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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

**Information Document
on the implementation of the
Recommendations for Immediate Action
based on the 6th monitoring cycle**

Submitted by Denmark

on 8 September 2025

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COMMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK ON THE GENERAL RECOMMANDATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

The Danish Government is pleased to respond to the prioritised recommendation on the implementation of The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages adopted by the Committee of Ministers
CM/RecChL(2024)1:

1. Take measures to increase awareness of German as a minority language in the whole territory of Denmark, including in the media.

The Danish Government wishes to express its appreciation of the constructive dialogue with the Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and appreciates the continued dialogue and exchange of information and views. The Danish Government would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts for its efforts in drafting the opinion. This report provides information for immediate action as presented in the sixth evaluation report on Denmark. The report has been prepared in accordance with the outlines for State Reports and the decision of the Committee of Ministers (2018), which stated that countries should not go more than 5 years without reporting.

Before commenting on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Danish Government would like to reiterate the position that the international obligations, which Denmark has assumed according to the charter specifically, relate to the German national minority in South Jutland. As declared upon ratification of the Charter, it is the position of the Danish government that the Greenlandic language enjoys a high degree of protection in Greenland by virtue of the Greenland Home Rule Act of 1978.

Specific Comments

1. Take measures to increase awareness of German as a minority language in the whole territory of Denmark, including in the media.

Denmark appreciates the Committee of Experts' recognition of the steps Denmark has taken to raise awareness of German as a minority language.

While there is no dedicated airtime in the German language or dedicated to the German minority in public radio or television, the public service contracts concluded by the Ministry of Culture and the two national public broadcasters *DR* and *TV 2*, continue to contain the obligation which came into place in 2019 to provide a broad coverage of Denmark, thereby reflecting the diversity of culture and living conditions in different regions of the country. *DR* is furthermore obliged to "place emphasis on the coverage of minorities in the Danish/German border area". This obligation was reconfirmed in the public service contracts concluded in 2024. The coverage of the border area included a coverage of the wish of the German speaking minority regarding the planned revision of the Danish flag law. The wishes of the German minority were met, putting

the German flag on an equal footing with the flags of the Nordic countries.

In addition to the two national public service broadcasters, the Danish public service media landscape includes eight regional broadcasters (TV 2 Regionerne) with public service obligations providing coverage of the different regions in Denmark. One of these, TV SYD, holds a special obligation to focus on the conditions within the Danish-German border region as a part of TV SYD's public service obligations. The 2024 annual report of the regional broadcaster TV SYD states that the objective of 50 features/programmes emphasising the conditions in the Danish-German border region was reached. In the report TV SYD highlights TV SYD's border area magazine "Grænseloz" which is produced in collaboration with the German public service broadcaster NDR. The collaboration began in 2022 and will continue in 2025. The magazine focuses on the living conditions in the borderland, especially those of minorities, while also giving viewers insights into some of the cultural communities that exist across the Danish/German border. According to TV SYD the programme fulfills a wish from both the Danish minority in Southern Schleswig and the German minority in Southern Jutland.

Denmark also supports measures that increase awareness of German as a minority language through cultural initiatives. Denmark has granted Deutsches Museum Nordschleswig a funding of 700.000 DKK in 2026 to promote and disseminate knowledge about the history, culture, and identity of the German minority. Additionally, Denmark has awarded a grant of 300.000 DKK to the German minority project "Poetry slam" in 2024. The grant supports a range of concrete initiatives that celebrate the anniversary of the artform of poetry slam in Schleswig-Holsten and the broader Denmark.

Awareness of German as a minority language is currently not part of the Common Objectives (national set of objectives for each subject) for German as a subject in Danish primary and lower secondary education, but teachers have extended autonomy to choose subjects and themes for the teaching. In upper secondary education, in the guide from The Ministry of Children and Education for History (A-level), the history of the Danish-German border region is highlighted as an example that can be used as part of a focus on reconciliation processes. Denmark has in 2024 also refinanced the German minority project "Grenzgenial" with a yearly funding of 700.000 DKK in the period 2024 to 2027. The project is a digital teaching platform, which aims to support teaching of German in the Danish primary schools.

Denmark has reconfirmed its respect and appreciation for German as a minority language by recognising and financing through the state budget in the same proportion as the public school system of Denmark the German minority upper secondary school in Aabenraa (in German Apenrade). Additionally, in 2025 Denmark has granted the German minority upper secondary school in Aabenraa 5,000,000 DKK to support the 'Campus Apenrade' project. The vision for building a unified German campus in Aabenraa was first presented by the Germany minority's central organisation Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN) and Deutscher Schul- und Sprachverein (DSSV) in March 2023. The Campus is intended to unite different German minority institutions such as kindergartens, upper secondary school and student housing in Aabenraa. The grant is awarded with the purpose of ensuring an expansion of the educational facilities of the upper secondary school in Aabenraa.

Since 2024, Denmark has contributed 6,400,000 DKK annually to the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). Located in Flensburg, Germany, ECMI is an autonomous institution under German law. The centre is jointly funded by Denmark, the German Federal Republic and Schleswig-Holstein. In 2022, ECMI established the Minority Issues in the Denmark-Germany Border region research cluster. The cluster examines minority experiences in the border region, including a focus on how the maintenance and revitalization of minority languages in the region can be supported.

Denmark has moreover sought to increase the visibility of the German minority and German language at the political level. On the request of BDN, the structure of The Contact Committee for the German minority

(established in 1965) has been changed to ensure an even closer contact between the Danish Parliament, the Danish Government, and the German minority. The Contact Committee for the German minority negotiates and discusses domestic policy affairs of interest to the German minority. The Contact Committee is now functioning as a full-fledged parliamentary committee, with an allocated budget, and chaired by a member of the Danish parliament.

Finally, Denmark has sought to increase awareness of German as a minority language through the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Copenhagen-Bonn Declarations on March 29 2025. Originally signed in 1955 these historic declarations laid the foundation for the peaceful coexistence in the Danish-German border region.