding direct, ongoing interactive communication with students via social networks and email.

Since 2016, Romea has been implementing its own scholarship programme, in which it supports dozens of students at various levels of education (secondary, tertiary vocational, higher) each year. This year, a total of 81 students were awarded scholarships, including 50 from secondary schools, 6 from tertiary vocational school and 25 from higher education institutions. The support is aimed at students who have good academic results but who, due to the poor financial situation in their family, would not be able to pay for their studies or whose studies are jeopardised by social exclusion. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of an evaluation by a three-member expert committee, which scores applications containing information about past performance, a description of the student’s living situation and the reasons why he/she is applying for the scholarship, motivation for studying, and information about extracurricular activities or achievements beyond the scope of regular studies. Since 2016, a total of 525 scholarships have been awarded to 251 students for a total value of CZK 8,594,500. The scholarship also includes, for example, motivational visits to the scholarship holders’ schools to help improve the motivation of other students to pursue their education.

*Tab. 30 Romani and Higher Education (2017–2022)*

Name of higher education institution	Field of study
<b>Faculty of Education, Masaryk University</b>	Romani as an elective course open to students of any study programme
<b>Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava</b>	Elements of Romani studies (lifelong education)
<b>Faculty of Education, Charles University</b>	Subject Roma integration in the Special education programme
<b>Faculty of Arts, Charles University</b>	Romani studies
<b>Faculty of Arts, University of Pardubice</b>	Courses: Roma in History and the Present; Romani for Anthropologists; Roma Religion; Romani Language Course; Conversation and Reading in Romani

### *i) Transnational exchanges*

Unlike the other languages protected by the Charter, the Romani minority in the Czech Republic does not have its own statehood, which is why transnational exchanges take place mainly with Slovakia, from which the vast majority of Czech Roma came. There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Romani language.

## **Article 7(2) – Unjustified restrictions on the use of a minority language**

In the Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation Strategy (Roma Integration Strategy) 2021–2030, there are passages that address unjustified restrictions on the use of minority languages, in particular the chapter on *Antigypsyism*.

Legally, the most serious manifestations of hate violence are classified as hate crimes in accordance with Act No 40/2009, the Criminal Code, as amended (Criminal Code). Crimes with motivation by hatred included in the qualified facts are specified, for example, in Section 352(2) Violence Against Group of People and Individuals, Section 355 Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of People or Section 356 Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of People or of Suppression their Rights and Freedoms. Hate motive is also included as a general aggravating circumstance in Section 42(b); it shall be applied if the qualified facts of a particular criminal offence do not contain a specific aggravating circumstance. The general aggravating circumstance is then taken into account when deciding on the severity of the sentence to be imposed.

## **Article 7(3) – Promoting mutual understanding between language groups – Educational objectives and media**

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Romani language. See Part I. Polish, Article 7(3) – Promoting mutual understanding between language groups – Educational objectives and media.

## **Article 7(4) – Consultation mechanisms**

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(4) – Consultation mechanisms.

Speakers of the Romani language and members of the Roma minority can also actively participate in addressing issues related to this national minority within the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs. The Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation Strategy (Roma Integration Strategy) 2021-2030 also provides for the establishment of a Commissioner for Roma Minority Affairs.

## **Article 7(5) – Application of the principles to non-territorial languages**

There has not been any change under this point over the monitoring period regarding the Romani language. The Roma minority inhabits the entire territory of the Czech Republic, so it is still a non-territorial language.

## **V. Moravian Croatian**

### **Article 6 – Information**

See Part I. Polish, Article 6 – Information.

### **Article 7(1) – Objectives and principles**

#### ***a) Recognition of the regional and minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth***

On the basis of the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of 17 June 2015, a process has been initiated within the Government Council for National Minorities to ensure the protection of the Moravian Croatian language under Part II of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Czech Republic. Representatives of the Croatian minority stressed that the extension of the ratification of the Charter to include the written Croatian language, with an emphasis on the promotion of the Gradistan variety of the Croatian language, is a crucial step for this minority (especially its older members who experienced forced displacement from the territory of South Moravia at the turn of the 1940s and 1950s), as they consider it a form of moral rehabilitation of their language and culture.

At the Council meeting on 26 April 2016, the Council voted on options for a solution and unanimously agreed to support the extension of the ratification of the Charter (Part II) to include the written Croatian language, with an emphasis on the promotion of the Gradistan variety of Croatian. It instructed its Chairperson to propose the extension of ratification to the Government (resolution No 172 on item 1 of 26 April 2016). However, the latter settled for the implicit solution of including information on the implementation of Part II of the Charter in relation to Moravian Croatian in the next national report on the implementation of the Charter, which will be approved by the Government.

The topic of ensuring the protection of the Moravian Croatian language by Part II of the Charter was reopened at the Council meeting on 8 January 2021, and in order to complete the whole process at the international level, a resolution was adopted by which the Council requests the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Government Commissioner for Human Rights, to take the appropriate measures related to the amendment of the ratification of the Charter by the Czech Republic so that the Czech Republic declares, in accordance with the Charter, that the minority languages spoken on its territory and to which it applies the provisions of Part II also include the written Croatian language, with an emphasis on the promotion of the Gradistan variety (Resolution No 3, paragraph III.).

Currently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is preparing, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities, a proposal to ensure the protection of the Moravian Croatian language under Part II of the Charter.

#### ***b) Respect for the geographical area of regional and minority languages***

The Moravian Croats are part of an ethnic group of Croats (Charváti) who fled the Balkans from Turkish invaders in the 16th and 17th centuries and settled in southern Moravia. The first groups of Croats arrived in South Moravia in the 1630s and first settled in the vicinity of Břeclav, then in regions around Mikulov, Hodonín and Valtice.

The part of the Croats who settled in places with a large proportion of Slavic Moravians gradually assimilated naturally (especially in the area around today's Břeclav). On the other hand, in the Germanised areas of Moravia, Croats preserved their culture and language until the 20th century (especially in the Mikulov region). Only three ethnically Croatian villages survived to see the 20th century, namely Jevišovka (formerly Frélichov), Nový Přerov and Dobré Pole. According to the Czechoslovak census of 1921, a total of 1,682 people lived there. The inhabitants of these villages were mostly trilingual (Croatian, German, Czech).

The Croats' estates were generally quite rich, which was one of the reasons why their property was confiscated by the communist regime after February 1948. On 25 February 1948, the District Action Committee of the National Front in Mikulov decided on the displacement of the Croatian population from the South Moravian municipalities. In this case, the Action Committee stipulated that the entire Croatian population of the villages of Dobré Pole, Jevišovka (formerly Frélichov) and Nový Přerov should be moved inland, dispersed to various villages mostly in northern Moravia.

Unfortunately, the Czech Republic does not have any precise data on the current number of ethnic Moravian Croats. Since Croatia did not exist as an independent State in 1991, the Czech Statistical Office does not have data for Croatian nationality or mother tongue, and these categories were not included in the census. If someone indicated a Croatian nationality or language on the census form, they were categorised as "other nationality" and "other mother tongue". In the subsequent censuses in 2001 and 2011, although it was possible to indicate Croatian nationality and mother tongue on the census forms, unfortunately, these data include both Moravian Croats and newly arrived Croats who came to the Czech Republic mainly in connection with the Yugoslav conflict in the 1990s. In addition, it should be noted that it is not compulsory to state one's nationality in the census (about a quarter of the population chose not to state it). The statistical data available to the Czech Statistical Office on the Croatian minority are thus unusable for determining the number of members of the Moravian Croat community. Using the data available from expert publications, it can be assumed that this group consists of several hundred persons.

The existence of the minority of Moravian Croats and their language is critically endangered today. This is a minority that has been continuously residing in the territory of the Czech Republic for almost 500 years. The fact that this is a critically endangered minority is cause in no small part by the illegal activities of the State authorities at the turn of the 1940s and 1950s.

### ***c) Action to promote regional and minority languages in order to safeguard them***

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

Each year, MoC (Department of Regional and National Culture) announces, in accordance with Government Resolution No 122 of 21 February 2007 on the Government Regulation amending Government Regulation No 98/2002, laying down the conditions and method of providing grants from the State budget for the activities of members of national minorities in the Czech Republic, as amended by Government Regulation No 262/2005, a grant selection procedure for projects under the "Support of Cultural Activities of Members of National Minorities Living in the Czech Republic" programme. This grant programme supported, for example, the professional restoration of Moravian Croat costumes for the exhibitions of the Museum of Moravian Croats in Jevišovka.

#### 2017

The Croatian national minority received a grant of CZK 350,000:

- The Association of Croats in the Czech Republic, Jevišovka – *Documentation of the Croatian National Minority in the Czech Republic, 26th Croatian Culture Day in Jevišovka (kiritof)*.

#### 2018

The Croatian national minority received a grant of CZK 350,000:

- The Association of Croats in the Czech Republic, Jevišovka – *Documentation of the Croatian National Minority in the Czech Republic, 27th Croatian Culture Day in Jevišovka (kiritof)*.

## 2019

A grant of CZK 358,000 was provided for the implementation of Croatian association projects.

- The Association of Croats in the Czech Republic, Jevišovka – *Documentation of the Croatian National Minority in the Czech Republic, 28th Croatian Culture Day in Jevišovka (kiritof)*.

## 2020

Some of the projects were not implemented because of Covid-19, the grants were returned. The Croatian national minority received a grant of CZK 325,000:

- The Association of Croats in the Czech Republic, Jevišovka – *Documentation of the Croatian National Minority in the Czech Republic*.

## 2021

Some of the projects were not implemented and the grants were returned due to Covid-19 pandemic. The Croatian national minority received a grant of CZK 308,000:

- The Association of Croats in the Czech Republic, Jevišovka – *Documentation of the Croatian National Minority in the Czech Republic, 29th Croatian Culture Day in Jevišovka (kiritof)*.

## 2022

The Croatian national minority received a grant of CZK 315,000:

- *The Association of Croats in the Czech Republic, Jevišovka – Documentation of the Croatian National Minority, 30th Croatian Culture Day in Jevišovka (kiritof)*.

The Ethnographic Institute of the Historical Museum, part of the Moravian Museum, has been studying the issue of Moravian Croats in the Mikulov region for a long time, and supports examples of their culture, including their language, with the museum resources (participation in the exhibition in the Croatian House in Jevišovka with phonographic records of spoken language from 1910). At specialised conferences, it also draws attention to attempts to revitalise and preserve the language used for communication by the participants of the main social event of the community – the feasts/kiritofs in Jevišovka.

### Sub-programme 134D212 – Support for the reproduction of assets of regional cultural facilities:

Museum of Moravian Croats – Croatian House. In 2008, the government of the Republic of Croatia purchased the former rectory building in Jevišovka for the purpose of establishing a museum of Moravian Croats. The task was entrusted to the Association of Croats in the Czech Republic. The renovation of the building, including an extension for occasional accommodation of organisers (phases I and II), is continuously financed by the Ministry of Culture throughout the whole reporting period (2017–2022); the approved grant amounts to CZK 29,286,233. The original building, where the exhibition of the Moravian Croats is located, is currently being renovated, including an extension. The Association of Croats in the Czech Republic is still planning the final phase III, including the construction of storage space for agricultural machinery and the landscaping of the museum's surroundings. It will be open to public after the third phase is completed. The museum's current exhibition is accessible on request, especially to members of the minority.

### **d) Encouragement of the use of regional and minority languages**

Support is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

### ***e) Development of links between groups using different languages***

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(1) – Objectives and Principles, e).

### ***f) Support for the teaching and study of regional and minority languages***

Support for teaching and study of Croatian is provided through a wide range of grant programmes, see the chapter Promotion of regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic.

### ***g) Study and research on regional and minority languages at higher education institutions***

Studies of Croatian language (official Croatian, not the Moravian “Gradistan” variant) or Croatian language as a language of instruction are implemented at the following higher education institutions, in the following fields of study.

*Tab. 31 Croatian and Higher Education (2017–2022)*

<b>Name of higher education institution</b>	<b>Field of study</b>
<b>Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University</b>	Croatian language and literature
	Balkan languages and literatures
<b>Faculty of Arts, Charles University</b>	Slavonic studies with specialisation in Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian, general and comparative Slavonic, Slovak studies
<b>Faculty of Arts, University of Pardubice</b>	Slavonic Studies of the European Union – Croatian studies

### ***i) Transnational exchanges***

In November 2022, the MoC expects to sign a new Implementation Programme with Croatia, which will also take into account national minorities (the previous programme has already expired).

### **Article 7(2) – Unjustified restrictions on the use of a minority language**

There are currently no unjustified restrictions on the use of the Croatian language. However, with the extension of the protection under Part II of the Charter, the protection of Moravian Croatian will be even more accentuated.

### **Article 7(3) – Promoting mutual understanding between language groups – Educational objectives and media**

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(3) – Promoting mutual understanding between language groups – Educational objectives and media.

### **Article 7(4) – Consultation mechanisms**

See Part I. Polish, Article 7(4) – Consultation mechanisms.

### **Article 7(5) – Application of the principles to non-territorial languages**

Moravian Croatian has historically been a territorial language in the Czech Republic, associated with the municipalities of Jevišovka (formerly Frélichov), Nový Přerov and Dobré Pole. However, it must be added that this territoriality was disrupted by the forced dispersal of the Croatian population into the interior in the 1950s.