

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 29 June 2026

MIN-LANG (2026) PR 3

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

GERMANY



Eighth Report in accordance with Article 15 (1) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Table of contents

Table of contents	2
1 Preliminary remarks	20
2 Updated geographic and demographic information	21
3 General developments	22
3.1 Changes to the overall framework	22
3.1.1 Extension of the Language Charter in the federal state of Brandenburg and the Free State of Saxony	22
3.1.2 Act to Amend the Law on Married Names and Birth Names and International Law on Names	23
3.1.3 Fifth funding agreement for the Foundation for the Sorbian People (Stiftung für das Sorbische Volk)	23
3.1.4 The Low German Act in Brandenburg	24
3.1.5 Saarland's framework agreement with the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma	24
3.1.6 Treaty between the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate and the state association of German Sinti and Roma	25
3.1.7 Framework agreement between the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the state association of German Sinti and Roma	25
3.1.8 Federal and state-level commission against antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma life in Germany	25
3.1.9 Multilingualism strategy in Brandenburg	26
3.2 Developments in other areas	26
3.2.1 Bundesrat resolution on the inclusion of a paragraph on national minorities in Germany's Basic Law	26
3.2.2 Online Access Act	27
3.2.3 Use of language in court	28
3.2.4 Bilingual motorway signs	30
3.2.5 Trade mark law	30
3.3 Information measures at federal level	32
3.4 Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK): Recommendation on raising awareness of the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and of the Low German Speakers' Group	33
3.5 Annual implementation conference	35
3.6 Brochure of the Federal Ministry of the Interior	35
3.7 Financial support for regional and minority languages	35
3.8 Developments in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	40

4	The committee of experts' evaluations	42
4.1	Danish in the state of Schleswig-Holstein	42
4.1.1	Article 6 – Information	42
4.1.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	44
4.1.2.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	44
4.1.2.2	Article 7 (1) (b)	47
4.1.2.3	Article 7 (1) (c)	47
4.1.2.4	Article 7 (1) (d)	47
4.1.2.5	Article 7 (1) (e)	49
4.1.2.6	Article 7 (1) (f)	51
4.1.2.7	Article 7 (1) (g)	51
4.1.2.8	Article 7 (1) (h)	51
4.1.2.9	Article 7 (1) (i)	51
4.1.2.10	Article 7 (2)	52
4.1.2.11	Article 7 (3)	52
4.1.2.12	Article 7 (4)	53
4.1.3	Article 8 – Education	53
4.1.3.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	53
4.1.3.2	Article 8 (1) (b) (iv)	54
4.1.3.3	Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)	55
4.1.3.4	Article 8 (1) (c) (iv)	55
4.1.3.5	Article 8 (1) (d) (iii)	55
4.1.3.6	Article 8 (1) (e) ii	55
4.1.3.7	Article 8 (1) (f) ii	56
4.1.3.8	Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)	56
4.1.3.9	Article 8 (1) (g)	57
4.1.3.10	Article 8 (1) (h)	57
4.1.3.11	Article 8 (1) (i)	58
4.1.3.12	Article 8 (2)	58
4.1.4	Article 9 – Judicial authorities	59
4.1.4.1	Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)	59
4.1.4.2	Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)	59
4.1.4.3	Article 9 (2) (a)	60
4.1.5	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	60

4.1.5.1	Article 10 (1) (a) (v)	60
4.1.5.2	Article 10 (1) (c)	60
4.1.5.3	Article 10 (2) (g)	63
4.1.5.4	Article 10 (4) (c)	63
4.1.5.5	Article 10 (5)	63
4.1.6	Article 11 – Media	64
4.1.6.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	64
4.1.6.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	64
4.1.6.3	Article 11 (1) (d)	65
4.1.6.4	Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)	65
4.1.6.5	Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)	65
4.1.6.6	Article 11 (2)	66
4.1.7	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	66
4.1.7.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	66
4.1.7.2	Article 12 (1) (b)	67
4.1.7.3	Article 12 (1) (c)	67
4.1.7.4	Article 12 (1) (d)	67
4.1.7.5	Article 12 (1) (e)	68
4.1.7.6	Article 12 (1) (f)	68
4.1.7.7	Article 12 (1) (g)	68
4.1.7.8	Article 12 (2)	69
4.1.7.9	Article 12 (3)	69
4.1.8	Article 13 – Economic and social life	70
4.1.8.1	Article 13 (1) (a)	70
4.1.8.2	Article 13 (1) (c)	70
4.1.8.3	Article 13 (1) (d)	70
4.1.8.4	Article 13 (2) (c)	70
4.1.9	Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges	70
4.1.9.1	Article 14 (a)	70
4.1.9.2	Article 14 (b)	72
4.2	Upper Sorbian in Saxony	73
4.2.1	Article 6 – Information	73
4.2.2	Article 8 – Education	73
4.2.2.1	Article 8 (1) (g)	73

4.2.2.2	Article 8 (1) (i)	73
4.2.3	Article 9 – Judicial authorities	74
4.2.3.1	Article 9 (1) (a) (ii)	74
4.2.4	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	74
4.2.4.1	Article 10 (5)	74
4.2.5	Article 11 – Media	75
4.2.5.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	75
4.2.5.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	76
4.2.5.3	Article 11 (1) (d) to (f)	77
4.2.5.4	Article 11 (2)	77
4.2.6	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	78
4.2.7	Article 13 – Economic and social life	78
4.3	Lower Sorbian in Brandenburg	79
4.3.1	Article 6 – Information	79
4.3.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	79
4.3.2.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	79
4.3.2.2	Article 7 (1) (b)	79
4.3.2.3	Article 7 (1) (c)	79
4.3.2.4	Article 7 (1) (d)	80
4.3.2.5	Article 7 (1) (e)	80
4.3.2.6	Article 7 (1) (f)	80
4.3.2.7	Article 7 (1) (g)	80
4.3.2.8	Article 7 (1) (h)	80
4.3.2.9	Article 7 (1) (i)	80
4.3.2.10	Article 7 (2)	81
4.3.2.11	Article 7 (3)	81
4.3.2.12	Article 7 (4)	81
4.3.3	Article 8 – Education	81
4.3.3.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	81
4.3.3.2	Article 8 (1) (b) (iv)	82
4.3.3.3	Article 8 (1) (c) (iv)	82
4.3.3.4	Article 8 (1) (e) (iii)	82
4.3.3.5	Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)	82
4.3.3.6	Article 8 (1) (g)	82

4.3.3.7	Article 8 (1) (h)	82
4.3.3.8	Article 8 (1) (i)	83
4.3.4	Article 9 – Judicial authorities	83
4.3.4.1	Article 9 (1) (a) (ii)	83
4.3.4.2	Article 9 (1) (a) (iii)	84
4.3.4.3	Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)	84
4.3.4.4	Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)	84
4.3.4.5	Article 9 (2) (a)	85
4.3.5	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	85
4.3.5.1	Article 10 (1) (a) (iv)	85
4.3.5.2	Article 10 (1) (a) (v)	85
4.3.5.3	Article 10 (2) (b)	85
4.3.5.4	Article 10 (2) (g)	85
4.3.5.5	Article 10 (3) (b)	86
4.3.5.6	Article 10 (3) (c)	86
4.3.5.7	Article 10 (4) (a)	86
4.3.5.8	Article 10 (5)	86
4.3.6	Article 11 – Media	86
4.3.6.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	86
4.3.6.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	86
4.3.6.3	Article 11 (1) (d)	86
4.3.6.4	Article 11 (1) (e) (i)	87
4.3.6.5	Article 11 (2)	87
4.3.7	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	87
4.3.7.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	87
4.3.7.2	Article 12 (1) (b)	87
4.3.7.3	Article 12 (1) (c)	87
4.3.7.4	Article 12 (1) (d)	88
4.3.7.5	Article 12 (1) (e)	88
4.3.7.6	Article 12 (1) (f)	88
4.3.7.7	Article 12 (1) (g)	88
4.3.7.8	Article 12 (1) (h)	88
4.3.7.9	Article 12 (2)	88
4.3.7.10	Article 12 (3)	88

4.3.8	Article 13 – Economic and social life	89
4.3.8.1	Article 13 (1) (a)	89
4.3.8.2	Article 13 (1) (c)	89
4.3.8.3	Article 13 (1) (d)	89
4.4	North Frisian in Schleswig-Holstein	90
4.4.1	Article 6 – Information	90
4.4.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	90
4.4.2.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	90
4.4.2.2	Article 7 (1) (b)	93
4.4.2.3	Article 7 (1) (c)	93
4.4.2.4	Article 7 (1) (d)	93
4.4.2.5	Article 7 (1) (e)	94
4.4.2.6	Article 7 (1) (f)	95
4.4.2.7	Article 7 (1) (g)	96
4.4.2.8	Article 7 (1) (h)	96
4.4.2.9	Article 7 (1) (i)	97
4.4.2.10	Article 7 (2)	97
4.4.2.11	Article 7 (3)	98
4.4.2.12	Article 7 (4)	98
4.4.3	Article 8 – Education	98
4.4.3.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iii)	98
4.4.3.2	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	99
4.4.3.3	Article 8 (1) (b) (iv)	100
4.4.3.4	Article 8 (1) (c) (iv)	103
4.4.3.5	Article 8 (1) (e) (ii)	104
4.4.3.6	Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)	105
4.4.3.7	Article 8 (1) (g)	105
4.4.3.8	Article 8 (1) (h)	105
4.4.3.9	Article 8 (1) (i)	105
4.4.3.10	Article 8 (2)	106
4.4.4	Article 9 – Judicial authorities	106
4.4.4.1	Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)	106
4.4.4.2	Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)	106
4.4.4.3	Article 9 (2) (a)	106

4.4.5	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	107
4.4.5.1	Article 10 (1) (a) (v)	107
4.4.5.2	Article 10 (1) (c)	107
4.4.5.3	Article 10 (2) (g)	108
4.4.5.4	Article 10 (4) (c)	108
4.4.5.5	Article 10 (5)	108
4.4.6	Article 11 – Media	109
4.4.6.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	109
4.4.6.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	110
4.4.6.3	Article 11 (1) (d)	111
4.4.6.4	Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)	112
4.4.6.5	Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)	112
4.4.6.6	Article 11 (2)	113
4.4.7	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	113
4.4.7.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	113
4.4.7.2	Article 12 (1) (b)	114
4.4.7.3	Article 12 (1) (c)	115
4.4.7.4	Article 12 (1) (d)	115
4.4.7.5	Article 12 (1) (e)	115
4.4.7.6	Article 12 (1) (f)	115
4.4.7.7	Article 12 (1) (g)	116
4.4.7.8	Article 12 (1) (h)	116
4.4.7.9	Article 12 (2)	117
4.4.7.10	Article 12 (3)	117
4.4.8	Article 13 – Economic and social life	118
4.4.8.1	Article 13 (1) (a)	118
4.4.8.2	Article 13 (1) (c)	118
4.4.8.3	Article 13 (1) (d)	118
4.4.9	Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges	119
4.4.9.1	Article 14 (a)	119
4.5	Sater Frisian in Lower Saxony	120
4.5.1	Article 6 – Information	120
4.5.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	120
4.5.2.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	120

4.5.2.2	Article 7 (1) (d)	121
4.5.2.3	Article 7 (1) (e)	121
4.5.2.4	Article 7 (1) (f)	121
4.5.2.5	Article 7 (1) (g)	122
4.5.2.6	Article 7 (1) (h)	122
4.5.2.7	Article 7 (1) (i)	122
4.5.3	Article 8 – Education	122
4.5.3.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	122
4.5.4	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	124
4.5.4.1	Article 10 (2) (a)	124
4.5.5	Article 11 - Media	124
4.5.5.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	124
4.5.5.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	125
4.5.5.3	Article 11 (1) (d)	125
4.5.5.4	Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)	126
4.5.5.5	Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)	126
4.5.5.6	Article 11 (2)	126
4.5.6	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	127
4.5.6.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	127
4.5.6.2	Article 12 (1) (c)	127
4.5.6.3	Article 12 (1) (d) to (g)	128
4.6	Low German in Brandenburg	129
4.6.1	Article 6 – Information	129
4.6.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	129
4.6.2.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	129
4.6.2.2	Article 7 (1) (b)	129
4.6.2.3	Article 7 (1) (c)	129
4.6.2.4	Article 7 (1) (d)	130
4.6.2.5	Article 7 (1) (e)	130
4.6.2.6	Article 7 (1) (f)	130
4.6.2.7	Article 7 (1) (g)	131
4.6.2.8	Article 7 (1) (h)	131
4.6.2.9	Article 7 (2)	131
4.6.2.10	Article 7 (3)	131

4.6.2.11	Article 7 (4)	132
4.7	Low German in North Rhine-Westphalia	133
4.7.1	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	133
4.7.1.1	Article 7 (1) (f)	133
4.8	Low German in Saxony-Anhalt	134
4.8.1	Article 6 – Information	134
4.8.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	134
4.9	Low German in the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen	135
4.9.1	Article 6 – Information	135
4.9.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	135
4.9.2.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	135
4.9.2.2	Article 7 (1) (b)	137
4.9.2.3	Article 7 (1) (c)	137
4.9.2.4	Article 7 (1) (d)	140
4.9.2.5	Article 7 (1) (e)	143
4.9.2.6	Article 7 (1) (f)	144
4.9.2.7	Article 7 (1) (g)	144
4.9.2.8	Article 7 (1) (h)	145
4.9.2.9	Article 7 (1) (i)	145
4.9.2.10	Article 7 (2)	146
4.9.2.11	Article 7 (3)	146
4.9.2.12	Article 7 (4)	146
4.9.3	Article 8 – Education	146
4.9.3.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	146
4.9.3.2	Article 8 (1) (b) (iii)	147
4.9.3.3	Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)	149
4.9.3.4	Article 8 (1) (e) (ii)	150
4.9.3.5	Article 8 (1) (f) (ii)	150
4.9.3.6	Article 8 (1) (g)	150
4.9.3.7	Article 8 (1) (h)	151
4.9.4	Article 9 – Judicial authorities	152
4.9.4.1	Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)	152
4.9.4.2	Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)	152
4.9.4.3	Article 9 (2) (a)	152

4.9.5	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	153
4.9.5.1	Article 10 (1) (a) (v)	153
4.9.6	Article 11 – Media	153
4.9.6.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	153
4.9.6.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	156
4.9.6.3	Article 11 (1) (d)	156
4.9.6.4	Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)	156
4.9.6.5	Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)	157
4.9.6.6	Article 11 (1) (g)	157
4.9.6.7	Article 11 (2)	157
4.9.7	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	158
4.9.7.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	158
4.9.7.2	Article 12 (1) (b)	158
4.9.7.3	Article 12 (1) (c)	159
4.9.7.4	Article 12 (1) (d)	159
4.9.7.5	Article 12 (1) (e)	159
4.9.7.6	Article 12 (1) (f)	159
4.9.7.7	Article 12 (1) (g)	159
4.9.7.8	Article 12 (3)	160
4.9.8	Article 13 – Economic and social life	160
4.9.8.1	Article 13 (1) (a)	160
4.9.8.2	Article 13 (1) (c)	160
4.9.8.3	Article 13 (2) (c)	160
4.10	Low German in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg	163
4.10.1	Article 6 – Information	163
4.10.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	163
4.10.2.1	Article 7 (1) (b)	163
4.10.2.2	Article 7 (1) (c)	163
4.10.2.3	Article 7 (1) (e)	164
4.10.2.4	Article 7 (1) (f)	164
4.10.2.5	Article 7 (1) (g)	166
4.10.2.6	Article 7 (1) (h)	166
4.10.2.7	Article 7 (1) (i)	166
4.10.2.8	Article 7 (2)	166

4.10.2.9	Article 7 (3)	166
4.10.2.10	Article 7 (4)	167
4.10.3	Article 8 – Education	167
4.10.3.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	167
4.10.3.2	Article 8 (1) (b) (iii)	168
4.10.3.3	Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)	170
4.10.3.4	Article 8 (1) (d) (iii)	170
4.10.3.5	Article 8 (1) (e) ii	171
4.10.3.6	Article 8 (1) (f) ii	171
4.10.3.7	Article 8 (1) (g)	171
4.10.3.8	Article 8 (1) (h)	171
4.10.3.9	Article 8 (1) (i)	172
4.10.4	Article 9 – Judicial authorities	172
4.10.4.1	Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)	172
4.10.4.2	Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)	173
4.10.4.3	Article 9 (2) (a)	173
4.10.5	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	173
4.10.5.1	Article 10 (4) (c)	173
4.10.6	Article 11 – Media	174
4.10.6.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	174
4.10.6.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	175
4.10.6.3		175
4.10.6.4	Article 11 (1) (e) ii	176
4.10.6.5	Article 11 (1) (f) ii	176
4.10.6.6	Article 11 (1) (g)	176
4.10.6.7	Article 11 (2)	176
4.10.7	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	176
4.10.7.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	176
4.10.7.2	Article 12 (1) (d)	177
4.10.7.3	Article 12 (1) (g)	177
4.10.7.4	Article 12 (3)	177
4.10.8	Article 13 – Economic and social life	177
4.11	Low German in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	178

4.11.1	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	178
4.11.1.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	178
4.11.1.2	Article 7 (1) (b)	178
4.11.1.3	Article 7 (1) (c)	178
4.11.1.4	Article 7 (1) (d)	178
4.11.1.5	Article 7 (1) (e)	179
4.11.1.6	Article 7 (1) (f)	179
4.11.1.7	Article 7 (1) (g)	180
4.11.1.8	Article 7 (1) (h)	181
4.11.1.9	Article 7 (1) (i)	181
4.11.1.10	Article 7 (2)	181
4.11.1.11	Article 7 (3)	182
4.11.1.12	Article 7 (4)	182
4.11.2	Article 8 – Education	182
4.11.2.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	182
4.11.2.2	Article 8 (1) (b) (iii)	183
4.11.2.3	Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)	184
4.11.2.4	Article 8 (1) (d) (iii)	186
4.11.2.5	Article 8 (1) (e) ii	186
4.11.2.6	Article 8 (1) (g)	187
4.11.2.7	Article 8 (1) (h)	187
4.11.2.8	Article 8 (1) (i)	188
4.11.3	Article 9 – Judicial authorities	189
4.11.4	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	189
4.11.5	Article 11 – Media	189
4.11.5.1	Article 11 (1) (e) ii	189
4.11.5.2	Article 11 (1) (f) ii	189
4.11.5.3	Article 11 (2)	190
4.11.6	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	190
4.11.6.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	190
4.11.6.2	Article 12 (1) (b)	191
4.11.6.3	Article 12 (1) (c)	191
4.11.6.4	Article 12 (1) (d)	192
4.11.6.5	Article 12 (1) (e)	192
4.11.6.6	Article 12 (1) (f)	192

4.11.6.7	Article 12 (1) (h)	192
4.11.6.8	Article 12 (3)	192
4.11.7	Article 13 – Economic and social life	192
4.12	Low German in Lower Saxony	193
4.12.1	Article 6 – Information	193
4.12.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	193
4.12.2.1	Article 7 (1) (e)	193
4.12.2.2	Article 7 (1) (f)	193
4.12.2.3	Article 7 (1) (g)	194
4.12.3	Article 8 – Education	194
4.12.3.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	194
4.12.3.2	Article 8 (1) (e) (ii)	197
4.12.3.3	Article 8 (1) (i)	197
4.12.4	Art. 9 – Judicial authorities	197
4.12.5	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	197
4.12.6	Article 11 – Media	197
4.12.6.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	197
4.12.6.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	199
4.12.6.3	Article 11 (1) (d)	200
4.12.6.4	Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)	201
4.12.6.5	Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)	201
4.12.6.6	Article 11 (2)	202
4.12.7	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	202
4.12.7.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	202
4.12.7.2	Article 12 (1) (b)	203
4.12.7.3	Article 12 (1) (c)	203
4.12.8	Article 13 – Economic and social life	203
4.12.9	Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges	203
4.13	Low German in Schleswig-Holstein	204
4.13.1	Article 6 – Information	204
4.13.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	204
4.13.2.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	204
4.13.2.2	Article 7 (1) (b)	208

4.13.2.3	Article 7 (1) (c)	208
4.13.2.4	Article 7 (1) (d)	209
4.13.2.5	Article 7 (1) (e)	211
4.13.2.6	Article 7 (1) (f)	213
4.13.2.7	Article 7 (1) (g)	213
4.13.2.8	Article 7 (1) (h)	213
4.13.2.9	Article 7 (1) (i)	214
4.13.2.10	Article 7 (2)	214
4.13.2.11	Article 7 (3)	214
4.13.2.12	Article 7 (4)	215
4.13.3 Article 8 – Education		215
4.13.3.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	215
4.13.3.2	Article 8 (1) (b) (iii)	216
4.13.3.3	Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)	217
4.13.3.4	Article 8 (1) (e) (ii)	218
4.13.3.5	Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)	218
4.13.3.6	Article 8 (1) (g)	218
4.13.3.7	Article 8 (1) (h)	219
4.13.3.8	Article 8 (1) (i)	220
4.13.3.9	Article 8 (2)	220
4.13.4 Article 9 – Judicial authorities		220
4.13.4.1	Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)	220
4.13.4.2	Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)	220
4.13.4.3	Article 9 (2) (a)	221
4.13.5 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services		221
4.13.5.1	Article 10 (1) (a) (v)	221
4.13.5.2	Article 10 (1) (c)	221
4.13.5.3	Article 10 (2) (a)	221
4.13.5.4	Article 10 (2) (b)	222
4.13.5.5	Article 10 (2) (f)	222
4.13.5.6	Article 10 (2) (g)	223
4.13.5.7	Article 10 (4) (c)	223
4.13.6 Article 11 – Media		223
4.13.6.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	223
4.13.6.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	226

4.13.6.3	Article 11 (1) (d)	226
4.13.6.4	Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)	228
4.13.6.5	Article 11 (1) (f) (iii)	229
4.13.6.6	Article 11 (2)	229
4.13.7	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	229
4.13.7.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	229
4.13.7.2	Article 12 (1) (b)	231
4.13.7.3	Article 12 (1) (c)	231
4.13.7.4	Article 12 (1) (d)	231
4.13.7.5	Article 12 (1) (e)	232
4.13.7.6	Article 12 (1) (f)	232
4.13.7.7	Article 12 (1) (g)	232
4.13.7.8	Article 12 (3)	233
4.13.8	Article 13 – Economic and social life	233
4.13.8.1	Article 13 (1) (a)	233
4.13.8.2	Article 13 (1) (c)	233
4.13.8.3	Article 13 (1) (d)	233
4.13.8.4	Article 13 (2) (c)	233
4.14	Romani in Hesse	235
4.14.1	Article 6 – Information	235
4.14.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	235
4.14.2.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	235
4.14.2.2	Article 7 (1) (b)	236
4.14.2.3	Article 7 (1) (c)	236
4.14.2.4	Article 7 (1) (d)	236
4.14.2.5	Article 7 (1) (e)	237
4.14.2.6	Article 7 (1) (f)	237
4.14.2.7	Article 7 (1) (g)	237
4.14.2.8	Article 7 (1) (h)	238
4.14.2.9	Article 7 (1) (i)	238
4.14.2.10	Article 7 (2)	239
4.14.2.11	Article 7 (3)	239
4.14.2.12	Article 7 (4)	239
4.14.3	Article 8 – Education	240
4.14.3.1	Article 8 (1) (a) (iii)	240

4.14.3.2	Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)	241
4.14.3.3	Article 8 (1) (b) (iv)	241
4.14.3.4	Article 8 (1) (c) (iv)	242
4.14.3.5	Article 8 (1)(d)(iv)	242
4.14.3.6	Article 8 (1) (e) (iii)	242
4.14.3.7	Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)	243
4.14.3.8	Article 8 (1) (g)	243
4.14.3.9	Article 8 (1) (h)	244
4.14.3.10	Article 8 (1) (i)	244
4.14.3.11	Article 8 (2)	244
4.14.4	Article 9 – Judicial authorities	245
4.14.4.1	Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)	245
4.14.4.2	Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)	245
4.14.4.3	Article 9 (2) (a)	246
4.14.5	Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services	246
4.14.5.1	Article 10 (2) (e)	246
4.14.5.2	Article 10 (2) (f)	246
4.14.5.3	Article 10 (3) (c)	247
4.14.5.4	Article 10 (4) (c)	247
4.14.5.5	Article 10 (5)	247
4.14.6	Article 11 – Media	248
4.14.6.1	Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)	248
4.14.6.2	Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)	248
4.14.6.3	Article 11 (1) (d)	249
4.14.6.4	Article 11 (1) (e) (i)	249
4.14.6.5	Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)	249
4.14.6.6	Article 11 (1) (f) (iii)	250
4.14.6.7	Article 11 (1) (g)	250
4.14.6.8	Article 11 (2)	250
4.14.7	Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities	251
4.14.7.1	Article 12 (1) (a)	251
4.14.7.2	Article 12 (1) (d)	251
4.14.7.3	Article 12 (1) (f)	251
4.14.7.4	Article 12 (1) (g)	252
4.14.7.5	Article 12 (2)	252

4.14.7.6	Article 12 (3)	253
4.14.8	Article 13 – Economic and social life	253
4.14.8.1	Article 13 (1) (a)	253
4.14.8.2	Article 13 (1) (c)	253
4.14.8.3	Article 13 (1) (d)	254
4.14.9	Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges	254
4.14.9.1	Article 14 (a)	254
4.15	Romani in the rest of Germany	255
4.15.1	Article 6 – Information	255
4.15.2	Article 7 – Objectives and principles	256
4.15.2.1	Article 7 (1) (a)	256
4.15.2.2	Article 7 (1) (b)	260
4.15.2.3	Article 7 (1) (c)	260
4.15.2.4	Article 7 (1) (d)	262
4.15.2.5	Article 7 (1) (e)	263
4.15.2.6	Article 7 (1) (f)	265
4.15.2.7	Article 7 (1) (g)	267
4.15.2.8	Article 7 (1) (h)	268
4.15.2.9	Article 7 (1) (i)	269
4.15.2.10	Article 7 (2)	270
4.15.2.11	Article 7 (3)	271
4.15.2.12	Article 7 (4)	274
5	Comments by the associations	277
5.1	Comments by the Danish minority	277
5.2	Comments by the North Frisians	278
5.3	Comments by the North Frisian Institute (Nordfriisk Instituut)	282
5.4	Comments by the Sater Frisians	286
5.5	Comments by the Federal Council for Low German (Bunnsraat för Nedderdüütsch)	289
5.6	Comments by the Domowina Federation of Lusatian Sorbs (Domowina – Bund Lausitzer Sorben e.V.)	298
5.7	Comments by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma e.V.)	304
5.8	Comments by the Sinti Alliance of Germany (Sinti Allianz Deutschland e.V.)	309
5.9	Comments by the Federal Union of Sinti and Roma (Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma e.V.)	314

1 Preliminary remarks

The Eighth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Article 15 (1) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (the Language Charter) was prepared by the Federal Ministry of the Interior (Bundesministerium des Innern) in cooperation with other federal ministries and the responsible state authorities, and in consultation with the organisations/associations of the speakers of the languages protected by the Language Charter.

The federal associations and language groups were invited to share their views about the implementation of the Language Charter in Germany; their views do not necessarily reflect those of the authorities. Their written comments are included in part 5 of this report.

In accordance with document CM(2029)69, this report follows the Seventh Report of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Article 15 (1) (2021) and the Mid-Term Report on implementing the recommendations for immediate action based on the seventh monitoring cycle (2023). It also addresses the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers (CM(2018)142) and the reports and recommendations of the Committee of Experts (CM/RecChL(2022)5; MIN-LANG (2024) 13). This report covers the period from April 2021 to February 2026. It does not report measures already described in the previous reports.

General information about the regional and minority languages protected in Germany is included in the First Report of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Article 15 (1) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, pages 3 to 28. The report is available on the website of the Federal Ministry of the Interior (<https://www.bmi.bund.de/DE/startseite/startseite-node.html>) and on the website of the Council of Europe (<https://www.coe.int/de/web/european-charter-regional-or-minority-languages/reports-and-recommendations>).

2 Updated geographic and demographic information

The geographic and demographic information has not changed in the reporting period.

Brandenburg

The Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Low German Language in the Federal State of Brandenburg (Gesetz zum Schutz und zur Förderung der Niederdeutschen Sprache im Land Brandenburg, BbgNdG) – which was adopted by the Brandenburg state parliament on 20 June 2024 and entered into force on 10 July 2024 – defined for the first time in section 2 (1) a Low German language area in the federal state of Brandenburg and thus the scope of the rights of the Low German Speakers' Group.

3 General developments

The following section discusses general developments that have occurred in the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages in the Federal Republic of Germany since the Seventh Report, which was sent to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 27 July 2021, and since the Mid-Term Report on implementing the recommendations for immediate action based on the seventh monitoring cycle, which was sent to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 14 December 2023.

3.1 Changes to the overall framework

3.1.1 Extension of the Language Charter in the federal state of Brandenburg and the Free State of Saxony

On 22 September 2023, the state parliament of Brandenburg agreed to adopt 13 new undertakings for the Lower Sorbian language and 13 new undertakings for the Low German language (parliamentary documents 7/8437-B and 7/7476). In a letter of 18 October 2023, Brandenburg's state parliament asked the Federal Government to examine the envisaged undertakings under federal law and to initiate the procedure for adopting a corresponding Federal Government ordinance, which will require approval by the Bundesrat.

Before taking the necessary procedural steps, the Federal Ministry of the Interior carried out a written survey asking the federal states whether any additional undertakings under the Language Charter should be included in the ordinance to be adopted. In response to this survey, on 1 February 2024, the Free State of Saxony informed the Federal Ministry of the Interior that Saxony's ministry for science, culture and tourism was examining the question of whether the Free State of Saxony should adopt additional undertakings for the Upper Sorbian language. Even before this examination was concluded, the Free State of Saxony informed the Federal Government on 23 January 2026 that Saxony's European strategy for the eighth term of the Saxon state parliament – adopted by Saxony's cabinet on 4 November 2025 – included a provision for adopting additional undertakings under the Language Charter. This provision will be taken into account in the aforementioned examination process, the results of which are still pending. In order to speed up the ratification process at federal level upon conclusion of the examination process in Saxony, the federal state of Brandenburg initially retracted four of its originally envisaged undertakings which had been assessed under federal law as not being in line with the current law (Lower Sorbian, Article 9 (1) (b) (ii) and (c) (ii) and Low German, Article 9 (1) (a) (iii) and Article 10 (5)). Following an announcement in January 2026 by the Free State of Saxony that its examination process would be extended, the federal state of Brandenburg will examine whether to pursue a legislative amendment proposed by the Federal Ministry of Justice to the Act on the Rights of Sorbs (Wends) in the Federal State of Brandenburg (Gesetz zur Ausgestaltung der Rechte der Sorben (Wenden) im Land Brandenburg) in order to reinstate the originally envisaged undertakings for Lower Sorbian under Article 9 (1) (b) (ii) and (c) (ii). An assessment will also

be made of whether further undertakings for the regional language of Low German could be adopted in view of Brandenburg's Low German Act (see 3.1.4) having since entered into force and in view of the rbb Treaty of the federal states of Berlin and Brandenburg (see 4.6.2.10).

The process of adopting a Federal Government ordinance has been postponed for now and will be resumed as soon as the two federal states have submitted their final conclusions regarding whether to adopt further undertakings under the Language Charter.

3.1.2 Act to Amend the Law on Married Names and Birth Names and International Law on Names

The Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection reports that the Act to Amend the Law on Married Names and Birth Names and International Law on Names (11 June 2024) entered into force on 1 May 2025. The legislative changes address, among other things, the specific name-related concerns of the Danish, Frisian and Sorbian minorities.

Members of the Danish minority can now choose a birth name for their child in the form of a double name without a hyphen, consisting of the surname of a close relative – such as grandparents or godparents – in first position and the surname of a parent in second position.

People who identify as belonging to the Frisian ethnic group can now give their child a birth name derived from the father's or mother's first name (patronymic/matronymic). They can also choose as a birth name for their child a double name without a hyphen, consisting of their patronymic/matronymic and the surname of a parent (in first or second position).

Adults belonging to the Frisian or Danish minority whose birth name does not correspond to their tradition may change their birth name accordingly.

For the Sorbian people, it is now possible to choose a gendered form of married names and birth names corresponding to the Sorbian tradition for women (e.g. with the ending “-owa” or “-ina” for married women or “-ic”, “-ojc” or “-ec” for unmarried women).

With a view to simplifying procedures, first names can now also be registered directly in the language of the national minority in question. Thus, first names can be spelled directly with Danish characters (Å, Æ, Ø) at the registry office; it is no longer necessary to change the spelling by means of a subsequent name change.

3.1.3 Fifth funding agreement for the Foundation for the Sorbian People (Stiftung für das Sorbische Volk)

The Federal Government, the Free State of Saxony and the federal state of Brandenburg signed a fifth agreement on joint funding for the Foundation for the Sorbian People. Once signed by the three funding providers, the agreement will take effect retroactively from 1

January 2026 and remain in force until the end of 2025. The fifth funding agreement will ensure that the Foundation for the Sorbian People is adequately funded. The total funding given by the three funding providers to the Foundation is to rise in line with the Foundation's increased needs. The funding shares of the three funding partners are to continue along the lines of the fourth funding agreement: three sixths of the funding to be provided by the Federal Government, two sixths by the Free State of Saxony and one sixth by the federal state of Brandenburg. In addition, the Federal Government and the states of Brandenburg and Saxony may provide benefits beyond those specified in the funding agreement.

3.1.4 The Low German Act in Brandenburg

On 10 July 2024, the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Low German Language in the Federal State of Brandenburg entered into force. Based on Article 34 of the constitution of the federal state of Brandenburg, the Low German Act defines the Low German Speakers' Group, its opportunities for political participation and the scope of its language rights in a defined language area. Thus, the protection and promotion of the Low German language is enshrined in law, especially in the field of education (nurseries, schools and adult education institutions). The Low German Act also allows for public bilingualism, for example on place signs and road signs and as an official language. The Act was also published in the Low German language in Brandenburg's gazette of laws and ordinances.

Please also refer to 4.6.

3.1.5 Saarland's framework agreement with the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma

During the reporting period, an internal evaluation was carried out on the framework agreement that was concluded on 13 April 2022 between Saarland's state government and the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma (Landesverband Deutscher Sinti und Roma Saarland e. V.). Among other things, the agreement sets a legally binding structure for implementing the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Saarland. The protection and preservation of the Romani language as an expression of identity and cultural heritage is enshrined in Article 4 (on language, education and culture) of the framework agreement. The state government of Saarland therefore considers it important to preserve and protect the language of the Sinti and Roma. Accordingly, in Saarland the Romani language is protected pursuant to the Language Charter and is an expression of cultural richness. The evaluation concludes that the existing framework agreement is appropriate for continuing to jointly pursue the objectives set out therein, including with regard to the protection and promotion of the Romani language.

3.1.6 Treaty between the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate and the state association of German Sinti and Roma

Rhineland-Palatinate's objective is to ensure and strengthen the equal political and social participation of the national minority of Sinti and Roma in Rhineland-Palatinate and to create and maintain structures that make it easier for Sinti and Roma in Rhineland-Palatinate to assert, maintain and preserve their ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity.

Against this background, on 25 July 2005, the framework agreement between the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate and the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz e. V.) was made into a treaty. On 12 June 2025, the state parliament of Rhineland-Palatinate approved the state law concerning the treaty on cooperation between the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate and the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma. The treaty has been in force since 1 July 2025. It also contains regulations on appointing an independent antigypsyism commissioner for the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

3.1.7 Framework agreement between the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the state association of German Sinti and Roma

In late 2024, the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia concluded a framework agreement with the state association of German Sinti and Roma (Landesverband deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V.). Among other things, the framework agreement covers awareness of history, the culture of remembrance, school and extracurricular education, protection against discrimination, protection of minorities, social participation, issues concerning cemeteries, and promotion of the Romani language. Regarding the Romani language, Article 6 of the agreement states:

“Aware that the Romani language used by the German Sinti and Roma is recognised as a minority language within the meaning of Part II of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the state government also confirms its commitment to the undertakings accepted under this Charter. On this basis, the state government protects and promotes the preservation of Romani as part of our cultural assets.”

Other associations may also join the framework agreement. This has already occurred.

3.1.8 Federal and state-level commission against antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma life in Germany

On 20 June 2024, the Federal Chancellor and the heads of the federal-state governments unanimously decided to set up a permanent federal and state-level commission against antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma life (BLK). The members of the commission are the Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany and the people and bodies responsible for carrying out equivalent

tasks in the federal states. The commission is co-chaired by the Federal Government Commissioner and a state-level counterpart who may rotate among the federal states. The commission aims to achieve a more effective and coordinated policy that protects Roma and Sinti and reduces barriers to their equal participation in society. Among other things, the commission will focus on education.

3.1.9 Multilingualism strategy in Brandenburg

In February 2023, the state government of Brandenburg adopted the “multilingualism strategy – assessment and strategic development of linguistic diversity in the education system in the state of Brandenburg” (Mehrsprachigkeitskonzept – Bestandsaufnahme und strategische Weiterentwicklung der Sprachenvielfalt im Bildungssystem im Land Brandenburg) (parliamentary document 7/3204-B). The strategy makes reference to the Language Charter and provides recommendations for action in the short, medium and long term, including for the minority language of Lower Sorbian and the regional language of Low German.

In order to take a professional approach to advancing the strategic development of multilingualism, a council for multilingualism was established on 31 May 2023. The council is made up of volunteers from theoretical and practical backgrounds. These volunteers represent academic research and teaching; associations for regional, minority and neighbouring languages; associations of Brandenburg teachers and adult education providers; the state advisory board on integration; the chamber of industry and commerce (Industrie- und Handelskammer); the Berlin-Brandenburg institute for schools and the media (Landesinstitut für Schule und Medien Berlin-Brandenburg) and the relevant ministries.

The state government considers multilingualism to be an essential part of the foundation for equal participation in society, for connectivity within Europe and in the global labour market, and for valuing cultural and linguistic diversity in society. Accordingly, it intends to make further efforts to protect, maintain and preserve regional and minority languages.

Due to budgetary factors, the implementation of these aims has been delayed. The plan is to start with a gradual implementation of the short and medium-term recommendations for action, which are to be implemented in a cost-neutral manner.

3.2 Developments in other areas

3.2.1 Bundesrat resolution on the inclusion of a paragraph on national minorities in Germany's Basic Law

On 26 September 2025, at the initiative of the federal states of Schleswig-Holstein, Brandenburg and Saxony, the Bundesrat passed a resolution (Bundesrat document 519/25) requesting the Federal Government to add to Germany's Basic Law (Grundgesetz, GG) a

paragraph on protecting the four national minorities recognised in Germany as autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups under the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

In its resolution, the Bundesrat asks the Federal Government to prepare an amendment to the Basic Law in order to insert a new paragraph in Article 3. The proposed paragraph reads as follows: "The state shall respect the identity of the autochthonous minorities and ethnic groups recognised in Germany under the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities."

On 11 November 2025, Daniel Günther, the minister-president of the state of Schleswig-Holstein, wrote to the Federal Minister of the Interior, the Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection and the leaders of the parliamentary groups of the German Bundestag, as well as the Member of Parliament Stefan Seidler (South Schleswig Voters' Association (SSW) for the Danish and Frisian minorities) encouraging the government and parliament to support the Bundesrat resolution. The minister-president's commissioner for minorities complemented this initiative with letters to the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities and the Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany. He also took part in further political talks.

As a next step, the Federal Government is to submit to the Bundesrat its position on whether and how the initiative will be taken up by the Federal Government.

However, for overriding constitutional reasons, the Federal Ministry of the Interior (as the ministry responsible for this issue) has decided not to prepare an amendment to the Basic Law, as there is no legislative gap to be filled in the Basic Law as a result of Germany's ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

3.2.2 Online Access Act

The Act to Improve Online Access to Administrative Services (Onlinezugangsgesetz, OZG) – responsibility for which was held initially by the **Federal Ministry of the Interior** during the reporting period and by the **Federal Ministry for Digital Transformation and Government Modernisation** from 6 May 2025 onwards – obliges the Federal Government, the federal states and the municipalities to make their administrative services available online, via government portals. When implementing the Online Access Act, all stakeholders, including the federal authorities, are aware of and understand the concerns of national minorities. It is true that online services are initially only made available in German. In the longer term, however, other languages can also be added. This makes it possible in principle to add minority and regional languages. In line with the federal principle, the federal states are primarily responsible for implementing measures to promote and preserve the languages of

national minorities and regional languages. This includes ordering the relevant measures and translations.

Brandenburg

Since July 2025, selected administrative services have been available in the Lower Sorbian language on Brandenburg's central service portal (service.brandenburg.de). For further details, see 4.3.5.3.

Lower Saxony

In point D. IV. of Germany's Seventh Report, the state of Lower Saxony said that when implementing the Online Access Act, it intended to make services available in regional and minority languages, depending on technical factors and available translation capacities. In 2026, information and administrative services are expected to be made available on Lower Saxony's administrative portal in the Low German language for the benefit of the Low-German-speaking population. A language model based on artificial intelligence has been developed for this purpose. This is currently undergoing a quality assessment by language professionals. As Low German is spoken in a number of regional varieties, not every local peculiarity will be taken into account, but for the most part a comprehensible and adequate translation will be provided. As a next step, artificial intelligence could be used to translate online forms, or at least instructional text, general descriptions and user information.

Schleswig-Holstein

When implementing the Online Access Act, the government of Schleswig-Holstein also takes into account regional and minority languages. Thus, multilingual online administrative services are currently being implemented in individual components of the overarching Online Service Infrastructure (OSI). This is the technical basis for the implementation of multilingualism in all online services. In 2025, multilingualism in online services was tested in a joint pilot project between Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg. An evaluation of the pilot project is still pending.

Based on the project's findings, and once multilingualism has been implemented in the technical components of the OSI, online services can be provided in other languages besides German, meaning that online administrative services, too, will comply with section 82b of Schleswig-Holstein's State Administration Act (*Landesverwaltungsgesetz*, LVwG).

3.2.3 Use of language in court

The Language Charter does not impose any commitment on nation states to use minority and regional languages in courts of law. According to section 184 sentence 2 of the Courts Constitution Act (*Gerichtsverfassungsgesetz*, GVG), the Sorbs have the right to use the Sorbian

language in court within their home districts. The opinion of the **Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection** is that given the considerably time-consuming and costly challenges currently facing the judiciary, the plan to extend section 184 sentence 2 of the Courts Constitution Act to cover the other minority and regional languages recognised in Germany should not be taken up at present in order not to overburden the courts. Anyone who does not speak German is already entitled to an interpreter in court.

Schleswig-Holstein

Schleswig-Holstein assesses the legal situation as follows: In a declaration made by the Federal Republic of Germany on 23 January 1998 while preparing to ratify the Language Charter, and in line with Article 2 (2) of that Charter, Germany declared some of the provisions on judicial authorities in Article 9 of the Language Charter to be applicable to Danish, North Frisian, and Low German in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein – specifically Article 9 (1b) iii, (1c) iii and (2a).

These ratified undertakings are fulfilled by the existing legal framework. The provision on civil proceedings in section 142 (3) of the Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*, ZPO) – which applies to labour law proceedings via the reference in section 46 (2) sentence 1 of the Labour Courts Act (*Arbeitsgerichtsgesetz*, ArbGG); to administrative proceedings via the reference in section 173 sentence 1 of the Code of Administrative Court Procedure (*Verwaltungsgerichtsordnung*, VwGO); to social court proceedings via the reference in section 202 sentence 1 of the Social Courts Act (*Sozialgerichtsgesetz*, SGG); and to fiscal proceedings via the reference in section 155 sentence 1 of the Code of Procedure for Fiscal Courts (*Finanzgerichtsordnung*, FGO) – allows evidence in the Danish, North Frisian and Low German languages to be used in court proceedings. If the court has sufficient expertise of its own, the evidence may be used in the proceedings without further translation. If the court or one of the parties to the proceedings does not have sufficient knowledge of the minority or regional language, it is possible to translate the evidence in the proceedings. This is allowed in accordance with sections 142 (3) sentence 1 and 144 (1) sentence 1, second alternative, of the Code of Civil Procedure. (For proceedings before labour courts, this would be in conjunction with section 46 (2) sentence 1 of the Labour Courts Act; for proceedings before administrative courts, in conjunction with section 173 sentence 1 of the Administrative Court Procedure; for proceedings before social courts, in conjunction with section 202 sentence 1 of the Social Courts Act; and for proceedings before the fiscal courts, in conjunction with section 155 sentence 1 of the Code of Procedure for Fiscal Courts). The option to use records, documents and evidence in regional or minority languages in court is available regardless of a person's knowledge of the official language. In the case of the North Frisian language, this legal position with regard to civil court proceedings is reiterated explicitly in section 1 (4) of Schleswig-Holstein's Frisian Act. Other types of evidence, such as testimonies or hearings of experts conducted in the regional or minority language, are already provided for under

current legislation. See also the Mid-Term Report following the Seventh Report of the Federal Republic of Germany, point D.I.1., p. 26 et seq.

The creation of additional clarifying legal frameworks for the use of records, documents and evidence in regional and minority languages merely added to the existing legal situation, without altering the legal situation for assessing compliance with the undertakings under Article 9 (1b) (iii), (1c) (iii) and Article 9 (2a) of the Language Charter.

Beyond the scope of Article 9 (1b) (iii), (1c) (iii) and Article 9 (2a) of the Language Charter, it is not currently possible to use regional or minority languages regardless of a person's knowledge of the official language. This is because under section 184 sentence 1 of the Courts Constitution Act, the language of the court is German. Incidentally, the Federal Government has legislative competence to amend/extend existing legal frameworks for the use of Danish, North Frisian and Low German in civil, labour, administrative, fiscal and social court proceedings. The state parliament of Schleswig-Holstein is currently considering whether the state government should be called upon to petition the Bundesrat for an extension of section 184 sentence 2 of the Courts Constitution Act (which expressly "[guarantees] the Sorbs' right to speak Sorbian in court within their home districts") to cover all minority and regional languages. This is based on a request by the parliamentary group of the South Schleswig Voters' Association titled "Use of minority and regional languages before the courts – Bundesrat initiative for an extension of section 184 of the Courts Constitution Act" (parliamentary document 20/2464).

3.2.4 Bilingual motorway signs

The Federal **Ministry of Transport** reports that technical regulations do not provide for multilingual road signage for showing directions to destinations. For informational and display reasons, the number of destinations included on signs needs to be limited to what is strictly necessary.

The Federal Highway and Transport Research Institute (BASt) is currently conducting a study on the extent to which the bilingual display of place names on road signs affects the ability of drivers to perceive and process relevant information. The Minority Secretariat (Minderheitensekretariat), the Low German Secretariat (Niederdeutschsekretariat) and the Domowina Federation of Lusatian Sorbs (Bund Lausitzer Sorben) are involved via the project's advisory group. A decision on whether to include provisions on bilingual place names in the technical regulations governing road signs is to be made on the basis of this study, which is expected to be completed in 2026.

3.2.5 Trade mark law

At a meeting of the Consultative Committee on Issues concerning the Frisian ethnic group, which was held at the Federal Ministry of the Interior on 27 September 2023, a representative

of the **Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection** explained the legal situation regarding the issue of trade mark protection for Frisian words and expressions. The focus was on cases in which certain words or expressions in the North Frisian language had been registered as trade marks despite the fact that these words and expressions could be considered merely as indicators of geographical origin and as part of everyday speech.

According to the explanation provided at the meeting by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, terms which are descriptive (e.g. indicators of geographical origin) and which are understood as such among the relevant public may not be registered as trade marks. North Frisia can be regarded as the territory of the relevant public, depending on the type of product being sold under the trade mark. Where everyday terms or expressions are concerned, it depends on the specific context. This applies to minority language terms just as it does to German terms. In order for a term to be registered as a trade mark, the term must be associated with some distinctive characteristic of the product sold under that trade mark. This is not the case if the term can also be used to describe the type of product in general. An expression registered as a trade mark must distinguish the relevant product from other, similar products and must not be a term commonly used to describe the type of product in general.

The Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection has held intensive discussions with the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) to raise their awareness of this issue. The DPMA examines on a case-by-case basis whether the criteria for registering a trade mark are met. It does so independently and without the involvement of the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. Before a trade mark is registered, third parties have the option to submit written comments and to make the case that a trade mark containing a name in a regional or minority language should not be registered due to its descriptive character. Such cases made by third parties are taken into account by the DPMA when deciding whether to register trade marks. It is also possible to appeal against the DPMA's decisions.

Moreover, regional and minority languages are protected under the Trade Mark Act (*Markengesetz*, MarkG) when it comes to registering names, indications or other signs that qualify for protection as indicators of geographical origin. Section 130 (3) sentence 1 no. 4 of the Trade Mark Act was revised by the law on geoprotection reform (*Geoschutzreformgesetz*), which entered into force on 16 January 2026. This provision stipulates that, when examining an application for an indication of geographical origin to be registered as a trade mark, the DPMA must seek the views of the competent institutions and associations of the relevant language communities – provided the application concerns a geographical indication in a regional or minority language within the meaning of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This is to ensure that geographical indications consisting of minority language terms are registered to the benefit of the minority communities that produce the relevant goods.

Schleswig-Holstein

Within this context, the minister-president of Schleswig-Holstein's commissioner for minorities contacted the European Commission on several occasions to point out the legislative gap in the protection of small regional and minority languages. To fill this gap, he requested the addition of a provision to the European Union trade mark regulation. He also called for the suspension of the "relevant public" criterion, which is hardly possible for small languages to meet. As already reported by Schleswig-Holstein at the meeting of the Consultative Committee on Issues concerning the Frisian ethnic group on 27 September 2023, the minorities commissioner also gave a presentation to the European Parliament's Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages in September 2023. Furthermore, a meeting was held in Brussels on 18 November 2025 at the invitation of the minorities commissioner in order to raise awareness among decision-makers and potentially affected groups, and to open the discussion on possible solutions. The meeting, which was held at Schleswig-Holstein's representation in Brussels, was attended by representatives from the political and academic spheres and from the minorities and their language communities. Participants were informed of the legislative gap in the protection of minority languages and discussed possible solutions. Representatives of the DPMA and EUIPO also took part in the event.

3.3 Information measures at federal level

The Federal Ministry of the Interior provides information in various formats about the rights and obligations laid down in the Language Charter. On its website, the ministry publishes reports of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Article 15 (1) of the Language Charter (<https://www.bmi.bund.de/DE/themen/heimat-integration/gesellschaftlicher-zusammenhalt/minderheiten/minderheiten-in-deutschland/minderheiten-in-deutschland-node.html>). From the website, it is also possible to download the current digital edition of the brochure "National minorities in Germany: Minority languages and the regional language of Low German" (see also 3.7). This freely available publication, which can also be ordered in print, gives an overview of the history and rules of the agreement.

The post of Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities provides an important link between the Federal Government and national minorities in Germany and the Low German Speakers' Group. The two holders of this post during the reporting period also provided information about the agreement on their own website (<https://www.aussiedlerbeauftragter.de/Webs/AUSB/DE/startseite/startseite-node.html>). During the reporting period, annual consultative committee meetings were held on issues concerning minorities and the Low German Speakers' Group. These were chaired by the two Commissioners in office during that period. In addition, both Commissioners mentioned the protection of minority and regional languages at numerous public events in speeches and letters. The Commissioner in office during the 20th parliamentary term of the Bundestag

presented the Language Charter in her report for the period April 2022–May 2025. She also reported on the parliamentary debate that was held on 2 March 2023, just after the 25th anniversary of the Language Charter’s entry into force.

Federal funding is provided for measures to teach the public about national minority languages and the regional language of Low German, and about the protection of these languages under the Language Charter. The Federal Ministry of the Interior is funding an interactive, travelling exhibition organised by the Minority Secretariat. The exhibition, titled “What do you mean – ‘minority?’” (see <https://washeissthierminderheit.de/en/>), is to be shown throughout Germany, including in regions where there are no national minorities, thus raising awareness of the issue throughout German society as a whole. The exhibition already travelled to 13 federal states during the reporting period. The plan is to have toured all of the federal states by the end of 2026 and to have decided on a use for the exhibition once the tour is over.

3.4 Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK): Recommendation on raising awareness of the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and of the Low German Speakers’ Group

In late 2022, the Minority Council (Minderheitenrat) of the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the Federal Council for Low German (Bundesrat für Niederdeutsch) addressed the government of Schleswig-Holstein with the aim of improving teaching in public schools about national minorities and the Low German Speakers’ Group. Since three of the four minorities that are legally protected in Germany (i.e. the Danish minority, the Frisian ethnic group, the German Sinti and Roma and the Low German Speakers’ Group) are represented in Schleswig-Holstein, it has been suggested that Schleswig-Holstein should take the lead in developing teacher-training modules and producing materials for teachers and learners to use in class. At the same time, the Minority Council and the Federal Council for Low German addressed the President of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) with the aim of improving teaching in public schools about national minorities and the Low German Speakers’ Group.

At federal state level, a process was initiated to achieve this aim, involving representatives from some education ministries as well as the Minority Council and the Federal Council for Low German. This resulted in a request for a joint recommendation on teaching about the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the Low German Speakers’ Group. This was endorsed by the KMK’s conference of heads of office for education at the end of 2023. A working group was set up to draft the joint recommendation. The group consisted of representatives of the education ministries of the states of Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, the head of the Low German Secretariat, the head of the Minority Secretariat and representatives of the minorities themselves.

On 13 December 2024, the second conference of education ministers adopted the “joint recommendation of the KMK, the Federal Council for Low German and the Minority Council – on teaching about the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the Low German Speakers’ Group”. The recommendation was published together with a joint press statement by the KMK, the Minority Council and the Federal Council for Low German.

Since early 2025, the aforementioned working group has been discussing the implementation of the joint recommendation and the establishment of a joint central web platform for educational materials. On 24 September 2025, it held a conference in Berlin to present the recommendation. Other participants at the event were the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities, the president of the conference of education ministers, and representatives of the Minority Council and the Federal Council for Low German. The conference was aimed not only at representatives of the minorities and the Low German Speakers’ Group, but also at policy officers in the state education ministries, at consultants and heads of teacher training courses at state-level institutions and at decision-makers from school supervisory authorities. The conference provided an opportunity for all the participants to meet and engage in discussions. In two “best-practice workshop phases”, participants gained further insights into existing structures and projects to support the implementation of the joint recommendation.

The aim of the recommendation is to provide teaching at schools to promote and deepen public knowledge about the relevant groups and their cultural and linguistic characteristics. This will be done by including the subject in school curricula, carrying out teacher training, producing classroom materials and bringing in people from the aforementioned groups to share their perspectives and experience during classes. In future, the federal states will make it compulsory to include subjects relevant to this topic in school curricula and to provide teaching on the five cultural groups in question. Subjects from the social sciences and linguistic/literary fields, as well as basic science and German, appear to be particularly suitable. The aim is for students in all federal states to acquire a basic knowledge of the autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups and of the Low German Speakers’ Group. Another important aim of the joint recommendation is to create opportunities to meet members of the relevant cultural groups. Educational visits to places and events outside school, such as documentation centres, archives and cultural events, will also play a part in helping students to develop a deeper understanding of the lives and perspectives of the autochthonous minorities and ethnic groups and the Low German Speakers’ Group.

The implementation of the joint recommendation will be a medium to long-term process. Firstly, the amount of prior experience schools have in this field varies greatly from state to state. Secondly, existing information and materials first need to be assessed to establish whether they can be put to use. Existing teaching and learning materials that contain relevant content on the cultural groups in question will be continuously revised and improved. Also,

materials for teacher-training purposes will be developed gradually. Furthermore, teaching about the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and about the Low German Speakers' Group will become integrated into teacher training. The issue of resources for implementing the joint recommendation and for developing teaching and learning materials must continue to be clarified on an ongoing basis. As things stand, now that the conference is over, the working group will continue to play an active role in the implementation process, but it too will need resources to do so.

3.5 Annual implementation conference

In Germany, the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the Language Charter continues to be monitored by annual implementation conferences held at the Federal Ministry of the Interior. These are also attended by representatives of the federal ministries responsible for the protection of minorities and minority and regional languages, the relevant federal state authorities, the associations and organisations of the protected minorities and/or language groups and their academic institutions. The 2022 implementation conference was reported on in Germany's Mid-Term Report discussing the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action based on the seventh monitoring cycle. In September 2023, an implementation conference was held to finalise the Mid-Term-Report. The 2024 implementation conference discussed, among other things, recommendation 19 of the Committee of Experts in connection with Germany's Seventh Report. This discussion concerned the supervisory body and the periodic reports required under Article 8 (1) (i) of the Language Charter. Also discussed were recommendations 22 and 26 on promoting the use of minority languages in court and the public administration. The conference was also attended by a representative of the Secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. A representative of the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) was also present. On 11 February 2026, an implementation conference took place to finalise the Germany's Eighth Report.

3.6 Brochure of the Federal Ministry of the Interior

The Federal Ministry of the Interior first published its brochure entitled "National minorities, minority and regional languages in Germany" in 2012. The aim was to raise public awareness of Germany's national minorities and their languages. In September 2024, the brochure was updated and published in its fifth German edition.

(<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/publikationen/themen/heimat-integration/nationale-minderheiten/BMI24036-minderheiten-und-regionalsprachen-5-auflage.html>)

3.7 Financial support for regional and minority languages

The **Federal Ministry of the Interior** provides project funding and institutional support to associations and organisations promoting minority languages and the regional language of

Low German. Funding for national minority languages and the regional language of Low German is intended to ensure the preservation and development of these languages.

In 2025, funding for the Minority Secretariat, which acts as a coordinating body for the associations of recognised national minorities working together in the Minority Council, was around 350,000 euros. The tasks of the Minority Secretariat include public relations work and providing information on issues related to minority languages. One of the tools it uses to spread information is the interactive, travelling exhibition on national minorities in Germany and the regional language of Low German. This, too, is funded by the Federal Ministry of the Interior (see 3.3). As part of its youth work activities aimed at minorities and their language communities, the Minority Secretariat works together with the Low German Secretariat to raise young people's awareness of social and political participation structures. The two secretariats organise an annual networking meeting for young people from national minorities and the Low German Speakers' Group with the aim of involving young adults in language policy work. In 2025, the Federal Ministry of the Interior provided the Low German Secretariat with 189,000 euros in funding. The work of the Low German Secretariat helps to improve the effectiveness of the Federal Council for Low German, which acts as a language policy committee.

Funding for the Sater Frisian language has been provided since 2022 in the form of a federally funded post for a Commissioner for Sater Frisian. The Federal Ministry of the Interior contributes 50,000 euros to the post, which was originally set up by the state of Lower Saxony with project funding in 2020. As it received federal funding, the post became part of the institutional funding framework. It is jointly financed by the Federal Government and the state of Lower Saxony (see Germany's Mid-Term Report following the Seventh Report, point C.I.7).

The Federal Ministry of the Interior also supports research on minority languages by providing annual funding of 442,000 euros to the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). In 2025, for instance, the ECMI launched a study on how language is passed on within North-Frisian-speaking families.

In the same year, the Federal Ministry of the Interior provided funding of 12,153,000 euros to the Foundation for the Sorbian People. In addition to running its own projects to promote the Upper and Lower Sorbian languages, the foundation passes on some of this funding to Sorbian institutions. In the field of language promotion and research, the "Witaj" language centre and the school for Lower Sorbian language and culture are especially significant.

Further language-related funding is provided through structural reinforcement measures under the Coal Regions Investment Act (*Investitionsgesetz Kohleregionen*). Noteworthy measures include the "Zorja" project to revive the Lower Sorbian language, which received some 332,000 euros in funding in 2025, and the "ZARI" project to promote a network for

regional identity and the Upper Sorbian language, which received around 1,500,000 euros in funding in the same year.

The Federal Ministry of the Interior also supports projects by the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) and the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) with the aim of protecting and promoting minority languages directly and indirectly through such measures. With this funding, the FUEN has in recent years implemented projects to coordinate and organise meetings of its working groups and other networking projects. In 2025, it received 670,000 euros in funding.

The Minority Competence Network of Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark (MKN) (Minderheiten-Kompetenz-Netzwerk Schleswig-Holstein / Süddänemark; MKN) has been funded by the Federal Ministry of the Interior since 2021 under project measures. The MKN was set up in June 2020 to promote understanding of autochthonous minorities and ethnic groups, their language and culture, and to enhance the exchange of information and experience among minorities in the German–Danish border region. The network focuses on coordinating cooperation between minority associations in this region and on supporting projects, seminars and networking events. In 2025, the Federal Ministry of the Interior contributed project funding of some 56,000 euros to the MKN, and this will rise to 80,000 euros as of 2026.

During the reporting period, the **Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media** (BKM) provided annual project funding of up to 350,000 euros to the North Frisian ethnic group in Schleswig-Holstein and annual project funding of up to 20,000 euros to the Sater Frisians in Lower Saxony. The funding focuses on language promotion, language teaching, language counselling and language research, as well as digitalisation measures and the use of new media to make Frisian language resources available to a broad public. The funding covered, for example, youth work and theatre projects, the provision of minority language signs in public spaces and the production of a documentary film. Academy projects were funded for cross-regional training purposes and the Inter-Frisian Congress (Interfriesischer Kongress) was funded to provide Inter-Frisian dialogue. To promote the spread of language across regions, funding was provided for media services such as online podcasts addressing, for example, the history of emigration and the spread of the Frisian language to other countries. Funding was also provided for the analysis and transcription of sound recordings of native Frisian speakers in order to help preserve the language. Funded projects to expand language databases and online dictionary functions were particularly focused on making such resources available to the public. It is also worth noting the funding provided for FriiskFunk, a Frisian-language radio programme on topical issues that is available as a cross-regional media service.

During the reporting period, the Low German Speakers' Group received annual funding of 120,000 euros from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

Projects run by the Low German Secretariat, the state centre for Low German (Länderzentrum für Niederdeutsch) and the institute for Low German Language (Institut für niederdeutsche Sprache) were funded on a regular basis. These included, for example, archive projects on language preservation, projects and conferences on language teaching, podcast productions and language collections. The funded song contest project *Plattbeatsfestival* provides access to Low German via music.

The cultural activities of the German Sinti and Roma received support from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. This takes the form of long-term institutional funding for the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (702,000 euros annually) and for the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma (1,549,000 euros annually). These funds are approved and provided with a view to implementing the supplementary undertakings of the Federal Government under the Language Charter.

On 1 November 2025, responsibility for promoting the culture of the autochthonous minorities in Germany and for promoting the Low German language was transferred from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media to the Federal Ministry of the Interior. This was done by an organisational decree within the Federal Government.

The office of the **Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany** funded a model project by the Federal Union of German Sinti and Roma (Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma e. V., BVSR) on developing a strategy to create a nationwide Romani language academy. The Commissioner's office provided funding of 70,782.60 euros for the period from September to December 2024 and 287,570.97 euros for the year 2025.

The funding is based on a decision of the German Bundestag adopted on 13 December 2023 (parliamentary document 20/9779) which explicitly recognises the culture and language of the Sinti and Roma as contributing to the cultural diversity of Germany and Europe. The aim is to protect and promote the Romani language on the basis of the Language Charter.

Baden-Württemberg

In the federal state of Baden-Württemberg, the Sinti and Roma minority receives institutional funding under a treaty between the state government and the state association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Baden-Württemberg; VDSR BW). Article 1 of that treaty (on rights, shared tasks and aims) states the aim that the "VDSR-BW should improve educational and cultural opportunities for the Sinti and Roma through the teaching of their language and culture". The VDSR-BW set up a Romani language school in 2018 with the help of resources provided under the treaty. There, language courses (also in an online format) are offered by the minority group for the

minority group. The language courses offered teach everyday language. For Sinti and Roma, learning (or re-learning) the language is seen as a form of empowerment, allowing them to become better acquainted with the culture and tradition around their language.

As part of the project “Romani as an identity language” funded by the EVZ Foundation (Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft), a language learning plan was developed in 2023 in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This laid the foundation for further professionalising Romani language education. It remains the express wish of the minority group that the Romani language be taught and learned only within their community.

Berlin

The federal state of Berlin provides 170,000 euros in annual funding to the association for preserving the culture of German Sinti and Roma (Verein zum Erhalt der Kultur deutscher Sinti und Roma). A key funding objective is the preservation and promotion of the language.

Hamburg

For Hamburg, please refer to 4.10.2–4.10.2.3 (on the Low German translation prize and the funding of Low German day).

Hesse

A treaty concluded in May 2022 between the federal state of Hesse and the state association of Sinti and Roma (Landesverband der Sinti und Roma) governs the financial contributions of the state of Hesse to the state association of Sinti and Roma, among other things. In Article 7 of that treaty, the state of Hesse pledges to provide the association with annual funding of 300,000 euros in the years 2023 and 2024. From 2025, the annual funding increases to 500,000 euros for the remainder of the ten years during which the treaty is in force.

In addition, an annual amount of up to 150,000 euros will be made available for the operation of a permanent exhibition once the relevant costs have been demonstrated and verified.

Lower Saxony

The federal state of Lower Saxony refers to point C.I.7 of the Mid-Term Report following the Seventh Report of the Federal Republic of Germany – evaluation by the Committee of Experts. In the financial years of 2024 and 2025, joint funding was provided by the municipality of Saterland and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media in the amount of 30,000 euros for each of the following: updating the website and standardising spelling; further updating and expanding the Sater Frisian dictionary website

and app, and creating a nature trail on the Sater Frisian language at the Maiglöckchensee lake in Scharrel, Saterland. In addition, landscapes and landscape associations received funding for Low German projects amounting to 320,000 euros each in 2024 and 2025. The Low German activity group “Platt is cool” received a total of 30,000 euros between 2023 and 2025 for the printing of three different mini-books from the “Lieselotte” series in four different language varieties (Northern Low Saxon, Eastphalian, East Frisian and Sater Frisian).

Rhineland-Palatinate

The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate provides institutional funding to the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz). Since 1 July 2025, this funding has amounted to 450,000 euros annually. In addition, the possibility introduced in 2023 to “promote the Romani culture and language of German Sinti and Roma” (VV Förderung Sinti und Roma) with total funding of 30,000 euros remains in place.

Saxony-Anhalt

Please refer to 4.8 (on the project “Low German at school”).

Schleswig-Holstein

The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein dedicates around 54 million euros of funding to its national minorities and the Low German Speakers’ Group in Schleswig-Holstein. Funding is also provided for the following, among other things: state schools (run by the municipalities and with teachers financed by the state); the institute for quality development at schools in Schleswig-Holstein (IQSH); institutes of higher education (research and teaching); and teacher training for regional and minority languages. For details, please refer to 4.1, 4.4 and 4.13.

3.8 Developments in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

On 12 May 2025, the Ministry of Economics, Infrastructure, Tourism and Labour of the federal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, which is responsible for transport, updated its decree of 25 March 2021 on adding road signs in Low German at the entrance to municipalities (road sign type 310 under Germany’s Road Traffic Regulations – *Straßenverkehrs-Ordnung*, StVO).

At a meeting on 24 November 2025, the advisory board for the preservation of local heritage and Low German (Beirat für Heimatpflege und Niederdeutsch) adopted the recommendation to update the programme “My Homeland – My modern Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania” (Meine Heimat – Mein modernes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). The advisory board had been appointed jointly by Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania’s Minister of Education and Daycare

Facilities for Children and Minister of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs on 17 April 2023. The follow-up programme will be entitled “My home is here” (Hier bün ik Tauhus) and is expected to be adopted in the first half of 2026. The new programme is to be implemented under the 2026/2027 budget adopted by the state parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

4 The committee of experts' evaluations

4.1 Danish in the state of Schleswig-Holstein

4.1.1 Article 6 – Information

In addition to the Federal Government's activities in the field of information and education (website of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, brochure on national minorities (see 3.6. above), among other measures):

The Minister-President's Commissioner for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups, Border Area Work, Low German and (since the 20th legislative period) the fight against Anti-gypsyism (minorities commissioner) has acted as the contact person for the national minorities, ethnic groups and groups of speakers of minority languages living in Schleswig-Holstein since the establishment of the office in 1988. He or she advises the Minister-President on current issues relating to minority policy, and mediates between state authorities and the organisations of the minorities on issues of special concern of minorities. The Commissioner works on behalf of the Danish minority, the Frisian ethnic group, the national minority of German Sinti and Roma and the Low German Speakers' Group. Regular talks between the Commissioner for minorities and representatives of local government associations and, where necessary, the chief executive officers of the districts (*Landräte*), mayors or committees at the district or municipal level are another channel for disseminating information on the undertakings arising from the Language Charter. In addition, the division for national minorities at the State Chancellery of Schleswig-Holstein also acts as a point of contact for matters relating to national minorities, ethnic groups and the Low German Speakers' Group, as well as for authorities and organisations from across the state when it comes to specific questions.

On its website, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein runs a dedicated thematic page with information on its national minorities and the regional language of Low German. The protection and promotion of these minorities and of the Low German language is enshrined in the state constitution; in addition to that, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages serves as an important basis for minority and language policy in the federal state. The implementation of the Charter is therefore a prominent topic on the state's web portal. The measures adopted by the state government are described in the publicly available Language Policy Action Plan in the Context of Regional and Minority Languages for the 20th legislative period (*Handlungsplan Sprachenpolitik im Kontext der Regional- und Minderheitensprachen für die 20. Legislaturperiode*) as well as in the Report of the State Government on the Monitoring Process for the Interim Report on the Seventh Report of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (*Bericht der Landesregierung "Monitoringverfahren zum Zwischenbericht zum Siebten Bericht der Bundesrepublik Deutschland zur Charta der Regional- oder Minderheitensprachen"*) and in the previous Language Charter reports of the state government to the Schleswig-Holstein state

parliament. The reports and information referred to above can be directly accessed on the thematic web page 'schleswig-holstein.de - Minderheiten - Sprachenpolitik im Kontext der Regional- und Minderheitensprachen' and are also permanently available on Schleswig-Holstein's transparency portal <https://transparenz.schleswig-holstein.de/dataset>. This website also contains a link to the Council of Europe website, where Germany's state reports and the associated recommendations and opinions from the monitoring procedure can be easily found.

It has been common practice for many years now for the state government in Schleswig-Holstein to involve the associations and, where appropriate, organisations and institutions of minority or regional languages in drawing up the reports to the state parliament that regard them and in the Language Policy Action Plan. This approach makes sure that information is passed on fully and seamlessly to the minority language speakers' groups throughout the process.

Since 2023, the thematic web page *Dänisch – Friesisch – Niederdeutsch, Regional- und Minderheitensprachen in der Verwaltung in Schleswig-Holstein* (Danish – Frisian – Low German, regional and minority languages in the administration of Schleswig-Holstein), made available on the state government's internal information portal *Schleswig-Holstein Informationspool/SHIP* has served as a tool to keep the authorities in Schleswig-Holstein and their staff informed about the various aspects of this topic. This web page also includes a section with a compilation of legal provisions regarding the languages protected in Schleswig-Holstein, including the undertakings entered into by Schleswig-Holstein under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This page is accessible for all employees of the state authorities and their subordinate agencies, as well as of the districts and municipalities. Furthermore, the State Chancellery developed a teaching module (4 lessons per week) for the bachelor course on general administration at Schleswig-Holstein's University of Applied Sciences for Administration and Service (*Fachhochschule für Verwaltung und Dienstleistung*) to teach students of the state and municipal administration about national minorities and ethnic groups in Schleswig-Holstein, their protection and relevant legal provisions. This module also covers the international law conventions that form the basis for the protection of minorities in Schleswig-Holstein, i.e. the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The aim is to raise the trainees' awareness of these issues at an early stage.

4.1.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

4.1.2.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Constitution of the state of Schleswig-Holstein in the version of 2 December 2014 (Gazette of Laws and Ordinances of Schleswig-Holstein, p.344) (*GVOBl Schl-H.* p.344), last amended by the Act of 22 October 2024 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p.749) (*GVOBl Schl-H.* p.749).
- District statutes for Schleswig-Holstein (*Kreisordnung - KO*), in the version of 28 February 2003 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 94), last amended by Article 6 of the Act of 5 February 2025 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 27)
- Statutes for municipal associations in Schleswig-Holstein (*Amtsordnung - AO*), in the version of 28 February 2003 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2003, p. 112), as last amended by Article 3 of the Act of 5 February 2025, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 27
- Municipal statutes for Schleswig-Holstein (*Gemeindeordnung - GO*), in the version of 28 February 2003 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 57), last amended by Article 5 of the Act of 5 February 2025 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 27)
- Rules of procedure of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament, in the version of 8 February 1991 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 85), last amended by a decision of the state parliament of 31 January 2025 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 33)
- Electoral Act for the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein (*Landeswahlgesetz – LwahlG*) in the version of 7 October 1991 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances P. 637), as last amended by Article 2 of the Act of 13 March 2024, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 313
- Act on the legal status of the members of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament (*Gesetz über die Rechtsverhältnisse der Mitglieder des Schleswig-Holsteinischen Landtages/Schleswig-Holstein Abgeordnetengesetz*), as published on 13 February 1991 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 1991, p. 100), last amended by the Act of 10 July 2023 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 299), para. 2 no. 4
- Act on the legal status and financing of parliamentary groups in the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament (*Gesetz über die Rechtsstellung und Finanzierung der Fraktionen im Schleswig-Holsteinischen Landtag - FraktionsG*) of 18 December 1994 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 1995, p. 4), last amended by the Act of 14 December 2023, (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 637)

- Act on the Commissioner for Refugees, Asylum and Immigration of 28 October 1998 (*Gesetz über die Beauftragte oder den Beauftragten für Flüchtlings-, Asyl- und Zuwanderungsfragen*) (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 1998, p. 320), last amended by the Act of 26 January 2024, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 78
- Schleswig-Holstein Schools Act (*Schulgesetz – SchulG*) in the version of 24 January 2007 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 39, amended p. 276), as last amended by Article 6 of the Act of 29 January 2025, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 17
- Teacher Training Act of Schleswig-Holstein (*Lehrkräftebildungsgesetz Schleswig-Holstein – LehrBG*) of 15 July 2014 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2014, p. 134), as last amended by Article 7 of the Act of 29 January 2025, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 17
- State Ordinance Governing the Preparatory Service and State Examinations of Teachers (*Ausbildungs- und Prüfungsverordnung Lehrkräfte – APVO Lehrkräfte*) of 9 December 2023 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 14)
- State Ordinance on the Appointment of Teachers to Preparatory Training (*Landesverordnung über die Einstellung in den Vorbereitungsdienst der Lehrerinnen und Lehrer – Kapazitätsverordnung Lehrkräfte – KapVO-LK*) of 8 July 2023 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 351) Section 5 (1) no. 7 (2) and Annex
- State Ordinance on the Competences of the School Authorities (*Landesverordnung über die Zuständigkeiten der Schulämter – Schulamtszuständigkeitsverordnung*) of 4 July 1994 (Bulletin of the State Ministry for Education, Science, Research and Culture of Schleswig-Holstein 1994, 237) (NB. MWFK/MFBWS 1994, 237), last amended by Article 63 of the State Ordinance of 27 October 2023 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 514)
- Act to promote children in daycare facilities and nursing care (*Kindertagesförderungsgesetz – KitaG*) of 12 December 2019, promulgated as Article 1 of the Act to strengthen the quality of childcare and to reduce the financial burden on families and local authorities (*Gesetz zur Stärkung der Qualität in der Kindertagesbetreuung und zur finanziellen Entlastung von Familien und Kommunen – KiTa Reform Gesetz*) of 12 December 2019 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 759), in force pursuant to Article 7 (1) sentence 2 of the Act of 12 December 2019 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 759), amended by Article 25 no. 1 of the Act of 8 May 2020 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 220); last amended by the Act of 13 December 2024, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 963
- First Act implementing the Child and Youth Welfare Act (*Erstes Gesetz zur Ausführung des Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetzes – Jugendförderungsgesetz – JuFöG*) in the version of 5 February 1992 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 1992, p. 158), last

amended by Article 1 of the Act of 29 April 2022, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 616

- Guidelines of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein on the promotion of regional and minority languages in day-care facilities and nursing care centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality (*Richtlinie des Landes Schleswig-Holstein zur Förderung von Regional- und Minderheitensprachen in Kindertageseinrichtungen und Kindertagespflege*) of 14 December 2022, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2023, p. 184 – in force from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026
- Act on the Ninth State Treaty amending the provisions of media law in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein – (*Gesetz zum Neunten Staatsvertrag zur Änderung medienrechtlicher Vorschriften in Hamburg und Schleswig-Holstein - 9. MÄStV HSH*) of 29 March 2022, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 320
- Please note: Regarding media law, see also Section e.I. no. 2(a)(i) of the Seventh Language Report.
- General Administrative Act for the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein (*Landesverwaltungsgesetz – LVwG*) in the version published on 2 June 1992 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances pp. 243, 534); last amended by the Act of 26 March 2025 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 51)
- Schleswig-Holstein Libraries Act (*Bibliotheksgesetz – BiblG*), promulgated as Article 1 of the Act Governing Libraries in Schleswig-Holstein and Amending the State Press Act (*Gesetz für die Bibliotheken in Schleswig-Holstein und zur Änderung des Landespressegesetzes*) of 30 August 2016 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 791), last amended by Article 63 of the State Ordinance (LVO) of 27 October 2023, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 514
- Land Planning Act (*Landesplanungsgesetz – LaplaG*) in the version of 27 January 2014, (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 8), last amended by the Act of 24 May 2024, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 405
- *Handlungsplan Sprachenpolitik der schleswig-holsteinischen Landesregierung im Kontext von Regional- oder Minderheitensprachen für die 20. Legislaturperiode – Identität und Mehrwert* (Language Policy Action Plan of the Schleswig-Holstein State Government in the Context of Regional or Minority Languages for the 20th Legislative Period - Identity and Added Value) of 23 July 2024.

ii. Practical measures

Reference is made to the comments in nos. 4.1.3, 4.1.5, 4.1.6 and 4.1.7.

4.1.2.2 Article 7 (1) (b)

ii. Practical measures

- Existing laws continue to be applied.
- As of 1 March 2023, the municipalities of Tastrup, Hürup and Maasbüll were merged into the new municipality of Hürup. The merger was carried out under the responsibility of the chief executive officer of the district of Schleswig-Flensburg. The Ministry of the Interior, Municipal Affairs, Housing and Sport of Schleswig-Holstein (MIKWS) has no information on how the Danish minority was taken into account.

4.1.2.3 Article 7 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the Seventh Language Report E. I. 2. c. i. Measure 2

ii. Practical measures

- According to a very rough estimate, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein supports the Danish minority with approximately 50 million euros annually. The largest amount goes to the schools and child day-care centres run by the Danish Schools Association.
- The model school project 'Voluntary lessons in Danish in primary school', which began with seven primary schools in the 2020/21 school year, has been continuously expanded over the years. In the 2023/24 school year, the project was also extended to the first year (grade 5) of a model secondary school. Since the 2024/25 school year, another secondary school has been offering Danish lessons for secondary level I classes (grades 5 – 10), and since the 2025/26 school year, two more schools have followed suit.
- In the 2025/26 school year, 10 primary schools in a total of 13 locations offer voluntary lessons in Danish. Four secondary schools which function as model schools offer Danish lessons in grade 5 or grades 5 and 6. In addition, these schools also offer Danish as a compulsory elective subject from grade 7 onwards. As a result, Danish can now be studied all the way through from grade 1 to grade 10 at these model schools.
- See also 4.1.9.2.

4.1.2.4 Article 7 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports that, in addition to the institutional support for youth work under the target and funding agreement between the federal state and the Sydslesvigsk Forening (SSF) for 2019-2022 and the multiannual grant awarded for the years 2023-2025, funding was also granted for a project of the Sydslesvigsk danske

Ungdomsforeninger e.V. (SdU). A central part of this project was the use of Danish in everyday and recreational situations to strengthen and keep Danish as a minority language alive, especially among the younger generations.

- In 2023, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein funded the cross-border project 'Musikstarter Camp Flensburg'. The project was carried out by the Sydslesvigsk Forening e.V. (SSF), the main cultural organisation of the Danish minority. The project targeted Danish-speaking young people aged between 13 and 18 from the German-Danish border region. At the camp at the Danish Duborg School in Flensburg, the young people were given the opportunity to play music together, try out something new and work on band projects. Professional musicians from the Danish music scene taught in various disciplines such as instrumental, song-writing, composition and singing. The camp ended with a concert in the Volksbad Flensburg where the project bands and individual musicians performed and presented their works.
- The music camp promoted the musical and cultural exchange between Danish-speaking young people north and south of the border. For five days, young people from different places in the German-Danish border region lived together, which strengthened their sense of community. For young people from the Danish minority in Schleswig-Holstein, this also strengthened their identity as persons with two languages and cultures.
- In 2021, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein provided financial support for the restoration and preservation of the *Engelsby-Centret* youth centre in Flensburg. The federal state contributed 100,000 euros to drainage and fire protection measures to enable the continued safe use of the building in line with the applicable fire protection requirements. Among other things, the fire alarm system, the sewage, heating and ventilation systems were renewed.
- The *Engelsby Centret* has been run by the SdU, the Danish youth organisation in southern Schleswig, since November 1975. In addition to the buildings with a total surface area of 2 000 m², the centre also includes two football fields. The sports club of the Danish minority in Flensburg, IF Stjernen, with around 800 members and a large youth branch, also has its clubhouse there, which provides catering services for all events. The building also houses an after-school care centre where 185 children are looked after and young people spend their free time. Together with the Sydslesvigsk Forening e.V. (SSF), various cultural and social events are organised here, such as concerts, lectures, bingo evenings, dance events, flea markets, etc. Every year around 200.000 people visit the *Engelsby Centret* and participate in events. The *Engelsby-Centret* plays a central role in the neighbourhood as a place where the Danish minority and members of the majority society meet, for example when they take part in the IF Stjernen's sport activities or the SSF's cultural events.

ii. Practical measures

- Employees in tax offices who speak Danish show this by wearing a button to encourage taxpayers who come to the office to speak Danish.

4.1.2.5 Article 7 (1) (e)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The target and funding agreement between the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein and the Sydslesvigsk Forening e.V. (SSF), covering the years 2019 to 2022, was seamlessly followed by a multi-annual grant for the years 2023 to 2025; the aim is now to extend the grant. Thus, Schleswig-Holstein continuously funds the work of the SSF and its affiliated associations and institutions. The state government and the SSF work together to preserve and promote the Danish language and culture in Schleswig-Holstein. In addition, with its work, the SSF sees itself as a cultural ambassador of the Danish minority vis-à-vis the majority German population. The aim is to continuously strengthen co-operation and interaction between the two communities. The Danish minority has a large number of independent organisations covering almost all aspects of life. The Danish General Secretariat (Dansk General Secretariat) in Flensburg is the central point of contact for general issues regarding the Danish minority beyond the local and regional level and is led by the SSF. One of the key objectives of the SSF is promoting and spreading the Danish language. Thanks to the above-mentioned decision awarding the multi-annual grant, the SSF received 739,000 euros in 2023, 829,000 euros in 2024 and 829,000 euros in 2025. The additional funds were intended by the state parliament for more communication/public relations work and to support the associations affiliated with the SSF. Of this amount, 133,000 euros are earmarked for the operation of the Danevirke Museum. Funds from this grant may be passed on to associations affiliated with the SSF if this serves to fulfil the purpose of the grant. Per budget year, 5,000 euros must be transferred to the 'De unge i slesvig' project. The following affiliated associations also have to receive regular financial support from this state grant:

- Den slesvigske Kvindeforening 12,850 euros
- DSH - Foreningen af Aktive Kvinder 12,850 euros
- Foreningen Norden, Sydslesvig afdeling 5,010 euros
- Hejmdal Blæseorkester 500 euros
- Historisk Samfund, Sydslesvigs Amtskreds 500 euros
- Sydslesvigs danske Kunstforening 5,410 euros
- Sydslesvigs Museumsforening 4,280 euros
- Sønderjysk Arbejder Forening (SAF) 1,680 euros

- Since 2022, the Federal Government (initially Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media BKM, since 1 November 2025 Federal Ministry of the Interior) has been contributing 150,000 euros per year and 16,000 euros in the first year to the renovation and fire protection measures as part of the repurposing of the first upper floor of the Slesvighus for association and cultural work, and will continue to do so until 2030. Inaugurated in July 2024, the Slesvighus as a whole can now be used by the Danish minority in Schleswig and its surroundings as a modern, multifunctional cultural centre, also with the aim of fostering education and teaching in the Danish language.
- In 2023, Mikkkelberg, the Centre for Nordic Art and Cricket in Hattstedt, was newly added to the list of recipients of institutional support granted by the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. Located near Husum on the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein, it houses an art centre and a cricket club. The centre's aim is to promote Danish lifestyle, Nordic art and culture, and cricket. Mikkkelberg is an autonomous institution established in 1988 as a foundation. Since 2013, the Mikkkelberg Foundation and the SSF have been linked by an association agreement. Mikkkelberg receives 41,000 euros per year from the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. Mikkkelberg organises exhibitions, events, runs painting classes, hosts groups and operates a small shop. The language mainly spoken in this place is Danish, and the newsletter appears also in Danish in addition to German.
- Since 2024, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein has provided project funding to a German-Danish worker history festival organised by Sønderjysk Arbejderforening e.V. Focussing on the history of the workers' movement in the German-Danish border region and the role of the Danish minority in this context, the festival highlights an aspect of regional history that has been largely overlooked by experts and the media. By working together, historians and interested members of the public shed light on this chapter of history and bring it to the attention of a wide audience on both sides of the border. Most of the events are in Danish and most of the related festival newspapers are written in Danish as well.

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein supports and provides funding for platforms of national minorities on which they can communicate and develop joint projects. One of these platforms is the Schleswig-Holstein/Southern Denmark Minority Competence Network (*Minderheiten-Kompetenz-Netzwerk Schleswig-Holstein / Süddänemark e. V. (MKN)*), which has received institutional and project funding since its foundation in 2020. This network is run by an association in which all autochthonous minorities and ethnic groups in Schleswig-Holstein as well as institutions active in the field of minority policy and municipal actors from Schleswig-Holstein and the region of Southern Denmark are represented. (see section 4.1.9.2.ii).

4.1.2.6 Article 7 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section 4.1.3.

4.1.2.7 Article 7 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Reference is made to the report under section 4.1.3.

4.1.2.8 Article 7 (1) (h)

ii. Practical measures

- The Institute for Scandinavian Studies, Frisian Studies and General Linguistics at the Christian Albrechts University in Kiel (CAU) constantly researches and publishes about Danish with a special focus on Danish in Schleswig-Holstein. Recent examples include a PhD research project on the grammar of Danish in Southern Schleswig, completed in 2023, and a DFG-funded research project on commonalities between German and Scandinavian dialects with another PhD thesis completed in 2023. There is also a handbook issued at the University of Kiel (CAU) on neighbouring languages in Germany's border regions, in which Danish as one of the neighbouring languages is also discussed in detail.
- The Specialized Information Service Northern Europe at the University of Kiel Library also covers Denmark and the Danish language and culture (since recently also Northern Frisian) and, as an institutional cooperation partner, provides vast library and digital services for research on Danish. The Specialized Information Service cooperates closely with the University's Institute of Scandinavian Studies (ISFAS).

4.1.2.9 Article 7 (1) (i)

ii. Practical measures

- To improve services for taxpaying cross-border commuters in the German-Danish border area, i.e. persons who live in one country and work in the other, the tax office in Flensburg has contact persons who either speak Danish well or have a basic command of the language (see Seventh State Report, Section E.I.2.i).
- The crew of the rescue helicopter *Europa*, which is based in Niebüll and serves the areas on either side of the border, is bilingual. Since 25 May 2024, operating hours have been extended to 24/7.

4.1.2.10 Article 7 (2)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please also refer to the comments in section E.I.2.j.i of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- The measures described in previous reports are being continued.

4.1.2.11 Article 7 (3)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- In its 2022 coalition agreement, the government of Schleswig-Holstein stated that, in the event of a new amendment to the NDR State Treaty, it would advocate for having a representative of the minority associations in the NDR Broadcasting Council.

ii. Practical measures

- School curricula

As of the 2024/25 school year, as part of the review of the requirements for school curricula for the subjects German and mathematics, the general part dealing with general, cross-cutting requirements for school curricula was also revised. Whereas before, only Frisian and Low German were mentioned as 'fields of particular importance', the revised version explicitly mentions all regional and minority languages of Schleswig-Holstein. Now the text states that Schleswig-Holstein is a multilingual state in which regional and minority languages are perceived as a cultural asset, the regional language of Low German and the minority languages Danish, Frisian and Romanes are protected by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and consequently, the state's schools and educational institutions have the task to promote and help preserve and foster Danish, Frisian, Low German and Romanes (see <https://fachportal.lernnetz.de/sh/fachanforderungen/allgemeiner-teil.html>, p. 12).

- Textbooks and teaching materials

The newly developed textbooks *Værsgo! Det er dansk – bind 1* (2022) and *Vi ses! Det er dansk – bind 2* (2022) for school students who begin to study Danish as a foreign language in the last two or three years at grammar school, as well as *Velkommen til! 1* (2022) and *Velkommen til! 2* (2023) for school students who begin to study Danish as a foreign language in grade 5 to 10 not only teach language skills in Danish, but also the history and culture of the minority and neighbouring language Danish.

A textbook for Danish at advanced level for grammar school students in grades 11 to 13 with the working title 'Ung i Danmark' is currently being developed and financed jointly by the Schleswig-Holstein Institute for Quality Development in Schools (*Institut für*

Qualitätsentwicklung an Schulen Schleswig-Holstein, IQSH) and the *Regionskontor*, the secretariat of the cross-border region Sønderjylland-Schleswig, and will also teach students about the history and culture of Danish as a minority and neighbouring language. The target group of the new material will be advanced learners of Danish as a foreign language in grades 11 to 13. It will also be possible to use this textbook in individual classes of grade 10 with advanced knowledge of Danish as a foreign language.

- Please refer to the comments in E.I.2.k of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.1.2.12 Article 7 (4)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in section E.I.2.l.i of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- The measures described in previous reports are being continued.

4.1.3 Article 8 – Education

4.1.3.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Funding for day-care centres in accordance with section 16a (3) of the Act to support children in day-care centres and nurseries (KiTaG)
- Directive of the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein on the promotion of regional and minority languages in day-care centres and nurseries (*Richtlinie des Landes Schleswig-Holstein zur Förderung von Regional- und Minderheitensprachen in Kindertageseinrichtungen und Kindertagespflege 2023-2026*).
- Under a funding guideline for attracting skilled workers, training measures for Danish assistance staff for educational institutions of the Danish Schools Association for Southern Schleswig e.V. are subsidised by up to 300,000 euros per year.

ii. Practical measures

- The Danish minority has a well-established system of schools and day-care centres. The body responsible for schools and kindergartens is the Danish Schools Association for Southern Schleswig (*Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig e.V./ Dänischer Schulverein für Südschleswig e.V.*), with approximately 54 educational institutions as of 16 June 2025.
- The Sydslesvigs danske Ungdomsforeninger e.V. runs another 11 educational institutions (as of 16 June 2025).

- In addition, in 2023, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein provided funding totalling 612,910 euros for regional and minority language tuition in day-care centres and nurseries. This includes funding for Danish, Frisian and Low German. In 2023, 367 groups at day-care centres and nurseries benefited from additional funding provided under the aforementioned Directive. Of these, 45 groups offering Danish received state funding totalling approximately 81,000 euros. In 2024, a total of 397 childcare groups received financial assistance under the Directive. Of these, 52 childcare groups offering the possibility of learning Danish received state funding totalling approximately 102,000 euros.

In 2025, a total of 451 childcare groups were financially supported. For 2025, precise figures on the number of childcare groups and the amount of financial support they received for providing the possibility of learning Danish will be available only in mid-2026, when the local organisations running the services in question present proof that the funds were spent appropriately.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- As the main organisation running the institutions of the Danish minority, the *Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig e.V.*, with its educational concept and its training courses, ensures that learning Danish is a continuous process throughout the children's kindergarten and school years. For example, as a rule, kindergartens and, above all, pre-schools provide age-appropriate programmes focussing on definitions and concepts, fostering awareness of language and teaching preliminary steps to make it easier for children to learn how to write. The time allocated to these educational programmes varies depending on type and way of implementation.
- No data are available at state level on any additional measures to foster Danish language tuition. Organisations running child day-care centres are themselves responsible for evaluating the implementation and provision of such measures.

4.1.3.2 Article 8 (1) (b) (iv)

ii. Practical measures

- In the 2025/26 school year, Danish is taught in 69 public schools, 62 of which are regular schools and 8 vocational schools. 4,946 pupils attend Danish lessons.
- At the model schools for Danish (primary schools and grades 5 and 6 in some secondary (comprehensive) schools), Danish is taught for up to two lessons per week. In comprehensive schools, Danish is taught in grades 7-10 as a compulsory elective class for four lessons per week. In grammar schools, Danish is taught as a new foreign language in grades 9 and 10 for four lessons per week. In grades 11-13 at grammar and comprehensive schools, Danish is taught at advanced level for three lessons per week. In grades 11-13 at

grammar and comprehensive schools, Danish is also offered as a new foreign language and taught for four lessons. Similar to regular grammar schools, grammar schools with a vocational specialisation offer Danish for beginners with 4 lessons per week and Danish at advanced level with 3 lessons per week. In the 2025/26 school year, Danish is also taught at 39 schools belonging to the Danish minority. 5,903 students attend these schools.

- In 2024, the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Education and Training, Science, Research and Culture (*Ministerium für Allgemeine und Berufliche Bildung, Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur, MBWFK*) provided funding for the reprint of the textbook 'Paul og Emma snakker dansk' for Danish classes in the model primary schools.
- In the 2024/25 school year, the Ministry cooperated with the IQSH to launch a series of training events for teachers of regional and minority languages, focusing on teaching methodology. These courses were also designed to encourage networking among such teachers. It is planned to continue these courses during the 2025/26 school year.

4.1.3.3 Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

- Reference is made to 4.1.3.2 (ii) for more information on expanding the number of model secondary schools for Danish in grades 5–10.

4.1.3.4 Article 8 (1) (c) (iv)

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to 4.1.3.2 (ii) for statistical information.

4.1.3.5 Article 8 (1) (d) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to 4.1.3.2 (ii) for statistical information.

4.1.3.6 Article 8 (1) (e) ii

ii. Practical measures

- The University of Kiel (CAU) offers bachelor's and master's degrees in education for Danish as a school subject for future teachers at grammar schools and a master of science/arts in economics and educational science for prospective teachers at vocational schools. These courses are designed above all for future teachers at regular and vocational state schools, but also allow graduates access to the schools of the national minorities on either side of the border. No knowledge of Danish is required to start the course, but adequate language proficiency must be acquired during the course. At CAU, it is also possible to study Danish as an optional additional language for the bachelor's and master's

degree courses (Master of Arts) in Scandinavian studies even without prior knowledge of Danish. Danish courses are available to students regardless of their study course as an additional optional subject.

At Christian-Albrechts-University (CAU), the number of students is recorded for each academic year. During the 2023 summer term, a total of around 55 students studied Danish as part of their degree course to become teachers; on top of them, there are also students with Danish as an additional school subject, students of Scandinavian studies with Danish as an optional language, and PhD students.

- At Europa Universität Flensburg (EUF), prospective primary school teachers (Danish as a first, second or foreign language), future teachers for children with special needs, teachers at grammar schools, comprehensive schools and vocational schools (here in combination with the subject “health and food”) can study Danish as a teaching subject. These are B.A. programmes for future teachers. Educational science and Master of Education / Master of Vocational Education. The teachers trained at the Institute for Danish in Flensburg work in state schools after completing their studies (Danish as a foreign language), and also in the schools of the German and Danish minorities (Danish as a first and second language). In order to be admitted to the course, new students must provide proof of a good knowledge of Danish, as courses are held exclusively in Danish.
- Danish courses form part of all German-Danish study courses (in cooperation with the Syddansk Universitet/SDU). The EUF’s foreign language centre also offers language courses in Danish at various levels.

4.1.3.7 Article 8 (1) (f) ii

ii. Practical measures

- The adult education centres run by the state of Schleswig-Holstein, the Jarplund Højskole, which is the adult education centre of the Danish minority, established in 1950, and other institutions and organisations providing further education offer Danish language courses. These include employer-recognized courses for which employees are entitled to take paid educational leave. Information on available courses is updated daily and can be found at www.sh.kursportal.info

4.1.3.8 Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments under E.I.3.g of Germany’s Seventh Language Report.

ii. Practical measures

- Adult education centres and educational institutions across the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein offer language courses and programmes in Danish. Up-to-date information on courses can be found at www.sh.kursportal.info. Other education institutes also offer language activities and courses in Danish.
- See also comments under E.I.3.g in the Seventh Language Report.

4.1.3.9 Article 8 (1) (g)

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments under 4.1.2.11 of this report.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Schleswig-Holstein's plan is to gradually implement the recommendation of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) of the federal states on teaching and sharing knowledge about the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the Low German Speakers' Group. Existing textbooks and teaching materials that already deal with the autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups and the Low German Speakers' Group are continuously updated in line with changing framework curricula and more specific curricula. In addition, it is planned to step-by-step develop new materials for the training and further training of teachers.

4.1.3.10 Article 8 (1) (h)

ii. Practical measures

- The Schleswig-Holstein state government reports that the training and further training measures for teachers of Danish are being continued at the IQSH (Institute for Quality Development at Schools, *Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung an Schulen*), which is in charge of the second - practical - phase of teacher training, at the CAU and the EUF (see E.I.3.j. of the Seventh Language Report).
- The IQSH special portal for Danish provides comprehensive information on Danish language teaching at state schools:
<https://fachportal.lernnetz.de/sh/faecher/daenisch.html>

4.1.3.11 Article 8 (1) (i)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- In its evaluation report on Germany's Seventh Language Report, the Committee of Experts also recommended that "a supervisory body should be set up to monitor the progress of Danish language teaching and to publish regular reports on it". Following up on this, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports on the following measures:

From 2017-2023, a part-time post was established at the Institute for Quality Development in Schools of Schleswig-Holstein (IQSH) and filled with a teacher seconded to the IQSH tasked with coordinating measures to foster regional and minority languages in Schleswig-Holstein. In September 2020, a part-time post was created at the Ministry of Education in Schleswig-Holstein for a seconded teacher tasked with coordinating measures to foster regional and minority languages. As of 1 August 2023, this part-time post was turned into a full-time post. At the same time, the task of coordinating matters regarding regional and minority languages was discontinued at the IQSH.

At the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Education, this post is part of the unit which is also responsible for providing financial support to national minorities. Although this post is not the requested supervisory body, the jobholder acts as the contact person at the Ministry of Education for schools and teachers offering courses in regional and minority languages, she also supports the establishment of the Nordfriisk Liirskap at the Nordfriisk Instituut, and plays a key role in the process launched by the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs to teach and share knowledge about the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the Low German Speakers' Group. Since at the moment the IQSH cannot provide specialist counselling for Frisian and Low German, she also organises specialist courses for teachers of Frisian and Low German and joint training courses for teachers of regional and minority languages to foster networking among teachers of minority languages.

4.1.3.12 Article 8 (2)

ii. Practical measures

- Schleswig-Holstein is the only federal state where school students can study Danish as a fully-fledged foreign language school subject. It is possible to study Danish as a fully-fledged foreign language in grades 7 to 10 at comprehensive school, in grades 9 to 13 or grades 11 to 13 at grammar schools, and in grades 11 to 13 at vocational secondary schools. At the model schools, pupils can study Danish as a minority language on a voluntary basis from grade 1 to grade 4. Since the 2023/24 school year, there have also been some model secondary schools offering Danish in grades 5 and partially in grade 6, making it possible for students to study Danish consecutively for more years. This means that, depending on the school location, pupils can study Danish almost continuously from primary school

until they graduate from secondary school after grade 13. In the 2025/26 school year, 69 schools in Schleswig-Holstein offer Danish lessons; almost half of these schools are comprehensive schools with classes from grade 6 to grade 10; the other half are primary schools, comprehensive schools which continue until grade 13, grammar schools and vocational schools. Just over two thirds of these schools are located in Southern Schleswig, i.e. the northern part of Schleswig-Holstein.

- See also 4.1.3.1 for statistical data.

4.1.4 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

4.1.4.1 Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Schleswig-Holstein considers the undertaking under the Language Charter to be fulfilled by the current legal situation – see section 142 (3) sentence 1 and section 144 (1) sentence 1, second alternative, of the Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*, ZPO). Creating additional explanatory legal provisions regarding the use of records, documents and evidence in Danish in civil proceedings would merely amount to yet another explication of the already existing legal situation, without altering the current legal situation which serves as the basis for assessing compliance with the undertakings under Article 9 (1b) (iii) of the Language Charter.
- See also our comments under 3.2.3.

4.1.4.2 Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Schleswig-Holstein does not share the opinion of the Advisory Committee. The undertaking is fulfilled by the current legal situation, see section 142 (3) sentence 1, section 144 (1) sentence 1, alternative 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure (ZPO) in conjunction with section 173, sentence 1 of the Code of Administrative Court Procedure (*Verwaltungsgerichtsordnung*, VwGO), or section 202 sentence 1 of the Social Courts Act (*Sozialgerichtsgesetz*, SGG), or section 155 sentence 1 of the Code of Procedure for Fiscal Courts (*Finanzgerichtsordnung*, FGO). Creating additional explanatory legal provisions regarding the use of records, documents and evidence in Danish in administrative court proceedings would merely amount to yet another explication of the already existing legal situation, without altering the current legal situation which serves as the basis for assessing compliance with the undertakings under Article 9 (1c) (iii) of the Language Charter.
- See also our comments under 3.2.3.

4.1.4.3 Article 9 (2) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein considers the undertaking to be fulfilled by the current legal situation in Germany provided documents drawn up in the minority language are submitted in a form which, for the purpose of translation, precludes misunderstandings or errors.

4.1.5 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

4.1.5.1 Article 10 (1) (a) (v)

ii. Practical measures

- Within the remit of the Ministry of Finance, the tax offices, as the direct point of contact between citizens and the tax administration, have an important role to play with regard to the Language Policy Action Plan. Some tax offices, especially in the area where the Danish minority lives, have staff with Danish language skills. There, taxable persons can submit their documents also in Danish (see Germany's Seventh Report, section E 1.5.a).
- Apart from that, reference is made to section E.I.5a of Germany's Seventh Report.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the implementation of the Act to Improve Online Access to Administrative Services (*Onlinezugangsgesetz, OZG*), Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments under 3.2.1.
- For further measures aimed at fostering the use of the Danish language in the administration in accordance with the undertakings, see 4.1.5.2 iii.

4.1.5.2 Article 10 (1) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- Reference is made to the Seventh Language Report, section E.1.b concerning the application of the State Administration Act (*Landesverwaltungsgesetz*).
- The state government of Schleswig-Holstein reports that in certain regions (for example in the area covered by the regional police headquarters in Flensburg), measures are adopted to promote Danish language skills among the police. For example, police officers can take paid educational leave to attend language courses offered by external providers. In addition, sometimes they can also take part in language courses organised by the Federal Police. However, in these cases state police officers can attend only if there are places left.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Schleswig-Holstein does not share the Advisory Committee's assessment in its evaluation report on the Seventh Language Report, point 2.1.1, that the undertaking has not been fully complied with. The purpose of the undertaking entered into is for the signatories to allow the administrative authorities to draw up documents in a regional or minority language under the conditions set out in Article 10(1) and to the extent reasonably possible. Section 82 b (1) sentence 3 of the State Administrative Act (LVwG) provides the legal basis in Schleswig-Holstein for allowing an authority to use a regional or minority language in its contact with the public provided the citizen used this language vis-à-vis the authority before. The state government of Schleswig-Holstein does not exercise "general supervision" over all authorities at state, district or municipal level or other authorities as to whether and how they apply the State Administrative Act. As it is possible to use a regional or minority language in a wide range of authorities in Schleswig-Holstein, the state government does not conduct extensive surveys for information purposes. Regional or minority languages are most widely used at municipal level in Schleswig-Holstein. For example, the city of Flensburg reaches out to its residents on www.flensburg.de also with websites in Danish. The '2021 Report on the situation of the Danish minority in Flensburg 2021' (Bericht zur Lage der dänischen Minderheit in Flensburg 2021) was written not only in German, but also in Danish and is published on the city council's electronic information and document management system.
- This shows that, at state level, specific, highly relevant information is provided in regional or minority languages. One example is the information on local, state and federal elections that the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of the Interior has been providing since 2018 also in Low German, Frisian and Danish.
- Since 2022, health information has also been available in regional and minority languages. The Schleswig-Holstein Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (*Kassenärztliche Vereinigung Schleswig-Holstein*), the Schleswig-Holstein Hospital Association (*Krankenhausgesellschaft Schleswig-Holstein e. V.*) and the Ministry of Justice and Health (MJG) regularly provide information on how to seek medical assistance. In 2022, for the first time, this information was also translated into the regional and minority languages Danish, Frisian and Low German.
- The evaluation of the Act Implementing the Constitutional Task of Strengthening the National Minorities and Ethnic Groups in Schleswig-Holstein (*Gesetz zur Umsetzung des Verfassungsauftrages zur Stärkung der nationalen Minderheiten in Schleswig-Holstein*) of 2021, mentioned in the Seventh Language Report, concluded that there was room for improvement regarding the use of regional and minority languages in contacts with the authorities. The evaluation report therefore included a number of recommendations which are being implemented. The following measures have been taken since then:

The Schleswig-Holstein state government intends to improve the conditions for the practical application of section 82b of the State Administrative Act (LVwG) for contacts between the state authorities and citizens and to enhance the proficiency of its employees in regional and minority languages.

Among other things, the state government encourages its employees to attend further training courses to improve their language skills in Danish, Frisian and Low German and to apply these language skills in their contacts with the public. To this end, language courses in these languages have been recognised as further training measures since 2022. Replying to or addressing citizens in their language is a sign of appreciation of regional and minority languages in the public space, which is what the state government wishes to achieve.

Since 2023, the state government has been keeping its staff informed about these framework conditions and further training programmes on a dedicated website of the Schleswig-Holstein information portal SHIP entitled *Dänisch – Friesisch – Niederdeutsch, Regional- und Minderheitensprachen in der Verwaltung in Schleswig-Holstein* (Danish – Frisian – Low German, regional and minority languages in the administration of Schleswig-Holstein). The aim is to deepen and perpetuate the staff's knowledge of state legislation affecting regional and minority languages. This web page therefore also includes a section with a compilation of legal provisions regarding the languages protected in Schleswig-Holstein, including the undertakings entered into by Schleswig-Holstein under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which has been implemented by a federal law applying nationally.

Furthermore, the State Chancellery developed a teaching module (4 lessons per week) for the bachelor's course on general administration at Schleswig-Holstein's University of Applied Sciences for Administration and Service (*Fachhochschule für Verwaltung und Dienstleistung*) to teach students of the state and municipal administration about national minorities and ethnic groups in Schleswig-Holstein, their protection and relevant legal provisions. Several students have now dealt with this issue in their bachelor's theses or in project work during the final term of their studies. The state administration is keen to use the results of these theses and projects to implement them in practice.

It is technically possible to enter and register skills in regional and minority languages in the KoPers human resources data management system of the state administration. Data on the language skills of the state's employees is now being collected step-by-step. As a pilot project, the State Chancellery started compiling this information among its own staff in 2024. As soon as sufficient data is available, the results of this survey will be reported in the state government's report on staff structure and human resources management.

Appreciation and visibility of regional and minority languages, including raising awareness among the majority population, is also a feature of the state government's recruitment campaign to attract diverse and multilingual new staff. This campaign is directed at persons with various language skills and cultural backgrounds. For example, a

recruitment film was produced in which young recruits of the state administration speak in their different mother languages. A series of films about minorities, which is currently being produced, also gives visibility to minority languages and shows the state government's appreciation of them.

4.1.5.3 Article 10 (2) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Reference is made to the comments under E.I.5.c.i of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.1.5.4 Article 10 (4) (c)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- If an employee of Schleswig-Holstein's public administration should make such a request, it is examined whether the request can be complied with. However, as previously stated in Germany's Seventh Report, no public sector employee of any of the state-level authorities has so far made such a request. It is therefore not possible to provide the Advisory Committee with any new data on this.

4.1.5.5 Article 10 (5)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- On 1 May 2025, the Act to Amend the Law on Married Names and Birth Names and International Names (*Gesetz zur Änderung des Ehenamens- und des Geburtsnamensrechts und des Internationalen Namensrechts*) entered into force. It had been adopted on 14 June 2024. The legislative changes address, among other things, specific name-related matters regarding the Danish, Frisian and Sorbian minorities. (see 3.1.2).
- The names chosen under Danish law must be entered in the children's birth registers.

ii. Practical measures

- The staff of the civil registry offices in Schleswig-Holstein received extensive training in spring 2025 on the many new options for choosing names according to the traditions of national minorities and are experts in registering births accordingly. There is no record of any cases or complaints about civil registry offices in Schleswig-Holstein refusing to register Danish double family names. Nevertheless, the civil registry offices were once again alerted to this matter.

4.1.6 Article 11 – Media

4.1.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments in section E.I.6.a. of the seventh periodical report. In addition, in its 2022 coalition agreement, the state government committed itself to promoting greater coverage of regional and minority languages in the media.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments under 4.1.6.3.iii.
- The regional broadcaster NDR takes the Committee of Experts' requirement of adequate length and frequency of broadcasts very seriously, effectively meeting this requirement through its extensive and modern media portfolio. However, it should also be noted that the NDR intentionally prioritises non-linear media. The aim is to increase outreach to younger target groups, in line with the wishes of the respective language communities, to engage younger generations with regional and minority languages. In addition, non-linear distribution, which better suits today's media consumption habits, aims to ensure the widest possible reach.
- In accordance with its statutes and policies, the Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein Film Fund (MOIN FFHSH) provides funding for documentary and fictional films on the basis of artistic and business considerations. The production of audio-visual works in Danish can also be supported on the basis of the existing provisions of MOIN FFHSH.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the implementation measures reported so far.

4.1.6.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 4.1.6.1.i.

ii. Practical measures

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.1.6.3.ii.

4.1.6.3 Article 11 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- As regards the undertaking in this Article, reference is made to the comments in 4.1.6.1.i.

ii. Practical measures

- As a result of the new NDR Interstate Treaty, the NDR has created additional non-linear formats, on top of the existing ones. One of them is Grænzenlos, a German-Danish online magazine created in cooperation with the Danish channel TV Syd. Every other month, the 25-minute show co-hosted by a German and a Dane presents stories from the border region. In addition, Hyggepost is a regular online column, which gives insights into Danish lifestyle and culture. These formats created for non-linear consumption are also adapted for radio and television.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendation in the seventh evaluation report to facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Danish, Schleswig-Holstein refers to the reported efforts of the NDR.

4.1.6.4 Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)

ii. Practical measures

- According to the Committee of Experts (MIN-LANG (2022)7), this undertaking is fulfilled by the Danish daily newspaper “Flensburg Avis” and the press service of the South Schleswig Association Sydslesvigsk Forening e.V. (SSF). The circulation of the Flensburg Avis is approximately 4,360 copies (as of 2024). The press service (Sydslesvigsk Prettjetjeneste), run by SSF, continues to provide the media in Germany and Denmark with information about the minority in German and Danish.

4.1.6.5 Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)

ii. Practical measures

- Under section 2 (1) of the 2006 State Act on the Establishment of a Corporation under Public Law “Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein” (*Gesetz über die Errichtung einer Anstalt öffentlichen Rechts “Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein”, OK-Gesetz*), the Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein must contribute to the promotion of minority languages. The Flensburg branch of the Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein regularly produces and broadcasts Danish programmes, which can be received by members of the Danish minority in the service area (Flensburg, Schleswig, Niebüll, Kappeln).

- Other activities related to Danish during the reporting period (selection):
 - Regular recordings of Danish-language lectures and readings at Dansk Centralbibliotek Flensburg
 - Reports and reports on the Danish annual meeting “Årsmøde”
 - The Danish-language magazine “DKSyd” (formerly Sønderborg Lokal TV) continues to broadcast regularly and presents a new one-hour issue every Wednesday and Sunday at 8 p.m.
 - 11/2021 to 06/2022: annual project of the Voluntary Social Service Year participants at Offener Kanal Flensburg, Sydslesvigs danske ungdomsforeninger and Sydslesvig forening – portraits of Flensburg cultural institutions of the Danish minority and the German majority. The main aim of their videos was to appeal to young people, sparking their interest and curiosity about the different offerings.
 - 3/2023: photo exhibition “KIG på Danmark – Glance of Denmark”, opening & guided tour of the exhibition at the Offener Kanal Flensburg with artist Stephanie Oeding, followed by a German-Danish discussion.
 - 4/2024: As part of his media week, the Member of the Landtag and parliamentary leader of the SSW Christian Dirschauer visited the Offener Kanal Flensburg to learn about the tasks of the channel and to discuss with the team the increasing importance of media literacy education.
- Between 2022 and 2024, MOIN (FFHSH) funded “King’s Land”, a film co-produced by Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden and shot in Danish and German. In 2022, the film debuted at the Venice Film Festival and had its initial screening in Germany at the Hamburg Film Festival. Other MOIN FFHSH-funded projects with Danish participation were Holy Spider, No Good Men, The Irrepressible, Haunted Healing, Duty Free and the third season of Sloborn. Creators from all over Europe can participate in a pitch battle for immersive media projects. In 2023, a Danish project was nominated to pitch in front of a jury and a German and international audience.

4.1.6.6 Article 11 (2)

To date, Schleswig-Holstein is not aware of any disruptions to the reception of television and radio broadcasts from Denmark.

4.1.7 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.1.7.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

ii. Practical measures

- Theatre performances by Danish artists

- Guided tours in Danish for individual exhibitions of the Schleswig-Holstein State Museums
- Schleswig-Holstein also refers to E.I.7.a of the seventh periodical report.

4.1.7.2 Article 12 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- See E.I.7.b of the seventh periodical report.

ii. Practical measures

- As regards support for the SSF and Dansk Centralbibliotek, Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.1.2.5.ii.

4.1.7.3 Article 12 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The institutions of the Danish minority such as Sydslesvigsk Forening and Dansk Centralbibliotek request funding from the Schleswig-Holstein government for translating, dubbing, post-synchronising and subtitling works into Danish.

ii. Practical measures

- Furthermore, the Dansk Centralbibliotek receives institutional funding of 200,000 euros per year from the MBWFK (as compared to 172,000 euros in the previous reporting period).

4.1.7.4 Article 12 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The Danish minority in Schleswig-Holstein hones its own language, whether in the professional context, in the clubs or at events organised by the minority. In addition, with federal state funding, institutions and bodies of the Danish minority ensure that the knowledge and use of the respective language and culture are adequately taken into account in their cultural activities.

ii. Practical measures

- Representatives of minorities are always invited as guests and interlocutors to social events organised by the state government, such as the New Year reception or the reception at the Kieler Woche regatta.

- In addition, in 2021 minorities were invited to contribute to the festivities on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Schleswig-Holstein by presenting their languages and cultural traditions to the majority population.
- When receiving high-level international guests (e.g. the Danish royal couple in October 2024), the Federal President or members of the Federal Government, the state government regularly schedules visits to institutions of the Danish minority.

4.1.7.5 Article 12 (1) (e)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in E.I.7.d.

4.1.7.6 Article 12 (1) (f)

ii. Practical measures

- The minister-president of Schleswig-Holstein, the embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Denmark, the embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark in Germany and the Danish consulate-general in Flensburg have jointly invited guests to an official ceremony in Schloss Gottorf on 29 March 2025 to mark the 70th anniversary of the signature of the Bonn-Copenhagen Declarations. The two minority groups, represented by the SSF and the Association of Germans in North Schleswig (BDN), assisted in creating the event's programme and participated with cultural offerings in their respective languages.
- In addition to German and Danish local authorities, minority organisations were involved in the framework of the current Sønderjylland-Schleswig cultural agreement (2025–2028).
- Sønderjysk Arbejderforening e.V. held a workers' history festival in 2024 and 2025, funded by the federal state and attended by guests from Germany and Denmark. By addressing the history of the workers' movement in the German-Danish border region and the role of the Danish minority in this context, the festival highlights an aspect of regional history that has been largely overlooked by experts and the media. The research institutions of the Danish minority located at the Danish central library in Flensburg, along with the research centre of the German minority at the Deutsches Museum für Nordschleswig in Sonderburg/Sønderborg, can provide valuable contributions to the project based on their respective expertise. This increases their visibility. Sønderjysk Arbejderforening, leading the project, is also gaining recognition for its activities outside the minority's borders.

4.1.7.7 Article 12 (1) (g)

ii. Practical measures

- Schleswig-Holstein provided institutional funding to the Danish central library, Dansk Centralbibliotek for Syslesvik e.V. (DCB), in the years 2023–2025. Tasks of the DCB include library work in Flensburg, Schleswig and Husum and two mobile libraries; research in the

“Forskningsafdelingen”, which maintains the archives of the Danish minority in the Schleswig region; and “Den Slesvigske Samling”, the scientific collections of North and South Schleswig literature in the five languages Danish, Sønderjysk, Standard German, Low German and Frisian.

- In 2023 and 2024, a project titled “Grenzland und Minderheiten im Fadenkreuz der Geheimdienste” was carried out with financial support from Schleswig-Holstein. The project, which examined how intelligence services targeted the border region and minorities, was overseen by the research director of the Danish central library for South Schleswig. The project’s goal was to examine intelligence operations in Schleswig-Holstein and southern Denmark, thereby significantly enhancing historical understanding. The project findings were published in an anthology, making this so far unfamiliar facet of the history of the Danish minority and of European post-war history available to a wider audience. The book “Spionage im Grenzland – Nachrichtendienste in Schleswig-Holstein und Süddänemark” was published by the Bebra Wissenschaft Verlag (ISBN 978-3-95410-346-1). The Danish central library presented the project and the book to the public in Kiel on 25 May 2025. Additionally, this was a chance for the institution to display its work to a broader audience, outside the typical Danish minority settlements.

4.1.7.8 Article 12 (2)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- In Germany cultural activities complying with the law in force are not subject to any permit procedure or restrictions.

ii. Practical measures

- Reference is made to the seventh periodical report, E.I.7.h.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section 4.4.7.10.

4.1.7.9 Article 12 (3)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments in E.I.7.i. of the seventh periodical report.

ii. Practical measures

- Members of the state government use their international contacts and visits to present Schleswig-Holstein’s special cultural and linguistic diversity as well as its policy for minorities and regional or minority languages on appropriate occasions.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments in E.I.7.i. of the seventh periodical report.

4.1.8 Article 13 – Economic and social life

4.1.8.1 Article 13 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments in E.I.8.a of the seventh periodical report.

4.1.8.2 Article 13 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments in section E.I.8.b of the seventh periodical report.

4.1.8.3 Article 13 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The reference to Article 2 (1) of the Basic Law made in the seventh periodical report remains valid.

ii. Practical measures

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in E.I.8.c. of the seventh periodical report.

4.1.8.4 Article 13 (2) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in E.II.8.d of the seventh periodical report.

4.1.9 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

4.1.9.1 Article 14 (a)

ii. Practical measures

- In 2021, Germany and Denmark signed a Declaration of Friendship, followed by a Joint Action Plan for future cooperation signed in 2022 by the German and Danish foreign ministers. This led to an agreement in 2024 to establish a permanent working group, coordinated by the Schleswig-Holstein state government, along with Germany's Foreign Office and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to address mobility barriers. Barriers to

mobility may include language-related barriers. An online form to report barriers has been set up at the Regionalkontor and Infocentre in Padborg:

www.region.de/region/de/mobilitaetsbarrieren/.

- Denmark, Germany and the state of Schleswig-Holstein established a working group to enhance cooperation in the border region in 2023. The working group and its thematic sub-groups found many legal obstacles to daily life in the border region, generally due to the presence of two separate legal and administrative systems. Established in late autumn 2024, the Danish-German Cross-Border Panel aims to build upon the working group's efforts, gradually eliminate existing obstacles, and identify new ones. Additionally, it serves as a platform for discussion, coordination and information sharing. The German and Danish governments and the state of Schleswig-Holstein are taking part; other parties (from the border region) are invited to attend the meetings, which are held roughly every six months, if there are relevant subjects to address.
- As part of the cultural agreement "Kulturvereinbarung Sønderjylland-Schleswig 2021–2024", signed in December 2020 by representatives of the region, the Danish Ministry of Culture and the government of Schleswig-Holstein, numerous cultural projects in the fields of community-building and common cultural heritage received financial support. Representatives of the German and Danish minorities are among the decision-makers in the relevant bodies of the cultural agreement.
- The community-building strand seeks to enable, in particular, children and young people in the border region to engage in cultural, creative and civic communities.
- The common cultural heritage strand aims to promote cultural education and cohesion in the region through engagement and knowledge of the history and culture of the border region.
- The four-year cultural agreement (2021–2024) provided funding for projects in the two strands, including musical talent development, talent development for children, youth and movement, pilot projects of each partner, the two primary projects of the cultural agreement, and the Kulturboost project. In both strands, several sub-activities and projects were successfully implemented, targeting both adult citizens and nursery and school children. One sub-activity under the common cultural heritage strand addressed words in public spaces. The aim was to enhance public awareness of the border region's unique linguistic diversity, featuring five historically native languages. A word contest allowed the public to submit their favourite words in Frisian, Sønderjysk, Low German, German or Danish, resulting in eight winning words displayed in two-meter installations across various locations in the border region for four months.
- The current cultural agreement Sønderjylland-Schleswig 2025–2028 carries forward this work, with a continued focus on generating added value through knowledge sharing, collaborative learning, and fostering a stronger sense of belonging.

4.1.9.2 Article 14 (b)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- On 24 August 2021, the minister-president of Schleswig-Holstein and the then-chair of the Regional Council of the Region of Southern Denmark signed a renewed joint declaration on regional cooperation between Schleswig-Holstein and the Syddanmark region. This renewal was required due to prior local government reforms in the Kingdom of Denmark and shifts in the responsibilities of different political tiers. The agreement states that minorities on both sides of the border have vital roles as “bridge builders” and that the aim is to increase their respective German and Danish language skills. The 2023-2024 joint action plan for cooperation between the Southern Denmark region and Schleswig-Holstein also includes an agreement to enhance language proficiency in each other's language within the border region. Because of another local government reform set to be completed in 2027, the agreement will need to be modified later on.
- During the Fehmarn Belt Days 2023 in Rødbyhavn, Lolland, the 2017 declaration of partnership between Schleswig-Holstein and the Danish region of Sjælland was renewed. Schleswig-Holstein's Minister for European Affairs and the Chair of the Regional Council signed the declaration on 12 June 2023. In the declaration, both sides set out the objective of strengthening language education in the neighbouring language in the Fehmarn Belt region in order to foster regional integration upon the completion of the Fehmarn Belt fixed link. Because of another local government reform set to be completed in 2027, the agreement will need to be modified later on. In addition, the Sjælland region will merge with the neighbouring Hovedstaden region and together form the Østdanmark region in the future.
- Scheduled from 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2027, NETE (Netværk/Netzwerke Transversal/Empowering) is an ambitious cross-border project with a total budget of 2.8 million euros, Interreg contributing 1.8 million euros. The goal is to enhance cooperation between Denmark and Germany, with a focus on voluntary work, among public administrations, and through specific projects. This partnership spans a wide geographical area, encompassing the whole Interreg programme region in the southern and eastern parts of Schleswig-Holstein, as well as in Syddanmark and Sjælland. NETE will therefore support enhanced cooperation between the Sønderjylland-Schleswig region and the Fehmarn Belt region.

4.2 Upper Sorbian in Saxony

4.2.1 Article 6 – Information

By cabinet decision of 15 April 2025, the head of the culture and tourism portfolio at the State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism was appointed as the State Government Commissioner for Sorbian Affairs in Saxony. She oversees the coordination among various ministries regarding all Sorbian matters within the state government. An interministerial working group, led by the commissioner, facilitates ongoing communication and coordination. This involves regular updates on the rights and responsibilities outlined in the Charter.

4.2.2 Article 8 – Education

The actions taken so far in the field of education, specifically regarding Article 8 (1) (a) to (f), Article 8 (1) (h), and Article 8 (2), as outlined in the previous regular reports, are still being carried out. Therefore, these measures are not described again at this point.

4.2.2.1 Article 8 (1) (g)

ii. Practical measures

- In addition to information in textbooks, starting with the 2025/2026 school year, extra materials to teach about the Sorbs are available in the curriculum database.

4.2.2.2 Article 8 (1) (i)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The 2plus strategy, on the basis of which the Sorbian language is taught, has been evaluated. The aim of the evaluation was to record, analyse and assess how well the strategy was being implemented and to draw conclusions for the further work of schools and school supervisors. The evaluation included surveys and language proficiency tests.
- The University of Leipzig agreed to carry out the surveys. The report is available in German at https://www.schule.sachsen.de/download/24_05_22_Evaluation_SorbSchulen_INTERAKT_IV.pdf
- The Sorbian Institute in Bautzen (Sorbisches Institut Bautzen e.V.) was entrusted with carrying out the language proficiency tests. These tests are designed to gauge the learning outcomes and performance levels of 8th-grade students in their Upper Sorbian language proficiency, covering the competence areas of listening and reading comprehension, language reflection, writing, and speaking. Following the language proficiency tests, the

Sorbian Institute staff prepare individual reports for the schools. This encompasses suggestions for actions and particular types of exercises designed for classroom teaching.

4.2.3 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

4.2.3.1 Article 9 (1) (a) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The right of Sorbs to use the Sorbian language in the courts in their home districts free of charge and without detriment is enshrined in section 184 second sentence of the Judicature Act (*Gerichtsverfassungsgesetz*) and section 9 of the Act on the Sorbs' Rights in the Free State of Saxony (*Gesetz über die Sorben im Freistaat Sachsen*). This includes applications, official documents and evidence in Sorbian.

ii. Practical measures

- This right is unconditionally ensured in practice. Sorbian citizens have the right to present their concerns, applications, official documents and evidence in Sorbian or in German. If required, translators are engaged, with no extra costs incurred by the individuals involved. We are not aware of any problems or restrictions related to the use of the Sorbian language.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts were taken note of and examined. For the time being, there was, however, no need to take specific measures.

Regarding other undertakings arising from Article 9, please refer to the comments in 4.2.4.1.

4.2.4 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

Regarding Article 10 (1) to (4), the comments made in the previous periodic report still apply.

4.2.4.1 Article 10 (5)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- A new Act to Amend the Law on Married Names and Birth Names and International Law on Names (*Gesetz zur Änderung des Ehenamens- und des Geburtsnamensrechts und des Internationalen Namensrechts*) was adopted on 11 June 2024 and entered into force on 1 May 2025. According to section 1617f of the Civil Code (*Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*), the gendered form of names can now be used in line with Sorbian tradition (see 3.1.2).

ii. Practical measures

- The state association of registrars in Saxony (Landesfachverband der Standesbeamtinnen und Standesbeamten des Freistaates Sachsen e.V.) trained the civil registry offices on the new naming law before the legislative amendment came into force.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- This implemented the long-standing demands for a regulation on the selection of a name. This closes the legal gap in the Act on Name Changes by Minorities (*Minderheiten-Namensänderungsgesetz*).
- The Free State of Saxony/State Ministry of the Interior will continue its municipal programme, providing funds to all 42 municipalities within the Sorbian settlement area for extra costs incurred by implementing bilingualism. Currently, each municipality is allocated approximately 5,000 euros annually. Additionally, a central service point in Hoyerswerda, staffed by two full-time employees, receives over 100,000 euros per year to assist municipalities in implementing bilingualism and actively promoting the Sorbian language in public life, as well as addressing other Sorbian cultural matters.
- See also our comments in the seventh periodical report.

4.2.5 Article 11 – Media

4.2.5.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- According to the Committee of Experts' seventh evaluation report, the Free State of Saxony has already fulfilled the above-mentioned undertaking. The legal situation has not changed.
- Offering private Sorbian-language radio programmes is in principle permissible under media law and may, where appropriate, be authorised by the Saxon state media authority under the same conditions as for German-language programmes.

ii. Practical measures

- According to the Committee of Experts' seventh evaluation report, the Free State of Saxony has already fulfilled the above-mentioned undertaking. The situation has not changed.
- So far, the Saxon state media authority has not issued any licenses for programmes that are exclusively in Sorbian. Radio Zett Zittau, a non-commercial radio station, is currently airing programmes in the Sorbian language. For example, they produce the podcast series "Sorbisches Fenster" (Sorbian Window) about ten times per year. Individual episodes are

also featured in their regular programming. This includes the series “Sorbische Lesereise” (Sorbian reading journey) with five to six episodes per year, where Sorbian authors present their works. Some of the episodes are produced in Sorbian. Other podcasts in the series address issues that directly or indirectly affect the Sorbs in Lusatia.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the Committee of Ministers’ recommendation to take further measures to strengthen the offer of media in regional or minority languages, reference is made to the comments in the seventh periodical report in E.II.6.
- With regard to the programming of public service broadcasting, please refer to the comments in the mid-term report following the seventh periodical report in D.II.1. In terms of radio, the radio service of Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk (MDR Sachsen) in the Upper Sorbian language from the regional studio in Bautzen/Budyšin and the radio service of Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb) in the Lower Sorbian language from the regional studio Cottbus/Chóšebuz are available. In this respect, MDR Sachsen – Serbski rozhłós broadcasts a total of 25.5 hours per week in the Upper Sorbian language from the regional studio in Bautzen/Budyšin. In all of Europe, this is the only programme of this size dedicated to young people in the mother tongue of an ethnic group. The “MDR Serbja” app bundles all the Sorbian-language services of MDR for mobile use. The same applies to rbb and its “rbb serbski” app. MDR keeps the Sorbian community informed with daily updates and engaging content through its dedicated Sorbian Facebook and/or Instagram accounts.
- Since the beginning of December 2021, the MDR Broadcasting Council has included a member of the Sorbian people. As part of the negotiations to amend the MDR Interstate Treaty, the state government of Saxony successfully pushed for the federal state to obtain a seat on the MDR Broadcasting Council for representing the interests of the Sorbs in accordance with section 5 of the Saxon Sorbs Act (*Sächsisches Sorbengesetz*, SächsSorbG).
- It is also worth noting that the Saxon state media authority has funded projects addressing the Sorbs’ lived reality in recent years as part of its additional cultural film funding. The films are partly in Sorbian and then subtitled in German. In recent years, this included the films “winterlieb – libawka”, “Blueberries – Cerne jogody” and “kohle – wuhlo” by Julius Günzel and Maja Nagel. A funding application has been submitted for a new film that also explores the impact of coal mining on Sorbian inhabited regions.

4.2.5.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- With regard to private Sorbian-language television programmes, please refer to the comments in 4.2.6.1.i.

ii. Practical measures

- So far, the Saxon state media authority has not issued any licenses for programmes that are exclusively in Sorbian. From time to time, Lausitzwelle (SGS Rundfunkgesellschaft mbH, Hoyerswerda) broadcasts its weekly TV show “Kommentiert” (commented) in Sorbian as well. The programme “Kulturfenster” (cultural window) showcases Sorbian artists and cultural events, too. Furthermore, the reporting consistently addresses matters concerning the Sorbian minority in Lusatia.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- As regards the recommendation of the Committee of Experts to increase the offer of television programmes in Upper Sorbian, in particular in terms of frequency and duration, please refer to the comments made in the mid-term report following the seventh periodical report in D.II.1.
- In addition, it should be stressed that private Sorbian-language programmes are subject to the same funding conditions as private German-language programmes. Specifically, this means that programming cannot be financed from the broadcasting fees. Funding for Sorbian-language projects is available through the Free State of Saxony's budget for supporting local journalism. However, no applications were submitted in any funding category during the 2023/2024 funding period. To date, no such application has been submitted for the 2025/2026 funding period either. Support for Sorbian-language projects could also be available via the Saxon state media authority's funding for non-commercial local broadcasters. No specific funding measures have been foreseen in this area so far.
- It should also be pointed out that, in accordance with section 29 (1) of Saxony's Act on Private Broadcasting (*Sächsisches Privatrundfunkgesetz*), a member of the Sorbian associations is also a member of the assembly of the Saxon state media authority. This central supervisory body plays a crucial role in shaping the diverse landscape of private broadcasting in the Free State of Saxony.

4.2.5.3 Article 11 (1) (d) to (f)

- Regarding Article 11 (1) (d), (e) (i) and (f) (ii), there are no changes to the comments from the previous reporting cycle.

4.2.5.4 Article 11 (2)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- According to the Committee of Experts' seventh evaluation report, the Free State of Saxony has already fulfilled the above-mentioned undertaking. The legal situation has not changed.

- Programmes in Upper Sorbian originating from neighbouring countries are governed by the same retransmission rules as any other programmes from those countries.

ii. Practical measures

- According to the Committee of Experts' seventh evaluation report, the Free State of Saxony has already fulfilled the above-mentioned undertaking. The situation has not changed.
- The Saxon state media authority is not aware of programmes as mentioned above and so has no concerns about obstacles to dissemination or retransmission. However, if circumstances were to change, the authority could intervene within the scope of its legal powers.

4.2.6 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle. Please refer to the relevant sections of the seventh state report.

4.2.7 Article 13 – Economic and social life

There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle. Please refer to the relevant sections of the seventh state report.

4.3 Lower Sorbian in Brandenburg

4.3.1 Article 6 – Information

The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out. The state government's second report on the Sorbian/Wendish people in Brandenburg, presented in June 2024, gives significant attention to the Charter. The Charter was also often referenced during the debate on adopting new undertakings.

4.3.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

4.3.2.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The SPD-BSW government, which ran from December 2024 to January 2026, mentioned the Sorbian/Wendish people as part of the state's vibrant culture in its coalition agreement.

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.2.2 Article 7 (1) (b)

ii. Practical measures

- The exact definition of the Sorbian/Wendish settlement area remains to be finalised. In 2023, the Administrative Court of Cottbus/Chóšebuz made several decisions, but the Council for the Affairs of Sorbs/Wends and the Brandenburg Ministry for Science, Research and Culture submitted applications for leave to appeal.

4.3.2.3 Article 7 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The SPD-BSW government, in power from December 2024 to January 2026, pledged in their coalition agreement to foster Sorbian/Wendish culture and actively work to preserve the Lower Sorbian language.

ii. Practical measures

- Based on section 17 no. 31 of the Coal Regions Investment Act (*Investitionsgesetz Kohleregionen*, InvKG), the department for regional development and minority protection at the Sorbian Institute is implementing the pilot project “Master Plan for the Revitalisation of the Lower Sorbian Language”. As part of this initiative, a steering group

comprising civil society actors and an advisory board consisting of representatives from committees and ministries started their work in 2025.

4.3.2.4 Article 7 (1) (d)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.2.5 Article 7 (1) (e)

ii. Practical measures

- In addition to the measures referred to in the previous reporting cycles, a regular exchange format was established in 2025 between the State Commissioner for Matters related to the Sorbs/Wends in Brandenburg and the newly appointed State Government Commissioner for Sorbian Affairs in Saxony.

4.3.2.6 Article 7 (1) (f)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.2.7 Article 7 (1) (g)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.2.8 Article 7 (1) (h)

ii. Practical measures

- Together with Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus, Brandenburg is currently preparing a Sorbian/Wendish course as part of the elementary school curriculum at the Senftenberg/Zły Komorów campus. Training for students of Sorbian and secondary school teachers will continue to take place at the University of Leipzig and will be supported by the state of Brandenburg with two part-time posts for the Lower Sorbian language.

4.3.2.9 Article 7 (1) (i)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.2.10 Article 7 (2)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- State law continues to be free of discriminatory provisions within the meaning of Article 7 (2) of the Language Charter.

4.3.2.11 Article 7 (3)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out. The multilingualism policy of the Brandenburg Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport (multilingualism policy: an assessment and strategic development of linguistic diversity in the education system in the state of Brandenburg) presents Lower Sorbian as part of the state's cultural heritage and linguistic diversity.

4.3.2.12 Article 7 (4)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.3 Article 8 – Education

4.3.3.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The guidelines of the Brandenburg Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport on the promotion of nurseries with Sorbian/Wendish education (*RL SorbenWenden Kita 2026-2028*) have been revised. The new version of 24 September 2025 extends the funding period from one to three years.

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out. The revised guidelines for the state programme to promote child day-care centres which provide Sorbian/Wendish educational offerings are intended to strengthen the integration of the Sorbian/Wendish language into the children's daily lives and to provide targeted support for the training and qualification of professionals in the field of Sorbian/Wendish language learning – whilst at the same time reducing red tape.
- The programme to promote Lower Sorbian language learning opportunities has been expanded to enable childcare workers to take part in language courses, thereby ensuring the sustainable provision and expansion of Sorbian/Wendish educational offerings.

4.3.3.2 Article 8 (1) (b) (iv)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.3.3 Article 8 (1) (c) (iv)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.3.4 Article 8 (1) (e) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.
Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus is preparing to integrate Sorbian/Wendish into its primary school teaching degree programme at the Senftenberg/Zły Komorów campus from the 2026/27 winter semester. This is intended to make training of primary school teachers in Sorbian/Wendish for grades 1 to 6 more appealing, and will complement teacher training at the University of Leipzig.

4.3.3.5 Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.3.6 Article 8 (1) (g)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.3.7 Article 8 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The state of Brandenburg runs programmes to upgrade the skills of existing staff (intensive language courses, advanced courses, etc.) and offers similar training to other interested teachers and pedagogical staff.

- To ensure that there will be enough Sorbian/Wendish teachers for the future, Brandenburg also promotes the recruitment of new teachers through scholarships and targeted campaigns, and encourages students from a Sorbian/Wendish teacher training institute to work in schools in the Sorbian/Wendish areas. Promotional activities are particularly aimed at graduates of the Lower Sorbian *Gymnasium* (grammar school) in Cottbus/Dolnoserbski gymnazium Chóšebuz. For example, the State Education Office participates in the school's annual educational fair. Also, the rural district of Spree-Neiße / Wokrejs Sprjewja-Nysa and the urban district of Cottbus/Chóšebuz are awarding scholarships for trainee teachers specialising in Sorbian/Wendish in order to encourage interest in that subject area and to help recruit teachers.
- In addition, the Lower Sorbian *Gymnasium* in Cottbus (Dolnoserbski gymnazium Chóšebuz) runs a pedagogy course to spark interest in teacher training.

4.3.3.8 Article 8 (1) (i)

ii. Practical measures

- School and WITAJ teachers of Sorbian/Wendish hold regular interschool expert conferences, with the participation of the Cottbus/Chóšebuz State Education Office, which oversees Sorbian/Wendish education.
- The Council for the Affairs of Sorbs/Wends of the Brandenburg state parliament, the Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports, and the Cottbus/Chóšebuz State Education Office hold regular monitoring discussions.

4.3.4 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

4.3.4.1 Article 9 (1) (a) (ii)

ii. Practical measures

- The Sorbian/Wendish minority's right to use their language in communications with authorities and courts is protected by article 25 of the Brandenburg state constitution, section 8 of the Sorbs/Wends Act and section 184 sentence 2 of the Courts Constitution Act. This means that oral and written applications can be made to the courts in Lower Sorbian in the traditional settlement area. Translation and interpreting costs arising in this context may not be invoiced to the applicants. This provision, as stated in the decrees of 8 June 2018 (ref. 1.3) and 17 May 2024 (ref. 2000-El.009/02), has been brought to the attention of the concerned authorities.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The comments in (i) address the Advisory Committee's complaint in its report of 11 July 2022 that article 8 of the Sorbs/Wends Act did not refer to courts.

- Concerning the Advisory Committee's recommendation in their 11 July 2022 report to implement measures that promote the practical use of Lower Sorbian in court proceedings, no specific measures are known apart from the distribution of a flyer detailing Sorbian/Wendish rights in Brandenburg (*Sorbische/wendische Rechte im Land Brandenburg – Serbske pšawa w kraju Bramborska*), which encourages the use of the Lower Sorbian language.

4.3.4.2 Article 9 (1) (a) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out. The comments on Article 9 (1) (a) (ii) apply accordingly.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The comments on Article 9 (1) (a) (ii) apply accordingly.

4.3.4.3 Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out. The comments on Article 9 (1) (a) (ii) apply accordingly.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The comments on Article 9 (1) (a) (ii) apply accordingly.

4.3.4.4 Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out. The comments on Article 9 (1) (a) (ii) apply accordingly.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The comments on Article 9 (1) (a) (ii) apply accordingly.

4.3.4.5 Article 9 (2) (a)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.5 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

4.3.5.1 Article 10 (1) (a) (iv)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.5.2 Article 10 (1) (a) (v)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.5.3 Article 10 (2) (b)

ii. Practical measures

- Following the initiatives from the last reporting period, Brandenburg's central service portal – service.brandenburg.de – has offered selected administrative services in Lower Sorbian since July 2025. The services provided include those most in demand, such as support for voluntary work, assistance with care, driving licences and business registrations. The portal is implemented under the Online Access Act (*Onlinezugangsgesetz* – OZG). The editorial system “Bürger- und Unternehmensservice Brandenburg (BUS-BB)” used for this purpose has been extended accordingly.

4.3.5.4 Article 10 (2) (g)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The rural district of Dahme-Spree/Wokrejs Dubja-Blota uses its bilingual district name also in non-official communication.
- The Brandenburg Ministry for Infrastructure and Land Planning has thoroughly revised its guidelines on cycling signage, offering support in planning, installing and maintaining a consistent signage system for cycle paths throughout Brandenburg. A new section on bilingual signage has been included, which highlights the need to use the official bilingual place names within the settlement area and the equal status of the German and Lower Sorbian spelling.

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.5.5 Article 10 (3) (b)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.5.6 Article 10 (3) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.5.7 Article 10 (4) (a)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.5.8 Article 10 (5)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- See the comments on the amended naming law in 3.1.2.

4.3.6 Article 11 – Media

4.3.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.6.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.6.3 Article 11 (1) (d)

ii. Practical measures

- Moving forward, all Lower Sorbian content will be gathered on one platform.

- In 2025, the rbb created the interview format “Łužyca im Gespräch” (Lusatia in dialogue), originally intended for the web but also aired on the radio. The aim of the project is to preserve the voices and memories of important contemporary figures.
- Following the initiatives from the last reporting period, the Sorbian-German film network Łužycafilm has been further strengthened; it will receive structural change funds of around 420,000 euros until 2031. This network aids Sorbian-German filmmakers from Lusatia and aims to establish a strong medium-sized film industry.
- The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH provides funding for the development, production, distribution and screening of cinema, TV and serial formats as well as games and other interactive audiovisual media, including those in Lower Sorbian.

4.3.6.4 Article 11 (1) (e) (i)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.6.5 Article 11 (2)

ii. Practical measures

- The rbb broadcasts MDR programmes in Upper Sorbian as part of its own programming.

4.3.7 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.3.7.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.7.2 Article 12 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.3.7.3 Article 12 (1) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- There have been no changes compared with the previous reporting period.

4.3.7.4 Article 12 (1) (d)

ii. Practical measures

- Following the initiatives from the last reporting period, Sorbian/Wendish stakeholders are actively encouraged to apply for project funding from the Lausitz Kulturplan fund. The call for proposals has also been published in Lower Sorbian.

4.3.7.5 Article 12 (1) (e)

ii. Practical measures

- Following the initiatives from the last reporting period, it is important to highlight the immersive language learning project “Zorja”, which is funded by structural change funds. It offers participants job prospects, especially in Sorbian/Wendish institutions and bodies.

4.3.7.6 Article 12 (1) (f)

ii. Practical measures

- Following the initiatives from the last reporting period, Domowina e.V. is represented in workshop 5 “Arts, creative industries, tourism and marketing”, making it part of the central participation procedure for the structural change of Lusatia in Brandenburg.

4.3.7.7 Article 12 (1) (g)

ii. Practical measures

- There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle.

4.3.7.8 Article 12 (1) (h)

ii. Practical measures

- There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle.

4.3.7.9 Article 12 (2)

ii. Practical measures

- There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle.

4.3.7.10 Article 12 (3)

ii. Practical measures

- There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle.

4.3.8 Article 13 – Economic and social life

4.3.8.1 Article 13 (1) (a)

ii. Practical measures

- There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle.

4.3.8.2 Article 13 (1) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle.

4.3.8.3 Article 13 (1) (d)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.
- As part of the structural change process, the image campaign “Die Lausitz. Krasse Gegend” (Lusatia. Terrific region) was translated into Lower Sorbian (“Łužyca. Wjelicna krajina.”) in close consultation with Domowina e.V., thereby helping to raise the profile of the Sorbian/Wendish language within the structural change process.
- In addition, Domowina presented the first Sorbian Economic Award on 11 November 2025, honouring companies and service providers for their outstanding efforts in preserving and promoting the (Lower) Sorbian language. Among the winners in Lower Lusatia is the village shop “Konsum Janšojce” in Jänschwalde/Janšojce.
- For the 2021–2027 funding period of the European Regional Development Fund/Just Transition Fund (ERDF/JTF), the Brandenburg Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour, Energy and Climate Action published an information flyer in Lower Sorbian. Moreover, the ministry aims to provide explanations in Lower Sorbian on the ERDF/JTF website starting in 2026.

4.4 North Frisian in Schleswig-Holstein

4.4.1 Article 6 – Information

The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to section 4.1.1.

4.4.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

4.4.2.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Constitution of the state of Schleswig-Holstein in the version of 02 December 2014 (Gazette of Laws and Ordinances of Schleswig-Holstein, p. 344) (*GVOBl Schl-H.* p. 344), last amended by the Act of 22 October 2024 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p.749) (*GVOBl Schl-H.* p. 749)
- District statutes for Schleswig-Holstein (*Kreisordnung - KO*), in the version of 28 February 2003 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 94), last amended by Article 6 of the Act of 5 February 2025 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 27)
- Statutes for municipal associations in Schleswig-Holstein (*Amtsordnung - AO*), in the version of 28 February 2003 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2003, p. 112), as last amended by Article 3 of the Act of 5 February 2025, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 27
- Municipal statutes for Schleswig-Holstein (*Gemeindeordnung - GO*), in the version of 28 February 2003 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 57), last amended by Article 5 of the Act of 5 February 2025, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 27
- Act on the Commissioner for Refugees, Asylum and Immigration of 28 October 1998 (*Gesetz über die Beauftragte oder den Beauftragten für Flüchtlings-, Asyl- und Zuwanderungsfragen*) (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 1998, p. 320), last amended by Act of 26 January 2024, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 78
- Schleswig-Holstein Schools Act (*Schulgesetz – SchulG*) in the version of 24 January 2007 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 39, corrected p. 276), as last amended by Article 6 of the Act of 29 January 2025, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 17
- Frisian at schools in the district of North Frisia and in Heligoland, decree of the Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture, 1 August 2023 – III 38 (ministry newsletter, Schleswig-Holstein 2023, pp. 312-313) “Frisian at schools in the district of North Frisia and in Heligoland”

- Teacher training Act of Schleswig-Holstein (*Lehrkräftebildungsgesetz Schleswig-Holstein - LehrBG*) of 15 July 2014 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2014, p. 134), as last amended by Article 7 of the Act of 29 January 2025 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no.17)
- State Ordinance Governing the Preparatory Service and State Examinations of Teachers (*Ausbildungs- und Prüfungsverordnung Lehrkräfte - APVO Lehrkräfte*) of 9 December 2023, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 14
- Act to support children in day-care centres and nurseries (*Kindertagesförderungsgesetz - Kindertagesförderungsgesetz - KitaG*) of 12 December 2019, promulgated as Article 1 of the Act to strengthen the quality of childcare and to reduce the financial burden on families and local authorities (Kita reform Act) of 12 December 2019 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 759), in force pursuant to Article 7 (1) sentence 2 of the Act of 12 December 2019 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 759), amended on 1 January 2021 by Article 25 no. 1 of the Act of 8 May 2020 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p.220); last amended by Act of 13 December 2024, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 963
- Directive of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein on the promotion of regional and minority languages in day-care centres and nurseries (*Richtlinie des Landes Schleswig-Holstein zur Förderung von Regional- und Minderheitensprachen in Kindertageseinrichtungen und Kindertagespflege*) produced by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality – 14 December 2022 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2023, p. 184 – in force from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026).
- Act on the Ninth State Treaty amending the provisions of media law in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein – (*Gesetz zum Neunten Staatsvertrag zur Änderung medienrechtlicher Vorschriften in Hamburg und Schleswig-Holstein - 9. MÄStV HSH*) of 29 March 2022, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 320
- General Administrative Act for the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein (*Landesverwaltungsgesetz - LVwG*) in the version published on 2 June 1992 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances pp. 243, 534); last amended by Act of 26 March 2025, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 51
- Signs indicating cycling routes in Schleswig-Holstein; notification by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Employment, Technology and Tourism of 30 May 2023 – VII 339
- Schleswig-Holstein Libraries Act (*Bibliotheksgesetz - BiblG*), promulgated as Article 1 of the Act Governing Libraries in Schleswig-Holstein and Amending the State Press Act (*Gesetz für die Bibliotheken in Schleswig-Holstein und zur Änderung des Landespressegesetzes*) of 30 August 2016 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 791), last amended by

Article 63 of the State Ordinance (LVO) of 27 October 2023, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 514

- Land Planning Act (Landesplanungsgesetz – *LaplaG*) in the version of 27 January 2014 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 8) last amended by the Act of 24 May 2024 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 405)
- Act of the state of Schleswig-Holstein implementing the state treaty to regulate gambling in Germany (Gesetz des Landes Schleswig-Holstein zur Ausführung des Staatsvertrages zur Neuregulierung des Glücksspielwesens in Deutschland – GlüStV; 2021 AG SH) of 2 February 2022 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 92) last amended by Act of 13 December 2024, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances pp. 937–942
- Language Policy Action Plan of the Schleswig-Holstein State Government in the Context of Regional or Minority Languages for the 20th Legislative Period - Identity and Added Value of 23 July 2024
- Note: Regarding media law and further legal provisions, please refer to section E.VI. no. 2 (a) (i) of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- Act on the Establishment of a Corporation under Public Law “Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein” (OKSH Act) of 18 September 2006 Section 6 (4) stipulates that one representative on the advisory board is to be appointed by the minister-president’s minorities commissioner.
- The advisory board of Schleswig-Holstein’s “Offener Kanal” (open channel) is one of the two committees, the other one being the channel’s management. The advisory board has five members. Under section 6 of the OKSH Act, one of these members is appointed by the minister-president’s minorities commissioner. This position is currently filled by a member of the Frisian Council. Another advisory board position, appointed by the media council of the Media Authority for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein (MA HSH), is also filled by a representative of minority languages.
- As part of the amendment of the 17th Amended Interstate Agreement on Broadcasting and the new rules governing the composition of the ZDF Television Board, one position on this supervisory body has been assigned to a representative of the Charter languages from Schleswig-Holstein. The amended ZDF Interstate Treaty provides that the Television Board, which is reduced to 60 members, will comprise, among others, 16 representatives from various social groups who are appointed by the federal states. The Schleswig-Holstein state government has used this development to further increase the presence of regional or minority languages in public media.

4.4.2.2 Article 7 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

ii. Practical measures

- The implementation of existing laws continues; there is no reason to take further action.

4.4.2.3 Article 7 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Funding for the Frisian ethnic group by the state of Schleswig-Holstein increased steadily during the reporting period. In particular, institutional funding for several associations and institutions was increased to enable reliable work on the preservation and maintenance of the Frisian language.
- The state of Schleswig-Holstein also refers to its comments in section E.IV.2.c of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- The Frisian ethnic group receives about 1.6 million euros in annual funding from the state of Schleswig-Holstein. The funds are provided to the Frisian Foundation (Friesenstiftung), thus fulfilling the foundation's purpose and increasing its assets. Of this funding, 481,000 euros are for spending on an educational institution for Frisian teacher training, the development of teaching materials and the expansion of Frisian teaching. Basic expenditure on the teaching of Frisian at schools and universities is not included in this funding. Other areas not included in this funding are Frisian language childcare services in accordance with the Directive of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein on the promotion of regional and minority languages in day-care centres and nurseries (see 4.4.3.1).
- The state of Schleswig-Holstein also refers to its comments in section E.IV.2.c of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.4.2.4 Article 7 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein reports that an evaluation of the 2016 Act implementing the constitutional task of strengthening the national minorities and ethnic groups (*Gesetz zur Umsetzung des Verfassungsauftrags zur Stärkung nationaler Minderheiten und Volksgruppen*) was carried out in 2021, focusing in particular on the use of regional and minority languages in contact with public authorities (parliamentary document 19/3339).

The resulting recommendations are being implemented through various practical measures.

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein has taken various measures to improve skills in regional and minority languages in state authorities and public institutions (see 4.1.5.2).
- Please refer to the comments in E.IV.2.d of Germany's Seventh Report. Those measures are being continued.

4.4.2.5 Article 7 (1) (e)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein promotes contact and dialogue between the North Frisian ethnic group and Frisians in the state of Lower Saxony and the Dutch province of Fryslân. It also promotes contact and dialogue between minorities in Germany and in Europe. For example, since its creation in 2020, the state has supported the Minority Competence Network of Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark (MKN), providing it with institutional and project funding. The network focuses on promoting dialogue between minorities in the German–Danish border region and minorities from other European regions. On several occasions in recent years, the experiences of minorities in the German–Danish border region and of local minority organisations have featured in cooperation projects with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and have been presented to international delegations at various kinds of events. Schleswig-Holstein also supports projects such as the inter-Frisian women's meeting or the Frisian meeting in Heligoland. It also promotes dialogue between academic institutions dealing with minorities and their languages.

ii. Practical measures

- The Frisians are located geographically in North Frisia, mainly on the mainland in the northern district and on the islands of Amrum, Föhr and Sylt. But they speak different dialects and sometimes have different traditions. Most Frisian associations are members of the Frisian Council (Frasche Rädj), an umbrella organisation that coordinates inter-Frisian cooperation and represents the political interests of Frisians. Many Frisian associations on the islands and on the mainland are also members of the North Frisian association (Nordfriesischer Verein) where they cooperate with one another. Such cooperation focuses on the preservation of cultural heritage and language work. For example, the North Frisian association runs seminars on dancing in traditional costume and on sewing traditional North Frisian costumes. The Frisian Council also organises cooperation with the East Frisians in Lower Saxony and the West Frisians in the Netherlands. Such cooperation is well established in the Inter-Frisian Council (Interfriesischer Rat), the chair

of which rotates every three years between representatives of the three main Frisian communities. The Frisians also have contact with other European minorities through the FUEN. The Friisk Foriining association is a member of the FUEN. Finally, there are also close contacts between the North Frisian Institute (Nordfriisk Instituut) and the West Frisian Fryske Akademy in Leeuwarden, Netherlands.

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein has increased the institutional funding of the aforementioned associations through the Frisian Foundation. This funding was distributed as follows at the time of writing in 2025:
 - Frisian Council: 127,900 euros
 - North Frisian Institute: 976,995 euros
 - North Frisian association: 64,000 euros
 - Friisk Foriining association: 96,500 euros
- At the time of writing, the Frisian Foundation was funding the following projects to promote dialogue between North Frisians, among other things:
 - North Frisian association: Language buffet (“Lecker Sprachenbuffet”) – an event presenting various regional and minority languages spoken in North Frisian – 1,805 euros
 - North Frisian association: Seminars on dancing in traditional costume – 2,030 euros
 - North Frisian association: Dancing in traditional costume for children and young people (a three-day seminar with overnight accommodation to learn old Frisian dances) – 7,930 euros
 - North Frisian association: Sewing traditional North Frisian costumes (two seminars on the mainland and the island of Föhr for a total of eight days with approximately 20 participants)
- The Frisian Foundation has also supported the traditional meeting of representatives from the three main Frisian communities (North Frisia, East Frisia and West Frisia) in Heligoland. This meeting is held every three years.
- Frisian Council: Inter-Frisian meeting in Heligoland (funding of 10,000 euros)

4.4.2.6 Article 7 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports that, since 2023, funding has been added to the state budget to establish an institute for developing Frisian teaching materials and curricula along with additional materials.
- Please also refer to 4.4.3 above.

4.4.2.7 Article 7 (1) (g)

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein funds language courses offered by the associations and institutions of the Frisian ethnic group. These include the language course and trial course of the North Frisian association, which have received project funding for many years. Since 2024, the North Frisian Institute has also offered a language course. Since 2024, “Nordfriisk Liirskap”, a department at the North Frisian Institute, has been developing an online language course which is available as a demo version on the Institute’s website (<https://moodle.nordfriiskinstituut.de/>).

4.4.2.8 Article 7 (1) (h)

ii. Practical measures

- At the Europa-Universität Flensburg (EUF), research at the Institute for Frisian Studies and Minority Research covers all topics related to Frisian studies and minority research and places a particular focus on linguistic topics in some areas. All academics at the institute are members of the EUF’s Center for Small and Regional Languages (KURS). The institute also has close contacts with the North Frisian Institute in Bredstedt, the Frisian philology department at Kiel University, the Friese taal- en letterkunde an der Rijksuniversiteit Groningen and the Historical Sociolinguistics Network (HiSoN – currently based in Salzburg, Brussels and Flensburg).
- The Institute for Frisian Studies and Minority Research brings together people and projects dealing with minority issues from a political, historical and sociolinguistic perspective. The teaching offered by the institute focuses on North Frisian, while research also addresses other topics. There are two large, externally funded projects: one researching historical multilingualism in the old Frisian-Danish-Dutch region (with funding from the German Research Foundation DFG for three years); the other researching the cognitive effects of multilingualism among minority language speakers (with funding from the Volkswagen Foundation for two years). In addition, there have been doctoral projects: one on historical multilingualism in Friedrichsstadt (completed in autumn 2025), another on discrepancies between standard language usage and usage among Frisian native speakers, and another on determining effective linguistic areas in Sorbian. More information on current and completed projects can be found on the institute’s website: <https://www.uni-flensburg.de/friesisch/forschung>. Active dialogue and cooperation with the North Frisian Institute still takes place in the course of various projects.
- Kiel University conducts continuous research in the field of Frisian language and literature, regularly cooperating with students as part of research-oriented teaching. On a regular basis, “Us Wurk” (the journal for Frisian studies published in Groningen), the North Frisian Yearbook, and international journals and research editions publish articles

from the Department of Frisian Studies at Kiel University (see the publication lists of the university's researchers on the web pages of the department for Frisian studies: <https://www.isfas.uni-kiel.de/de/frisistik/publikationen>). In 2021, a linguistics PhD was completed on the encoding of direction in North Frisian, with reference to terms denoting cardinal direction and directional particles. The thesis was published in 2023 with the title "Der Kompass der Nordfriesen" (The North Frisian Compass). In early 2025, another doctoral thesis, titled "Die Vierundzwanzig Landrechte" (the twenty-four Land-laws), was written on aspects of medieval Frisian law and old Frisian legal language with the title. Work is underway at the Department of Frisian Studies on three more doctoral theses with linguistic and literary themes: one on literary multilingualism in North Frisian theatre; one on North Frisian literature during the Nazi and post-war era; and one on the syntax of contemporary Föhr Frisian. In 2024, work began on a linguistics and phonetics dissertation focusing on the syntax of Heligoland Frisian. This was conducted at the Institute for Scandinavian Studies, Frisian Studies and General Linguistics (ISFAS). From 2022 to 2025, a post-doctoral project in Frisian studies focused on the grammar of Wangerooge Frisian. And since 2023, a research project has been analysing audio recordings of Karrharde Frisian. Since 2025, several relevant projects have also been carried out by Kiel's Department of Frisian Studies in collaboration with the university library's Specialized Information Service Northern Europe: for example, a pilot project aimed at digitising some of the holdings of the North Frisian dictionary office, and a project to digitise and provide free access to the dictionaries published by the North Frisian dictionary office. An overview of ongoing and planned projects can be found on the web pages of the Department of Frisian Studies (see the section "Forschung und Projekte": <https://www.isfas.uni-kiel.de/de/frisistik/forschung>).

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports that, since 2022, the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) has established a research cluster on the German–Danish border which is currently working on, among other things, a research project looking at language transmission within families in North Frisia. The research cluster also focuses on the linguistic revival of North Frisian.

4.4.2.9 Article 7 (1) (i)

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.4.9.1.

4.4.2.10 Article 7 (2)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The minorities commissioner has repeatedly taken the initiative at federal and European Union level to improve the protection of regional and minority languages in European Union trade mark law (see 3.2.5).

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein also refers to its comments in section E.IV.3.j of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.4.2.11 Article 7 (3)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The state government is committed to the protection and promotion of the regional and minority languages spoken in Schleswig-Holstein (see 4.4.2.1).
- In line with the state constitution, section 4 (6) of Schleswig-Holstein's Act on schools (*Schulgesetz*) stipulates that schools must protect and promote the language of the Frisian ethnic group and raise awareness of its history and culture. Section 4 (6) of the Act on schools states that schools must promote the following: understanding of the importance of 'homeland'; awareness of the contribution made by national minorities and ethnic groups to cultural diversity in Schleswig-Holstein; and respect for the Sinti and Roma minority. It also states that schools must preserve and promote the Low German language.
- This requirement is also fulfilled in the media sector by section 25 (3) of the Interstate Agreement on Broadcasting and Telemedia Services (*Rundfunkstaatsvertrag*, RStV).

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section E.IV.2.k of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.4.2.12 Article 7 (4)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section E.IV.2.l of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.4.3 Article 8 – Education

4.4.3.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Funding for day-care centres in accordance with section 16a (3) of the Act to support children in day-care centres and nurseries (KiTaG).
- Directive of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein on the promotion of regional and minority languages in day-care centres and nurseries, 2023–2026.

ii. Practical measures

- In North Frisia, a total of 55 childcare services providing Frisian language support were provided with an additional 90,594 euros (2023) and 98,200 euros (2024) from federal state funds under the aforementioned Directive. In 2025, funding under the Directive was also made available, within the overall budget, for the childcare services in question. For 2025, the number of childcare services with Frisian language support that qualify for funding will only be determined in mid-2026, when confirmation has been received from local organisations running the services in question.

For more information on developments in funding regional and minority language support at day-care centres and nurseries, see 4.1.3.1.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Preschool language education is offered in day-care centres run by both the public and the private sector. With a total of 55 childcare services providing Frisian language support, it was possible to increase preschool language education in North Frisian. It has also been possible to identify organisations that provide special language support that makes it fun to learn Frisian language and customs in the context of childcare services. This language support is integrated into the daily activities of children in day care, e.g. when sitting together in a circle in the morning or while singing or playing. Talking puppets are a helpful way of teaching the language. The duration of language support depends on the type of service provided and how this is implemented.
- No data are available at state level on additional measures to help ensure that all or a significant proportion of preschool education is provided in Northern Frisian. It is up to the organisations that run day-care centres to assess the implementation and provision of such measures.

4.4.3.2 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to 4.4.3.1.

ii. Practical measures

- In 2023, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein provided total funding of 612,909.98 euros for regional and minority language support at day-care centres and nurseries. This includes funding for Danish, Frisian and Low German. In 2023, 367 childcare services providing language support at day-care centres and nurseries benefited from additional funding under the aforementioned Directive. In 2024, a total of 397 such services were funded under the Directive.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The aim of the additional funding under the state Directive is to familiarise children with the state's regional and minority languages at an early stage and to enable them to participate in the preservation and acquisition of these languages. Since the languages in question are integrated into the daily activities of children in day care, the children are exposed to the language. They are also supported and encouraged as they learn. This happens during everyday situations, such as sitting together in a circle in the morning or while singing or working on projects. The duration of language support depends on the type of service provided and how this is implemented.

4.4.3.3 Article 8 (1) (b) (iv)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Decree of Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture (MBWFK), 1 August 2023 (ministry newsletter, MBWFK, Schleswig-Holstein 2023, pp. 312-313) "Frisian at schools in the district of North Frisia and in Heligoland"

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports that in the 2025/26 school year, Frisian lessons are being offered in 10 schools, two of which are schools for the Danish minority. 740 pupils take part in Frisian lessons.
- In primary schools, Frisian is usually taught up to two hours a week for each age group. At a primary/comprehensive school and at an advanced secondary school (*Gymnasium*), Frisian is offered as an optional subject with four hours of lessons. At the *Gymnasium*, Frisian as a second language is also available, with four hours of lessons at beginner or intermediate level.
- In 2023, the MBWFK funded the translation of a Low German textbook ("Paul un Emma snackt plattdüütsch") into Sylt Frisian ("Paul en Emma snaki Sölring") and Amrum Frisian ("Paul än Emma snååke Öömrang") for use in Frisian teaching at primary schools in Sylt and Amrum. The MBWFK also funded the printing of the translated versions. Furthermore, in cooperation with the institute for quality development at schools in Schleswig-Holstein (IQSH), the MBWFK funded the production of the workbook "Paul an Emma ööwe fering" to accompany the "Paul an Emma snåke fering" textbook, published in 2018, for Frisian teaching at primary schools in Föhr.
- In 2024, the MBWFK funded the translation and dubbing of 24 episodes of the children's programme "KiKaninchen" from Föhr Frisian into mainland Frisian ("KiKaninchen – Teooter").

- In the 2024/25 school year, the MBWFK cooperated with the IQSH to initiate a series of training events, focusing on methodology, for teachers of regional and minority languages. These events were also designed to encourage networking among such teachers. The aim is to continue holding these events during the 2025/26 school year.
- In 2025, in cooperation with “Nordfriisk Liirskap” (a department at the North Frisian Institute) and the Ferring Foundation, the MBWFK organised a Frisian teachers’ day. At this event, discussions were held on the teaching materials developed by Nordfriisk Liirskap and the Ferring Foundation, on forward-planning and on training needs. A similar event is planned for 2026. The Frisian teachers’ day and the aforementioned training events are funded by the IQSH.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports that in November 2023, the North Frisian Institute recruited a research assistant to set up and manage the new language department, “Nordfriisk Liirskap”. In 2024, the Institute recruited additional research and support staff in the fields of pedagogy, Frisian language and administration, as well as a part-time Frisian teacher on secondment for the 2024/25 school year. Thus, from 31 December 2024, a total of 4.13 staff positions at the Nordfriisk Liirskap department were filled.
- Another research institute for Frisian is the Ferring Foundation in Alkersum on the island of Föhr. It focuses on the Föhr and Amrum varieties of Frisian. Here, a staff position worth 80 per cent of full-time hours was created in 2024 for the development of teaching materials and the expansion of Frisian teaching. Two part-time staff members were recruited during the course of the year. In addition, as of 1 February 2024, a Frisian teacher was seconded to the Ferring Foundation on a part-time basis.

The Nordfriisk Liirskap department in Bredstedt has so far produced the following materials:

- For the school years 2024/25 and 2025/26: lesson timetables in all varieties of Frisian and a map titled “North Frisia in Frisian”.
- Work is ongoing on the following materials and projects:
 - A poster featuring the alphabet in the Fering, Fräsch, Öömrang and Sölring varieties of Frisian; and a primary school textbook based on the teaching strategy that has been developed, and suitable for the teaching situations in all participating schools. This collection of materials will be made available to download from a web portal.

Language revival:

- Development of an online language course in Sölring Frisian (level A1–A2)

- A demo version of chapter 1 (of 16) is available on the website of the Nordfriisk Liirskap department (*Lerne Friesisch online*, <https://moodle.nordfriiskinstituut.de/>).

Work conducted by the Nordfriisk Liirskap department aside from Frisian teaching:

- Design and delivery of trial classes in Frisian for school classes and other groups (language exposure)
- A research project in cooperation with the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) on language transmission by grandparents. This is based on an ECMI research project on the transmission of North Frisian by parents to children before primary school age.

Public relations:

- Creation of a flyer aimed at persuading parents of the benefits of Frisian teaching
- Social media (Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/_nordfriisk_instituut_/)

The Ferring Foundation has so far produced the following materials:

- Two beginner-level workbooks for teaching the Föhr and Fering varieties of Frisian at primary schools
- Translation of the above two workbooks for a beginner-level course in Öömrang Frisian
- A song book with musical notation for Frisian teaching in primary schools. The songs are freely available for listening on the website of the Ferring Foundation (<https://ferring-stiftung.de/frsk/aktivitaeten/buken-an-cds/uus-letj-kaat-het-miine-fering-jongensliitjin/>). The book also contains a QR code which can be scanned and leads directly to the songs.
- Translation of a Standard German picture book into a bilingual version to encourage learning of Fering Frisian. The book is aimed at preschool groups at day-care centres and at children in the first two grades of primary school.

Work is ongoing on the following projects and materials:

- Production of a comprehensive pedagogical strategy and textbook for teaching Fering-Öömrang Frisian at upper secondary level
- Development of a booklet aimed at lower secondary level covering three short theatre plays in Fering Frisian
- Compilation of a basic vocabulary list of approximately 1,800 words (German-Frisian) in A4 format for school classes in Fering and Öömrang Frisian. This is aimed at both native speakers and learners.
- Translation and programming of the North Frisian Institute's online language course in Sölring Frisian into Föhr Frisian

- Creation of a teacher's book for the two new primary school courses

Public relations:

- Social media (Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ferringstiftung> and Instagram https://www.instagram.com/ferring_stiftung/) “FriiskFunk” radio programme
- The Nordfriisk Liirskap department of the North Frisian Institute and the Ferring Foundation cooperate very closely. This led to the creation of a shared logo for Nordfriisk Liirskap, which is used for publications. The department also maintains close contact with Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture (MBWFK). All institutions are also in close contact with the Frisian teachers.
- In 2022, 2023 and 2024, the MBWFK funded the printing and fees for the production of a workbook by the Ferring Foundation for teaching Frisian at primary schools on the island of Föhr.
 - 2022: “Diar sweemd en müs uun't moolkkoon” (A mouse is swimming in the milk can)
 - 2023: “Dibe-dibe-dap! at kikanink snaaket fering” (Dibe-dibe-dap! The rabbit speaks Fering Frisian)
 - 2024: “Uun a oterbaanker-berger” (In the hills of the underground folk)
 - The MBWFK also funded the translation and printing of the two workbooks in Öömrang Frisian.

4.4.3.4 Article 8 (1) (c) (iv)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Decree of Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture (MBWFK), 1 August 2023 (ministry newsletter, MBWFK, Schleswig-Holstein 2023, pp. 312-313) “Frisian at schools in the district of North Frisia and in Heligoland”.

ii. Practical measures

- Regarding currently available teaching, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to 4.4.3.3 ii.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports on these measures in 4.4.3.3 (iii).

4.4.3.5 Article 8 (1) (e) (ii)

ii. Practical measures

- North Frisian can be studied in Schleswig-Holstein at Kiel University (CAU) and the Europa-Universität Flensburg (EUF). The cooperation of these two universities with Rijksuniversiteit Groningen and the Fryske Academy in Leeuwarden, as well as with the North Frisian Institute and the Ferring Foundation (Alkersum/Föhr) ensures that academic research on the Frisian language is conducted.
- The department of Frisian studies at Kiel University has a position for a junior professor for Frisian studies from 1 October 2024 until 30 September 2030, and the EUF has a position for a senior professor in minority research, minority education and North Frisian.
- The two-subject bachelor's degree programme offered by Kiel University, with a subsidiary course, is aimed at students who plan to start a career or continue in higher education after completing their degree. In addition to extensive knowledge of the historical development, geographical distribution and current situation of North Frisian, teaching focuses on grammar, literature, and the position of North Frisian as a minority language in Schleswig-Holstein and Europe. Teaching at Kiel University concentrates on the North Frisian varieties of Mooring or Bökingharde Frisian (mainland North Frisian) and Fering-Öömrang or Föhr-Amrum Frisian (island North Frisian). The two-subject master's degree programme mainly prepares students for a career in academic institutions. Students on the programme acquire in-depth technical knowledge and specific technical methods in the field of empirical and theoretical research into Frisian, and in other academic work within Frisian studies. They also acquire the ability to apply this knowledge and methodology to other fields (such as teaching, media studies, cultural studies and political science). Frisian teacher training is offered at Kiel University as a subsidiary course, qualifying candidates to teach at advanced secondary schools and in the field of business studies. The subsidiary course gives students the opportunity to obtain the teaching qualification for a third subject.
- At the EUF, Frisian language and Frisian studies can be studied as a main subject as part of the German course (16 hours a week per semester over two semesters) or as a learning area (6 hours a week per semester over two semesters) or as part of the Master's course in primary education. Since 2024, it can also be studied as a subsidiary third subject. The subsidiary subject is taught for 4 hours a week per semester over six semesters.

On the whole, the EUF specialises in teacher training, with most of the Frisian students going on to become teachers in primary and comprehensive schools. Their Frisian studies prepare them well to teach Frisian language and culture.

4.4.3.6 Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in E.IV.3.f.i of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- Adult education institutes (*Volkshochschulen und Bildungsstätten*) offer language activities and courses in Frisian (e.g. the Föhr, Husum and Amrum varieties). Current information on courses can be found at www.sh.kursportal.info. Other education institutes (*Bildungsstätten*) also offer language activities and courses in Frisian.

4.4.3.7 Article 8 (1) (g)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.1.3.9.iii.

4.4.3.8 Article 8 (1) (h)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to this undertaking, Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.4.3.5.
- At the EUF, it is also possible to obtain a certificate to teach Frisian at schools by completing an additional training course (two modules of four hours a week per semester, usually over two semesters). The curriculum for this certificate has been adapted in recent years to better meet the needs and preferences of future teachers. One strong preference remains that the EUF certificate should also be given partial credit during the teacher training period. However, it must first be clarified whether Frisian can be offered in primary and comprehensive schools as a proper school subject and not just as an optional club activity. The training opportunities offered by the EUF are generally not taken up by qualified teachers, mainly because Flensburg (where the university is based) is not part of the North Frisian language area, so the travelling involved makes the prospect less attractive.

4.4.3.9 Article 8 (1) (i)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports on the establishment of a supervisory body that monitors progress in the teaching of regional and minority languages (including

North Frisian) and that regularly publishes reports on this. For more information, see 4.1.3.11.

4.4.3.10 Article 8 (2)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- In its evaluation of Germany's Seventh Report, the Committee of Experts notes the following: "There is also no teaching in or of North Frisian outside the area where the language is traditionally used. Therefore, the undertaking 8.2 is considered not fulfilled." In response, Schleswig-Holstein would like to point out that there is no demand for North Frisian teaching outside the area of the Frisian minority.

4.4.4 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

4.4.4.1 Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein would like to explain that the undertaking is fulfilled by the current legal situation – see section 142 (3) sentence 1 and section 144 (1) sentence 1, second alternative, of the Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*, ZPO) in conjunction with section 1 (4) of Schleswig-Holstein's Frisian Act.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.1.4.1.

4.4.4.2 Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.1.4.2.

4.4.4.3 Article 9 (2) (a)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.1.4.3.

4.4.5 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

4.4.5.1 Article 10 (1) (a) (v)

ii. Practical measures

- In the remit of the Ministry of Finance, the tax offices, as a direct contact point between citizens and the tax administration, have an important role to play with regard to the Language Policy Action Plan. Some tax offices, especially in the North Frisian language areas, have staff with North Frisian language proficiency. At these offices, tax payers may submit documents in the respective languages (see section E.IV.5.a of Germany's Seventh Report).
- Staff in tax offices who speak Frisian wear a badge to encourage visitors to speak to them in Frisian.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the implementation of the Act to Improve Online Access to Administrative Services (*Onlinezugangsgesetz, OZG*), Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 3.2.2.

4.4.5.2 Article 10 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Since Germany's Seventh Report, no innovations have been made in this area in Schleswig-Holstein.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein allows its administrative authorities to publish documents in regional and minority languages; and the administrative authorities are indeed doing this, as already mentioned in the Seventh Language Report. Many administrative authorities lack staff with the appropriate language skills, particularly in North Frisian, and this presents a challenge. To address this and other challenges, Schleswig-Holstein's 2022 decree on publishing job vacancies stressed the importance of regional and minority languages in the public administration. In this context, the templates used for publishing job vacancies have been adapted to encourage applications from candidates with knowledge of regional and minority languages. See also 4.1.5.2.
- The following example, concerning the Schleswig-Holstein police, demonstrates the interest staff have in acquiring or improving their language proficiency in Frisian: Staff among the Schleswig-Holstein police on the island of Föhr have taken part in private Frisian language courses. There is clearly interest in receiving training in this minority

language. In view of the regional nature of the language, training must always be carried out by a local provider. This is necessary because the Frisian dialects, e.g. those of Bredstedt, Risum-Lindholm, Föhr and Sylt, are each very distinctive. The costs for this training would be reimbursed on a case-by-case basis. But so far there have been no applications for reimbursement.

4.4.5.3 Article 10 (2) (g)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Signs are displayed in Standard German and Frisian in all branches of the North Frisian tax office, and this helps to raise awareness of Frisian minority languages among the local majority population.
- The decree on unofficial signs indicating cycling routes in Schleswig-Holstein (*Radverkehrswegweisung in Schleswig-Holstein*) made it possible to indicate cycling routes and destinations in German and Frisian in the district of North Frisia. The decree was issued on 30 May 2023 by Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Labour, Technology and Tourism.
- Please also refer to the comments in section E.IV.5.c of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.4.5.4 Article 10 (4) (c)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- If an employee of Schleswig-Holstein's public administration should request such an appointment, the scope for complying with the request will be examined. However, as previously stated in Germany's Seventh Report, no such requests have yet been made within the public administration at federal state level. It is therefore not possible to provide the Advisory Committee with any new data on this.
- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein also refers to its comments in section E.IV. of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.4.5.5 Article 10 (5)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- On 1 May 2025, the Act to Amend the Law on Married Names and Birth Names and International Law on Names (*Gesetz zur Änderung des Ehenamens- und des Geburtsnamensrechts und des Internationalen Namensrechts*) entered into force. It had been adopted on 14 June 2024. The legislative changes address, among other things, the specific name-related concerns of the Danish, Frisian and Sorbian minorities. (See 3.1.2)

ii. Practical measures

- The staff of civil registry offices are given extensive training on the many new options for choosing names according to the traditions of national minorities and are able to register births accordingly.

4.4.6 Article 11 – Media

4.4.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 4.1.6.1 i.

ii. Practical measures

- The regional broadcaster Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) broadcasts programmes in Frisian on its local channel NDR Welle Nord. Examples include the following:
 - Frisian for all – audio podcast, also broadcast on the local station NDR1 Welle Nord on Wednesdays at 20:15, see <https://www.ndr.de/wellenord/frasch-for-enarken-friesisch-fuer-alle,podcast4978.html>

“Frasch for enarken” – Frisian for all | ndr.de

 - Subregional hour-long broadcasts in Frisian two to three times a year
 - Magazine show for the Schleswig–Flensburg region with moderation and various reports in Frisian
- For 15 years, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, and subsequently the Frisian Foundation, have supported the Ferring Foundation’s project “FriiskFunk”, which is a private radio programme. Most of the funding is provided by the Ferring Foundation, which also has its own radio studio in its building in Alkersum on the island of Föhr. It produces a daily two-hour broadcast in Frisian with current regional news and reports. FriiskFunk mainly uses the Fering variety of Frisian (spoken on the island of Föhr) but also broadcasts reports in mainland Frisian. The programme is broadcast every weekday morning on the open channel “Westküste” (west coast) and repeated in the afternoon. This covers the entire area of North Frisia. However, the reach of these broadcasts is actually much wider as they are also available online. The Ferring Foundation receives messages from Frisian listeners around the world who like to get their news about North Frisia in the Frisian language.
- The FriiskFunk project currently receives 50,000 euros in funding.
- In addition, FriiskFunk’s 15th anniversary event received 9,500 euros in funding.

- For four years, the Frisian Foundation has funded the production of a monthly podcast in the mainland variety of Frisian. This project currently receives funding of 14,325 euros from the Friisk Foriining association.
- In addition, the Ferring Foundation regularly provides funding for audio productions in Frisian. A podcast funded by the Frisian Foundation, which received 23,446 euros in 2024, focused on the history of emigration from the Frisian community of Föhr to the United States (podcast: Föhr to New York). The podcast was released in both German and Frisian.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- In response to the Committee of Experts' recommendation for immediate action (in its evaluation of Germany's Mid-Term Report following the Seventh Report), that further steps should be taken "to increase the offer of programmes in North Frisian in broadcasting media with sufficient frequency and duration", the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to the requirement under Article 5 of Germany's Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*, GG) for non-intervention in broadcasting by the government. Schleswig-Holstein also refers to the existing offer of programmes listed above.

4.4.6.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 4.1.6.1 i.

ii. Practical measures

- Under section 2 (1) of the 2006 State Act on the Establishment of a Corporation under Public Law "Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein" (*Gesetz über die Errichtung einer Anstalt öffentlichen Rechts "Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein"*, OK-Gesetz), the Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein must contribute to the promotion of minority languages. It does so extensively.
- During the reporting period, this was done through the following measures (among others):
 - FriiskFunk, as a partner of the Ferring Foundation, maintains a three-member radio production team to create a daily two-hour programme in the Frisian language, broadcast on WestküsteFM.
 - Since the end of September 2010, FriiskFunk, which operates from a studio in Alkersum on the island of Föhr, has broadcast a daily programme, predominantly in Frisian, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on WestküsteFM's VHF and DAB+ frequencies. The programme is repeated from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. FriiskFunk is a Frisian local daily radio programme that provides news and items of interest about the islands of Föhr and

Amrum. It is produced and moderated by a team of staff who themselves come from those islands.

- FriiskFunk runs a professional radio production and broadcasting studio in Alkersum, Föhr, in a building belonging to its partner, the Ferring Foundation. It broadcasts its programme on the open channel “Westküste” (OKWK).
- November 2025: A podcast was produced together with the Friisk Foriining association in the Jaruplund Højskole education centre.
- February 2025: A mobi recording was made titled “Miteinander reden” (talk to each other). The north branch of the Frisian Council (Frasche Rädj) hosted a traditional reception.

4.4.6.3 Article 11 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 4.1.6.1 i.

ii. Practical measures

- Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) has a new programme called “Unerwais – Unterwegs mit Friesen” (out and about with Frisians), which follows the everyday lives of Frisian people. The programmes are recorded in Frisian with Standard German subtitles. Furthermore, in cooperation with the Ferring Foundation and Honig & Gold, NDR produced the podcast “Föhr nach New York” (Föhr to New York), focusing on the history of emigration from the Frisian community to the United States and back again, using a particular family’s history as an example. This format is available online in Frisian and Standard German. Episodes are also adapted for radio and television.
- In accordance with its statutes and policies, the Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein Film Fund (MOIN FFHSH) provides funding for documentary and fictional films on the basis of artistic and business considerations. The production of audiovisual works in the Frisian language can be supported by the Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein Film Fund on the basis of its current regulations. The film “Amrum” by Fatih Akin, which premiered in Cannes in May 2025 and has been shown in German cinemas since the beginning of October 2025, was mostly shot in the Öömrang variety of Frisian. It is shown with Standard German subtitles.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section E.IV6. c of Germany’s Seventh Report. Furthermore, episodes of FriiskFunk from 2017 onwards can be accessed via the programme’s media library:

<https://www.oksh.de/hoeren/mediathek/?station=Westk%C3%BCste+FM&show=FriiskFunk&topic=&date=&keyword=&search=Suchen>.

- The 15th anniversary of FriiskFunk was covered in the “Schleswig-Holstein Magazin” programme on NDR television. The programme is available in the ARD media library: <https://www.ardmediathek.de/video/schleswig-holstein-magazin/15-jahre-friiskfunk-jubilaumsfeier-auf-foehr/ndr/Y3JpZDovL25kci5kZS85YjA2MjA1ZC1kZmZhLTQwNDEtODA4Ni1jZTYyYjhiYjUzMGY>.

4.4.6.4 Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Since Germany’s Seventh Report was submitted, newspapers published in North Frisia have discontinued their Frisian-language news reporting. This was due to lack of interest on the part of publishers and lack of resources among the Frisian community. Owing to freedom of the press, the state government’s scope for action in this area is very limited.

ii. Practical measures

- The Committee of Experts continues to recommend that the regular publication of newspaper articles, including online articles, in North Frisian be made easier. Schleswig-Holstein refers to freedom of the press and freedom of reporting as set out in Article 5 (1) of the Basic Law.
- The newspaper Di Måringer Krädjer (published by the Ostermooring Frisian association) continues to receive funding from the Frisian Foundation in Schleswig-Holstein. Other association magazines, some of which have Frisian-language content (Nordfriesland, Nordfriesisches Jahrbuch, Zwischen Eider and Wiedau), are financed through the institutional funding granted to Frisian clubs and associations.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein remains committed to its undertaking within the existing legal framework; see the comments above.

4.4.6.5 Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The existing practice from the previous monitoring cycles is continuing. Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section E.IV.6.c. of Germany’s Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- In 2024 and 2025, the Frisian Foundation in Schleswig-Holstein funded two projects to produce music albums. One of the projects included two new recordings of folk songs in the Fering and Öömrang varieties of Frisian. The other music album, which is still in preparation, will comprise some 14 songs in Fering Frisian. The album will be a mixture of traditional and contemporary songs in Fering Frisian. A professionally-made music video will also be released to show what North Frisian music is capable of and to improve the reach of the album beyond the local region. There are also plans to use music streaming platforms for this purpose.
- Regarding funding of podcast projects, please see our comments in 4.4.6.1 ii.

4.4.6.6 Article 11 (2)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Germany's Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*, GG) guarantees freedom of information, including the reception of radio and television programmes.

4.4.7 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.4.7.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports on the funding measures taken:
 - The theatre association Et Nordfriisk Teooter has received institutional funding from the Frisian Foundation since 2022. The current funding of 107,000 euros helps the association to pursue its cultural aims in operating a modern Frisian theatre. The association puts on contemporary shows, Frisian readings, musicals and theatre activities for children and young people. It also provides a space for experimental productions in Frisian.
 - The women's group "Frasche Loosche" (Frisian larks) and the Frisian theatre group "Frasch Klüüs" of the Ostermooring Frisian association also receive annual funding from the Frisian Foundation. This funding is in the lower four-digit range of euros.
 - The North Frisian association also receives regular funding to run its seminars on dancing in traditional costume and on sewing traditional costumes (island and mainland styles).
 - Funding is also provided to one-off projects, such as the production of a documentary about Hans Momsen, a North Frisian personality, and film accompaniments to Frisian events in the field of sport or international meetings.

- In 2025, for the first time, the Frisian Foundation funded the newly founded theatre association Hoftheater Föhr, providing 23,100 euros for the project “Friesische Theaterstücke am Hoftheater Föhr” (Frisian plays at the Hoftheater Föhr). The theatre will specialise in putting on original plays about Frisian issues, and featuring Frisian language. In 2025, the theatre’s first productions were the monologue “Jonk Bradlep” and the Christmas tale “Der glückliche Matthias” in Frisian language, with some young amateurs among the cast. In addition, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein is using theatre funds from the state ministry of education to provide 11,000 euros for the production “My Feer Lady”.
- Please also refer to the comments in section E.IV.7 of Germany’s Seventh Report.

4.4.7.2 Article 12 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Federal and state funding for implementing undertakings under the Language Charter.

ii. Practical measures

- The institutions of the Frisian ethnic group, especially the North Frisian Institute (Nordfriisk Instituut; NFI), can also make use of funds from the state of Schleswig-Holstein for the translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling of works in or into the Frisian language. The NFI publishes magazines and books in German and Frisian via its own publishing house and in cooperation with other publishers. In its almost 70-year history, the North Frisian Institute association (Verein Nordfriesisches Institut) has funded various forms of access to Frisian-language literature in cooperation with other Frisian associations. Such cooperation has included the translation of North Frisian works into other languages. A small number of bilingual books (German-Frisian) have been published. Frisian-language radio content is occasionally dubbed or translated into German; music CDs containing Frisian songs are accompanied by translations into Standard German. With one exception, Frisian dictionaries only contain the German equivalents in order to enable access to the North Frisian language.
- The theatre association Et Nordfriisk Teooter, which produces plays in the Frisian language, has begun surtitling its performances in German. This step significantly expands the reach of the productions and of contemporary Frisian-language theatre literature. Surtitling allows people with little or no Frisian language skills or with hearing impairments to understand the theatre performances.
- In 2022, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein provided 100,000 euros in funding to set up a Frisian cultural centre in Risum-Lindholm. At that time, the meeting hall of the Friisk Foriining association could no longer be used for association activities. This was due to building work and because the association’s right to use the premises had expired. The association therefore planned to set up a cultural centre in a building of the Risum school

(Risem Schölj), which at that time was not in use. The building had previously been used as accommodation for head teachers and was undergoing structural repair and renovation. Establishing the centre on these premises centralised and strengthened Frisian-language work with children and young people. The youth consultant was provided with an office in Risum. Children and infants' groups were also set up at the school. Since then, the site has also been used for theatre, sport and as a starting point for excursions. Finally, the premises serve as a venue for meetings and language courses. The cultural centre thus provides a space for club activities and a focal point for Frisian life in the local area.

4.4.7.3 Article 12 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in E.IV.12 of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.4.7.4 Article 12 (1) (d)

ii. Practical measures

- By providing federal state funding, Schleswig-Holstein ensures that knowledge and use of traditional language and culture are maintained in the cultural activities of the Frisian language community. All Frisian cultural events are organised by associations and institutions funded by the Frisian Foundation. Those responsible for running the associations and their committees all speak the Frisian language.

4.4.7.5 Article 12 (1) (e)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Since Germany submitted its Seventh Report, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein has significantly increased institutional funding for a number of key clubs and associations of the North Frisian ethnic group. This measure was aimed at ensuring that offices were adequately staffed and that work in various fields was carried out more professionally. In the interests of autonomy, clubs and associations are responsible for recruiting their own staff and have a strong interest in recruiting staff with Frisian language skills. See also 4.4.7.4.

4.4.7.6 Article 12 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The Frisian ethnic group and its language and culture are part of Schleswig-Holstein's identity and cultural heritage. Ensuring publicity and appreciation for this fact is a high priority for the government of Schleswig-Holstein. For this reason, the associations of the Frisian ethnic group in Schleswig-Holstein, together with the other minorities, are regularly involved in events and other measures to promote the state of Schleswig-

Holstein. For example, the minority communities were given the opportunity to present themselves at the 2025 open day of the state parliament, and at a festival celebrating the 75th anniversary of the state of Schleswig-Holstein in 2021. A series of films about the minority communities and their languages is currently being produced by the state government as part of an image campaign.

ii. Practical measures

- At the festival celebrating the 75th anniversary of the state of Schleswig-Holstein, the minorities had the opportunity to present themselves in their own “pavilions”. This gave them a central place among the other participants and institutions. The minorities also had the opportunity to present themselves at the 2025 open day of Schleswig-Holstein’s state parliament: each minority had its own stand in the parliament building.
- In 2025, the state government will produce a series of short films about minorities and their languages and cultures, to be broadcast on various state communication channels. Particular attention will also be paid to recordings in minority languages, and the minorities themselves will be involved in the subtitling of the films.

4.4.7.7 Article 12 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please also refer to the comments in section E.IV.e of Germany’s Seventh Report.
- In addition, several minority libraries have been added to the Schleswig-Holstein Libraries Act (*Bibliotheksgesetz*, BiblG): the Danish central library for South Schleswig (Dansk Centralbibliotek for Sydslesvig) has been added as a public library under section 3 (1) of the Act; and the libraries of the Ferring Foundation on the island of Föhr and of the North Frisian Institute in Bredstedt have been added as academic libraries under section 4 (1) of the Act.

ii. Practical measures

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section E.IV.7.g. of Germany’s Seventh Report.

4.4.7.8 Article 12 (1) (h)

ii. Practical measures

- This provision is implemented indirectly through state funding from the North Frisian Institute. The NFI receives requests to produce translations and fulfils these requests to the extent possible with available resources (larger translation jobs are done for a fee, while shorter jobs are done as a complimentary service). In this context, neologisms may

sometimes need to be coined in order to translate certain terms. This is carried out on an ad hoc basis as and when required.

- The Ferring Foundation in Alkersum on the island of Föhr also regularly translates texts, paragraphs and sentences into Fering Frisian. These translations are usually done for private use, for the work of the foundation or in the context of projects funded by the Frisian Foundation. Professional translation services are not requested from the foundation. However, the Ferring Foundation has launched the “fering Auersaater” project, which aims to investigate how reliable machine translation is for the Frisian language and how it is used (see the project website: <https://auersaater.de/>). Numerous “new” words have been introduced for “fering Auersaater”, particularly in the example translations. However, these were not really neologisms in the strict sense. Most of the words were already used in speech and just had to be given appropriate spelling, especially if they were loanwords.
- The creation of bilingual signage for use in the administrative building (Amtsgebäude) of the town of Wyk on Föhr (September 2024) required some coining of new terms. For instance, the German word *Nachhaltigkeit* (sustainability) became *eferhualighaid* in Frisian. The response to this new term has been mixed. Another bilingual signage project is to follow, this time on the island of Amrum.

4.4.7.9 Article 12 (2)

ii. Practical measures

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to section E.IV.7.i. in Germany’s Seventh Report.

4.4.7.10 Article 12 (3)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- It is also important to the Schleswig-Holstein government to project the state’s cultural and linguistic diversity on an international stage. The coalition agreement between the current parties of government therefore also contains a clause on strengthening Schleswig-Holstein’s role as an international pioneer in the protection of minorities.

ii. Practical measures

- Since 2022, the minorities commissioner of the state of Schleswig-Holstein has been working to establish a European language institution to protect and research regional and minority languages. To this end, in 2023 and 2024, the minorities commissioner wrote several letters to the European Commission (DG Innovation, Research, Education, Culture and Youth at the Commission’s representation in Germany) to encourage the establishment of such an institution.

- In June 2025, a representative of Schleswig-Holstein's state chancellery took part in the FUEN Forum of the European Minority Regions in Novi Sad, Serbia, and reported on the added value of minorities in the German–Danish border region. She also reported on the linguistic and cultural diversity of the region.
- In November 2025, the minorities commissioner hosted an event at the Schleswig-Holstein's representation in Brussels to discuss the lack of protection of regional and minority languages in EU trade mark law, starting with cases concerning the North Frisian language. The event was attended by representatives from the fields of politics and academia, from various European minority associations, from the German Patent and Trademark Office and from the European Union Intellectual Property Office. Participants discussed the problem of the legislative gap in the protection of regional and minority languages and possible ways to improve the situation. Since 2021, the minorities commissioner has been working to improve the protection of regional and minority languages in this context and has also been raising the issue at EU level. Please also refer to the comments in 3.2.5.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The Seventh Evaluation Report on Germany contains the following recommendation: “Make provision in cultural policy abroad for North Frisian and the culture it reflects, in particular at federal level.” Schleswig-Holstein suggests that the federal level should contribute to this under its own responsibility.

4.4.8 Article 13 – Economic and social life

4.4.8.1 Article 13 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The applicable laws of the Federal Republic of Germany are consistent with this undertaking. Accordingly, the provision is already fulfilled throughout Germany with regard to all regional or minority languages.

4.4.8.2 Article 13 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The legal system in Germany prohibits such restrictions. This provision is thus already being complied with nationwide in respect of all regional or minority languages.

4.4.8.3 Article 13 (1) (d)

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to section E.I.IV.8.c. in Germany's Seventh Report.

4.4.9 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

4.4.9.1 Article 14 (a)

ii. Practical measures

- The Institute for Scandinavian Studies, Frisian Studies and General Linguistics at the University of Kiel maintains a close and active relationship with academics working on Frisian studies at the University of Groningen and the Fryske Akademy in Leeuwarden. For example, Kiel's department of Frisian studies cooperates with the University of Groningen to publish a series of scholarly papers (Estrikken / Ålstråke). The department of Frisian studies is also represented on the editorial board of the Frisian studies magazine "Us Wurk", published by the University of Groningen. In 2022, the department cooperated with academics working on Dutch Frisian studies to publish the commemorative work "From West to North Frisia: A Journey along the North Sea Coast. Frisian studies in honour of Jarich Hoekstra" as a special edition of the journal NOWELE. At present, the department of Frisian studies is participating in the book project "Redbad, King of Which Frisians? The Frisian lands in the Early Middle Ages" [working title], which was jointly created by academics from German and Dutch institutions. Kiel University students often do their internship at the Fryske Akademy or Groningen university as part of the two-subject master's programme in Frisian studies. This leads to plenty of interaction among the students. Trips to the Netherlands are offered for bachelor's students to encourage such interaction. Lecturers in Frisian studies regularly attend academic meetings ("Conference on Frisian Humanities", "Dei fan de Fryske taalkunde") and lectures in the province of Fryslân. And Dutch Frisian students regularly present their research results in the "Frisian studies forum" – a series of lectures at Kiel University (for example in WiSe 2023/2024, SoSe 2024 and WiSe 2024/2025).
- Staff at the Europa-Universität Flensburg (EUF) are regularly invited to speak about North Frisian or European minority languages. This also applies to foreign groups, for example in the context of training trips organised by the Minority Competence Network of Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark (MKN). Cooperation and exchanges with West Frisia have not yet come to fruition due to logistical and scheduling issues. There is more contact with the German minority in Denmark and with the Sorbs in Brandenburg. And there are also better links with the sociolinguistic situation of the North Frisians (the situation in West Frisia is very different from that in North Frisia).
- Furthermore, in 2024, staff from the then newly founded institute DINGtiid in Leeuwarden visited the relevant departments of Schleswig-Holstein's state chancellery and Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture, as well as institutions of the North Frisian ethnic group.

4.5 Sater Frisian in Lower Saxony

4.5.1 Article 6 – Information

The inter-party and interministerial working group for Low German and Sater Frisian (Interfraktionelle und Interministerielle AG Niederdeutsch und Saterfriesisch; InterAG) is based in Lower Saxony. The InterAG is chaired by the Lower Saxony Heritage Association (Niedersächsischer Heimatbund; NHB) and the working groups of the regional associations in Lower Saxony (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Landschaften und Landschaftsverbände; ALViN). It meets regularly several times a year with representatives from the respective parties of the Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands (CDU, Christian Democratic Union of Germany), the Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (SPD, Social Democratic Party of Germany) and BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN (Alliance 90/The Greens); the Freie Demokratische Partei (Free Democratic Party, FDP) is not represented in the current state parliament). The InterAG also meets with the University of Oldenburg, the State Centre for Low German (Länderzentrum für Niederdeutsch gGmbH) and the relevant state ministries. Guests may also take part depending on the topic under discussion. The aim is to engage in regular dialogue on Low German and Sater Frisian and to promote and preserve these languages.

On 21 September 2017, the parliamentary groups of the SPD, BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN, CDU and FDP parties unanimously adopted the InterAG motion for a resolution titled “Förderung für Niederdeutsch und Saterfriesisch verstetigen und weiter ausbauen” (Funding for Low German and Saterfriesisch to be consolidated and further developed) (document 17/8757). The motion was based on a proposal from the InterAG. The Lower Saxony state parliament issued 14 requests for action to the state government. The main aim of this resolution is to create opportunities to learn and develop proficiency in the languages of the Charter. The objectives set out in the 2017 motion for a resolution are being pursued and developed further.

4.5.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

The comments made in the previous periodical report regarding Article 7 (1) (b) and (c) and Article 7 (2) to (4) still apply.

4.5.2.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The municipality of Saterland has replaced the single-language signage in the town hall with a bilingual one.

4.5.2.2 Article 7 (1) (d)

ii. Practical measures

- The Seeltersk-Kontoor is distributing stickers bearing the text “Yie Seeltersk bale” to encourage the use of Sater Frisian.
- The “LISTEN” project, run by the Seeltersk-Kontoor, encourages associations, organisations and individuals to speak their native language.

4.5.2.3 Article 7 (1) (e)

ii. Practical measures

- Young people from Saterland have taken part in exchange programmes alongside young people from other linguistic minorities.
- The Sater Frisian language was also taken into account at international conferences such as the Conference on Frisian Humanities (November 2025).

4.5.2.4 Article 7 (1) (f)

ii. Practical measures

- In the 2023 financial year, the memory game “Twee Tosamen”, which is already available in Lower Saxony and widely used, was translated into Sater Frisian (“Dubbeld Plezier”) as part of the joint funding between the Land of Lower Saxony (approximately 7,500 euros) and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (approximately 14,900 euros).
- Since the last report, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and the federal state of Lower Saxony have jointly funded the update and standardisation of spelling, as well as the addition of words to the Sater Frisian language website and app in 2024, providing 20,000 and 10,000 euros respectively.
- In the 2025 financial year, as part of the joint funding of the Land of Lower Saxony (10.000 euros) with the BKM (20.000 euros), the Sater Frisian dictionary portal website and the app were updated/extended and a teaching trail on the Sater Frisian language was set up at Maiglöckchensee in Scharrel (see also no. 3.7).
- Each year, the “Platt is cool/Seeltersk moaked klouk” campaign creates educational resources in Sater Frisian, such as learning cards, posters, children’s books, postcards, and craft materials. These are made available free of charge to all schools and nursery schools in Saterland.

4.5.2.5 Article 7 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Since the last report, Lower Saxony has provided a further 2,500 euros of funding for a training course for those interested in Sater Frisian. The course is designed to support teachers and staff in nursery schools and schools. This has enabled the development of a course infrastructure, which is now no longer funded by the federal state. Around 200 people have participated in a Sater Frisian course over the last four years thanks to these grants.

4.5.2.6 Article 7 (1) (h)

ii. Practical measures

- The Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg and the University of Münster both offer an intensive Sater Frisian course every year. The Seeltersk-Kontoor supports them in this regard. With the support of the Seeltersk-Kontoor, some courses were also held in Sater Frisian at the University of Bremen, the Europa-Universität Flensburg and the NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands.

4.5.2.7 Article 7 (1) (i)

ii. Practical measures

- The Fryske Akademy in Leeuwarden (Netherlands) has provided translation services for various Frisian projects, including websites and dictionary portals.
- In 2025, researchers from North Frisia, Fryslân Province and Saterland came together to form an Inter-Frisian academic working group.

4.5.3 Article 8 – Education

4.5.3.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Since 2011, a supervisory body has monitored how Lower Saxony is meeting the education-related requirements set by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The body is composed of a representative each of the Ministry of Education (Kultusministerium), the Ministry for Science and Culture (Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur), the Ministry for European Affairs and Regional Development (Ministerium für Bundes- und Europaangelegenheiten; since 2025, part of the State Chancellery), the regional associations (Landschaften and Landschaftsverbände) and the Lower Saxony Heritage Association.

- The audit is based on the annual report of the Regional State Office for Schools and Education (RLSB), which provides information on the activities of the advisers for Sater Frisian, on how the allotted teaching hours are used and on measures to promote the regional and the minority language as intended by the Language Charter over the previous year.
- The supervisory body can make proposals concerning the further implementation of the articles of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to which Lower Saxony is a signatory. Since 2023, the independence of the supervisory body has been strengthened by the fact that it is now the regional associations rather than Lower Saxony's Ministry of Education that chair and convene the meetings; this addresses a point that was also criticised by the Committee of Experts.

ii. Practical measures

- Because child day-care centres are operated by different organisations (see also the seventh periodical report), the federal state of Lower Saxony does not collect any data on the use of Sater Frisian in the Saterland's educational institutions. As a result, no reliable statements can be made.
- The reappointment of the Sater Frisian advisory body has strengthened support for schools in Saterland through the Regional Office for Schools and Education (RLSB) in Osnabrück, Lower Saxony, and through the granting of remission from teaching duties. There is an hourly quota of 35 credit hours available for programmes and projects (including the pilot project on early multilingualism and support for Sater Frisian).
- The counselling service provides support and advice to schools on teaching issues, measures to strengthen the Sater Frisian language and the purchase and creation of additional teaching materials. All schools in Lower Saxony can access a constantly expanding pool of materials on the new education website.
- Language teaching is based on the "Seelters Lopt" teaching tool, which has been available to Sater Frisian schools since the start of the 2022/23 academic year. Lower Saxony's Ministry of Education provided 42,000 euros in funding for the preparation and publication of the textbooks.
- Schools that show outstanding long-term dedication not only to language exposure but also to acquisition of Sater Frisian as part of their school mission can retain the title of a Sater Frisian school.
- Transitional measures in primary school – secondary school:
Exposure to Sater Frisian is mandatory for all primary and secondary schools and school types. Further information on this topic can be found in various sources, including the core curricula for German, which are currently under development.

In order to facilitate follow-up and further learning as well as beginner learning, the regulations for primary school (language continuation or acquisition in suitable compulsory subjects) also apply to schools at the lower secondary level. Within the scope of the available staff resources, the regulations may also apply to elective instruction and/or optional compulsory courses or subjects (with the exception of foreign languages), projects and extracurricular offerings at full-day schools. Support from native-speaking extracurricular staff can also be used, particularly at full-day schools.

The decree “Die Region und die Sprachen Niederdeutsch und Saterfriesisch im Unterricht” (The region and the languages of Low German and Sater Frisian in teaching) (Education Ministry circular of 1 June 2019 - 32 - 82101/3-2 - VORIS 22410) is currently being developed in cooperation with the regional associations, among others.

4.5.4 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

4.5.4.1 Article 10 (2) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- With funding from the Ministry for Science and Culture in Lower Saxony and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, the municipality of Saterland is raising the profile of the Sater Frisian language. For example, in 2025, the municipality’s staff participated in the “LISTEN” project, which focused on managing multilingualism more effectively.
- The municipality of Saterland has replaced the single-language inscription in the town hall with a bilingual one (see also no. 4.5.2.1).

4.5.5 Article 11 - Media

4.5.5.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- As stated in previous reports, the principle of media independence of broadcasting and freedom of the press, as enshrined in Germany’s constitutional law, prohibits state interference in the programming of both public and private broadcasters.

ii. Practical measures

- The two-hour radio programme “Middeeges” has been broadcast in Sater Frisian every two weeks in the Ems-Vechte-Welle area since 2004. The programme includes local reports and interviews with people from Saterland, as well as cultural offerings, music and features on language preservation. The entire editorial section is presented in Sater Frisian.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above-mentioned comments on this article.

4.5.5.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Lower Saxony refers to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under V.6.b.i.

ii. Practical measures

- When questioned, Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR), the regional radio station for Lower Saxony, stated that it had included aspects of the Sater Frisian language in individual social media posts on multiple occasions.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above-mentioned comments on this article.

4.5.5.3 Article 11 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Lower Saxony refers to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under V.6.c.i.

ii. Practical measures

- The film project “Saterland” received development support from the media company nordmedia (nordmedia – Film- und Mediengesellschaft Niedersachsen/Bremen mbH). The film, which is set in Saterland, contains dialogues in Sater Frisian.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above-mentioned comments on this article.

4.5.5.4 Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Lower Saxony refers to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under V.6.d.i.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above-mentioned comments on this article.

4.5.5.5 Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Lower Saxony refers to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under V.6.e.i.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above-mentioned comments on this article.

4.5.5.6 Article 11 (2)

ii. Practical measures

- The Basic Law guarantees freedom of information, including the reception of radio and television programmes from neighbouring countries. Accordingly, Lower Saxony considers this obligation to be fulfilled.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above-mentioned comments on this article.

4.5.6 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.5.6.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Since the last report, the Office of the Commissioner for Sater Frisian has been established in the Oldenburg region, and the grant from the federal state of Lower Saxony has increased to 50,000 euros. The Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) is also supporting the office with an additional 50,000 euros (see no. 3.7).
- Furthermore, regional associations in Lower Saxony can apply for regional cultural funding (totalling 3.15 million euros) to support significant regional cultural projects. For instance, funding of up to 10,000 euros is available for initiatives related to the Low German and Sater Frisian languages. In addition, Lower Saxony funds cultural projects that strengthen the regional identity and encourage active use of the Sater Frisian minority language.

ii. Practical measures

- In the 2023 financial year, the Lower Saxony Ministry for Science and Culture and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media provided support for the production and publication of a series of Sater Frisian videos by the Seeltersk-Kontoor and the North Frisian filmmaker Christoph Knorr (see also no. 4.5.2.6).
- In the 2023 financial year, the memory game “Twee Tosamen”, which is already available in Lower Saxony and widely used, was translated into Sater Frisian (“Dubbeld Plezier”) as part of the joint funding between the Land of Lower Saxony (approximately 7,500 euros) and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (approximately 14,900 euros) (see also no. 4.5.2.6).
- The Seeltersk-Kontoor regularly organises Sater Frisian pub quizzes, as well as Sater Frisian Days.
- The “Platt is cool” activity group, together with the Regional State Offices for Schools and Education, launched the “Freedag is Plattdag” initiative. On Fridays in September, the aim is to encourage those who are not yet able to speak Sater Frisian to try it out and those who speak it to speak as much Sater Frisian as possible, including with people with whom they normally communicate in Standard German.

4.5.6.2 Article 12 (1) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- Reference is made to our comments on the practical measures under no. 4.5.2.6.

- The “Lieselotte books” have also been translated into the Sater Frisian language (see no. 3.7).

4.5.6.3 Article 12 (1) (d) to (g)

The comments made in the previous periodical report regarding Article 12 (1) (d) to (g) and Article 12 (2) still apply.

4.6 Low German in Brandenburg

4.6.1 Article 6 – Information

The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.6.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

4.6.2.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- In line with the objective of the Brandenburg state constitution to protect and promote the Low German language, Brandenburg's Low German Act (*Niederdeutsch-Gesetz*, BbgNdG) was adopted in June 2023. Section 6 of this law recognises the Low German language and its dialects as an expression of cultural richness.
- In January 2023, the state government adopted the multilingualism strategy, which acknowledges the Lower German language as part of cultural heritage and refers to the Language Charter as a framework of reference.

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.6.2.2 Article 7 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Section 2 (1) of Brandenburg's Low German Act is the first to define a Low German-speaking region in the state of Brandenburg, thereby determining the scope of statutory provisions for the protection and promotion of the Low German language.

4.6.2.3 Article 7 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- By adopting the Low German Act, the federal state of Brandenburg is confirming its commitment to preserving and strengthening the Low German language, which has been a part of the region for centuries, despite various attempts at assimilation.
- Brandenburg's multilingualism strategy sets out short-, medium- and long-term measures aimed at promoting the Low German language.

4.6.2.4 Article 7 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Brandenburg's Low German Act establishes the legal basis for bilingual or monolingual signage within the area where the language is spoken.
- The Low German Act also strengthens the use of the Low German language within the administration by explicitly allowing applications to be submitted in Low German.

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out. The local authorities' efforts to install bilingual place-name and welcome signs should be mentioned in particular.
- On 27 May 2025, Brandenburg's Ministry of Science, Research and Culture (Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur; MWFK) and the umbrella association of the Low German Speakers' Group (Dachverband der niederdeutschen Sprachgruppe), appointed Brandenburg's first Ambassador for Low German. It is hoped that young people in particular will be encouraged to use Low German, and that new methods of motivating and teaching language, particularly through social media, will be explored.

4.6.2.5 Article 7 (1) (e)

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.

4.6.2.6 Article 7 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The Low German Act allows nurseries and schools to incorporate the Low German language into their play and educational activities, tailored to the age group, or to teach it as a foreign language. Low German can also be used as a language of instruction.

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out. The Competence Centre for Low German Teaching (Kompetenzzentrum für Niederdeutschdidaktik; KND) at the University of Greifswald was contacted regarding the development of a joint training project for teachers.
- An online language course for nursery educators has been held in cooperation with Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania since 2023.

4.6.2.7 Article 7 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle.

4.6.2.8 Article 7 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycle.

4.6.2.9 Article 7 (2)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State law continues to be free of discriminatory provisions within the meaning of Article 7 (2) of the Language Charter.

4.6.2.10 Article 7 (3)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- According to section 7 (6) of the Low German Act, history and knowledge of the Low German language should be taught adequately in Brandenburg's schools.
- The multilingualism strategy of the Brandenburg Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport (multilingualism strategy: an assessment and strategic development of linguistic diversity in the education system in the state of Brandenburg) presents Low German as part of the state's cultural heritage and linguistic diversity.
- The statutory programming mandate was clarified in the third sentence of section 3 (2) of the RBB Treaty (rbb-Staatsvertrag) following the amendment on 1 January 2024. Accordingly, the Low German language should now be taken into account to an appropriate extent.

ii. Practical measures

- The activities detailed in prior reports are ongoing and being carried out.
- The broadcaster rbb reports on the Low German language and its speakers. Topics covered include language preservation and education initiatives, policy projects and trends in promoting the spread of the language. In order to reach the widest possible audience and fulfil the educational mission, most of the reporting is done in German.

4.6.2.11 Article 7 (4)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Section 3 of the Low German Act covers the recognition of an umbrella association for organisations and associations promoting Low German.
- Section 4 of the Low German Act establishes a permanent advisory board that meets at least once a year to facilitate communication between the language group and the federal state.

ii. Practical measures

- As a first step in the implementation of the Act, the Brandenburg association for Low German (Verein für Niederdeutsch im Land Brandenburg e.V.) was recognised on 12 October 2024 as an umbrella organisation under section 4 of the Low German Act.
- On 18 November 2025, the advisory board for the preservation of local heritage and Low German (Beirat für Heimatpflege und Niederdeutsch) was formed within the state government. It established a biannual meeting cycle and the first key topics, which mainly concerned education and raising the profile of the Low German language. The advisory board replaces the working group on Low German at Brandenburg's Ministry of Science, Research and Culture, which had been in place since 2015.

4.7 Low German in North Rhine-Westphalia

4.7.1 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

4.7.1.1 Article 7 (1) (f)

ii. Practical measures

- In North Rhine-Westphalia, the measures outlined in the previous reporting cycle are still being implemented. The school project, conducted in collaboration with the department of linguistics at the University of Münster's Institute of German Studies and titled "Low German at schools in Münster and the Münsterland region" (Niederdeutsch an Schulen in Münster und der Münsterland), was completed in 2022. The materials developed during the project can be used by working communities in both primary and lower secondary schools.
- The curriculum for primary school in North Rhine-Westphalia, which entered into force in 2021, and the core curriculum for upper secondary (grammar school)/comprehensive school, which entered into force in 2023, both include explicit references to the regional language of Low German.
- Please see also the comments under 3.4.

4.8 Low German in Saxony-Anhalt

4.8.1 Article 6 – Information

Please refer to the statements in previous reports, most recently in Germany's Seventh Report on the Language Charter (section E (VI) (1)).

4.8.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

In addition to what is stated under D.I.5 in Germany's Seventh Report on the Language Charter and under D.VIII in the Mid-Term Report following the Seventh Report, please note that, for the school years 2023/24 to 2025/26, the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt is providing the Union for Local and Regional Traditions in Saxony-Anhalt (Landesheimatbund Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.) with a total of 180,000 euros for the "Low German in schools" (*Niederdeutsch in der Schule*) project. As part of the project, volunteer speakers of Low German carry out regular activities in Low German in selected schools.

The state government has submitted a draft of a comprehensive bill on promoting culture to the state parliament (parliamentary document 8/5883 of 2 September 2025), which includes the preservation of the Low German language as one of many areas of culture: "The state promotes the cultivation of the Low German language" (section 30, p. 2).

Otherwise, the information contained in previous national reports is up-to-date.

4.9 Low German in the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen

4.9.1 Article 6 – Information

Whenever new developments or issues emerge related to the implementation of the Charter, they are discussed and agreed upon by the responsible ministries.

4.9.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

4.9.2.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- No changes since the last reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- From the outset, promoting the Low German language has not only been an obligation arising from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, but has been continuously pursued and advanced by the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen ever since. Bremen demonstrated this not least with the establishment of the State Centre for Low German (Länderzentrum für Niederdeutsch gGmbH – LzN) on 6 December 2017 (together with Schleswig-Holstein, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Lower Saxony). From the very start, the central objective of the formation of the state centre has been to support Bremen (and the other three federal states) in implementing the undertakings entered into under the European Language Charter. The state centre's activities focus on the protection, preservation and development of Low German. In accordance with its business objective of preserving local heritage and researching local history as well as promoting education, general and vocational education, the state centre has actively pursued the following tasks since its founding – including under the new management starting 1 September 2023:
 - preserving, promoting and developing Low German
 - communicating practical knowledge about Low German
 - advising, networking and supporting the committees, advisory boards, organisations, associations and individuals working in this area and government authorities and political bodies with a focus on supporting voluntary activities and improved cooperation
 - initiating and supporting projects by the committees, advisory boards, organisations, associations and individuals working in the area of Low German and accompanying project-related research
 - disseminating information on Low German taking into account the latest scientific findings in cooperation with the committees, organisations, associations and individuals

working in the area of Low German and the research experts in the federal states and in partnership with the states involved

- developing contemporary formats for teaching Low German in cooperation with the committees, organisations, associations and individuals working in the area of Low German, with a primary focus on children and young people

All four federal states involved tasked the state centre with supporting them in fulfilling the undertakings they have entered into under the European Language Charter. The state centre's activities, as outlined in its business objectives, are dedicated to the protection, preservation and development of Low German. The state centre coordinates these objectives across federal states, closely involving – both in the past and in the future – associations, volunteers and academic institutions.

The state centre's mission is to transfer knowledge about the Low German language across a wide range of areas. The fields covered by the bodies working in this field include education, church, nursing care and culture. Support for voluntary work and the promotion of young people are further key priorities. The state centre plays a significant role in the fields of education and culture and in transferring research into practice. In this context, the state centre contributes, in cooperation with the scientific professionals, to the dissemination of information in the field of Low German language and literature studies, consistently encouraging an active exchange also in this field. There is also close coordination with the political representatives at federal and state level as well as with the members of the Federal Council for Low German and the Low German Secretariat.

The state centre, situated in Bremen at the central Contrescarpe, also gets engaged in overarching issues and public life, developing modern forms of cooperation and formats for teaching Low German in consultation with regional stakeholders. The state centre, now led by Thorsten Börnsen, is progressively adopting modern technologies, including new media, to foster language learning, alongside a variety of flyers and educational brochures. For example, it supports the development of audio guides and digital learning environments and offers a broad range of online seminars for various social groups. Additionally, a video game in Low German is in the works. The state centre thus continues to play a key role in anchoring and preserving the Low German language in the communities.

The state centre created the Jugendwarkkring in 2024, a working group of six young adults aged 20 to 30. This group offers guidance on youth-related aspects of promoting Low German and ensures the engagement of this speaker group, vital for the preservation of the Low German language. The working group aims to meet four times a year. At the same time, the advisory board of the state centre has increased its meeting frequency. Starting from this reporting period, it will convene twice a year to incorporate more suggestions and advice about the promotion of Low German, especially for younger "Plattsacker", or Low German speakers. By taking this step, speaker groups in the regions covered by the

State Centre for Low German are given more influence and space to cater to their specific needs.

Funding for the State Centre for Low German has been provided since 2018 by the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. The total annual budget is 271,000 euros, with Bremen contributing 80,000 euros as the host city. Even with difficult budgetary circumstances, a consistent rise in funding from 2024 onwards was secured, as outlined in a new state financing agreement at the start of 2024:

Funding for the State Centre for Low German (*Niederdeutsch gGmbH (LzN)*) under the state financing agreement:

	2018–2023	2024–2025	2026–
Total funding:	271,000 euros	291,000 euros	328,500 euros
of which by Bremen:	80,000 euros	86,000 euros	97,000 euros

As a result, the state centre’s sustainable financing is fully secured. This highlights the great significance of promoting Low German in Bremen. All four states have an equal share in the State Centre for Low German and together assume technical responsibility on an equal level within a supervisory board.

Over the past few years, the state centre has successfully carried out numerous large projects. These projects have been supported not only by the institutional funds of the states and third-party funding welcomed and politically backed by Bremen’s Ministry of Culture, but also by project funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) and the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI).

- Furthermore, Bremen’s ministry of culture occasionally funds specific projects in the field of Low German, like the Platt – Land – Fluss festival in 2021 and 2023 (with a total of 22,000, a Low German introductory integration course in 2021 (5,000 euros) and the Low German song contest Plattbeats in 2024 (1,500 euros), provided they are deemed technically sound and deserving of support by expert juries.

4.9.2.2 Article 7 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- No changes since the last reporting period.

4.9.2.3 Article 7 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- No changes since the last reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- With the formation of the State Centre for Low German in 2017, Bremen (together with the federal states of Schleswig-Holstein, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Lower Saxony) has taken decisive action in the promotion of Low German. Following the establishment of the state centre in 2018 and a phase of consolidation in 2019, a number of new project formats, networks and funding instruments that the centre has initiated, built up and developed have firmly established themselves since 2020 and demonstrated a sustained impact.
- Even after the new managing director took over on 1 September 2023, many existing projects and funding programmes continued successfully, and new priorities were defined. They include:
 - The Plattbeats song contest, held for the first time in Bremen in 2024, at the Zentrum für Kunst under the patronage and with the attendance of the mayor. The final on 23 November featured eleven bands and solo artists from across northern Germany. Ultimately, the jury selected “Gina” by the Rockabilly trio “Stranger Cats” from Kiel/Hamburg as the Low German song of 2024.
 - The state centre frequently promotes engagement with the Low German language by releasing a variety of booklets and brochures. Notably, the brochure “Waldtiere op Platt” (forest animals in Low German), developed in 2025 through a collaboration between the state centre and the Ostheide forest education centre (Waldpädagogikzentrum – WPZ) of the Lower Saxony State Forests, has been highly successful. This pocket-sized picture book features the Low German and Standard German names of about 100 animals, accompanied by numerous illustrations depicting the animals in their natural environments. The brochure imparts knowledge of Low German and the forest, combining two valuable skills. Following media coverage of the brochure throughout Germany, the state centre received orders from all over the country. The brochure proved so popular that it took only four weeks for all 5,000 copies of the first edition to be distributed. To date, 15,000 copies have been printed.
 - With the slogan “Op Platt – Eenfach Knackiger”, the state centre set up its own information stand at the Bremen-Findorff weekly market once in 2024 and again in 2025. Alongside information about the language and engaging quizzes for passers-by, market sellers were encouraged to display signs indicating that they could understand or even speak Low German.
 - In 2025, the State Centre for Low German, in partnership with the Bremen parliament, began offering free parliamentary tours in Low German every two months.
 - That same year, the state centre collaborated to offer the first guided tours of the Weserstadion in Low German.

- Moreover, the state centre had a presence at Bremen children's day in 2025 with its own stand in the Bremen Bürgerpark.
- Low German also significantly contributed to Bremen's successful bid to become a UNESCO City of Literature. Multilingualism was a key element of the bid, not least because of the world-famous Bremen Town Musicians. With four different animals, each speaking a different language, they had to first understand and appreciate one another through the universal language of music to become an unbeatable team. Only as a multilingual team could they defeat evil by playing music together and ultimately chase the robbers away. Bremen's UNESCO bid is not only available in English and French, the two official UNESCO languages, but also in Easy Read (in German and English) to emphasise the importance of inclusion and in Low German on the official application page (found on the website of the digital Literaturmagazin Bremen):<https://www.literaturmagazin-bremen.de/city-of-literature/city-of-literature-niederdeutsch>
- Sometimes, Low German features in the digital Literaturmagazin Bremen, which has been published since 2021 jointly by Bremer Literaturkontor e.V. and Virtuelles Literaturhaus e.V.
- In the future, the significance of Low German, as well as many foreign languages spoken in Bremen due to ongoing immigration, will be highlighted particularly on UNESCO International Mother Language Day on 21 February.
- Bremen's recognition as a UNESCO City of Literature was greatly influenced by the "Bremer Sprachmusikanten" (Bremen language musicians) audio project. The audio project makes the renowned Grimm fairy tale The Bremen Town Musicians, as retold by celebrated German children's book author and illustrator Janosch, accessible online for free in numerous languages (including German, French, English, Turkish, Korean, and others, as well as in sign language and Low German) in an engaging and inclusive manner (<https://www.literaturhaus-bremen.de/sprachmusikanten-bremen>). Christine Glenewinkel read the Low German version and also performed or made an animal speak exclusively in Low German during various project presentations, such as on the marketplace, at the city library, or at the Bremen regional representation in Brussels.
- The state centre also regularly hosts young Low German authors and musicians, e.g. for a reading on 13 April 2025. Five authors, known as "Schrieverslüüd" in Low German, showcased poems covering a diverse array of subjects and styles, spanning from slam poetry to hermetic verse. The authors Miriam Buthmann, Gesche Gloystein, Arne Lentföhr, Nikos Saul and G.A. Beckmann have been collaborating on a poetry project since 2023, which they presented to the public for the first time. Every month, they select a theme such as wings, marshland or acoustics and each writes a poem about it.

4.9.2.4 Article 7 (1) (d)

ii. Practical measures

- In late 2021, the Advisory Council on Low German of the Bremen state parliament, in collaboration with the State Centre for Low German, organised the Low German “Best op Platt” innovation contest. The contest’s goal was to highlight and honour the Low German language, demonstrating creatively that “Platt” is still part of Bremen today. Entries were diverse and included explanatory videos, Christmas posters in the cityscape, informative websites, songs, a get-together and even a language map. The Low German hard-rock band Rockwark took first place with their song “Bremen mien Bremen”. As the contest was a major success, the president of the state parliament, together with the State Centre for Low German, will organise another event in 2026.
- In 2018, the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media provided initial funding for the “Introduction of e-learning” project of the State Centre for Low German. This funding created a vital channel for widespread funding, which is still effective and will be further developed, including under the state centre’s new managing director. The state centre used the project to bring together multipliers from all states. The project exemplifies the fulfilment of its coordination function. With the “Introduction of e-learning for Low German” project, the state centre has created a sustainable, permanent and effective learning platform and thus sustainably contributes to the teaching of Low German across all four states and far beyond.
- Since it was established in early 2019, the platform has been used to communicate knowledge in the form of webinars. The objective was to establish a range of online language courses in order to activate language proficiency and for professional and general training purposes. To ensure optimal promotion, the state centre operates an e-learning platform that enables speakers and learners of Low German throughout Germany to access beginners’ and advanced language courses and units on selected topics relating to the Low German language, literature and culture in order to expand their proficiency. A small fee is charged for these courses to cover the expenses. However, with the backing of the Carl Toepfer Foundation, the state centre is able to offer them to university students for free. Furthermore, the state centre covers the course fees for the “Waak op, Snack Platt” course for educators from all four federal states involved in the centre.
- In the subsequent years, the range of webinars was continuously expanded and extended, including language acquisition courses and training for online tutors. Since the introduction of e-learning in 2019, a total of 106 course series and webinars with a combined duration of 1,029 hours have been offered by the end of 2023. Of these, 765 hours were dedicated to the regular language learning courses. In 2024 and 2025, the offerings included 17 course series, advanced teacher training and special events such as a

“Christmas reading”, with a combined total of 312 hours and 139 participants. To date, over 1,100 people have participated in the courses.

- In 2023, the state centre initiated the “Plattdeutsch sammeln” (collecting Low German) project, originally funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. On the project website plattdeutsch-sammeln.de, users can – just like on Wikipedia – register and then upload Low German discoveries from their local area, including inscriptions, documents, photographs or other language records. By collecting, documenting and preserving public knowledge on the Low German language, the platform enables this information to be widely available. This collection preserves the language in its distinctive historical and cultural context, allowing future generations to appreciate or rediscover it. The platform plattdeutsch-sammeln.de allows the public to actively engage in preserving Low German. Over time, the platform will help foster cooperation between the scientific community and the public. Being open source, the website can be readily adapted by other language groups.

Project objectives:

1. [Plattdeutsch-sammeln.de](https://plattdeutsch-sammeln.de) is a contemporary and dependable platform that allows registered users to upload Low German materials they have found in their region.
2. Anyone can use the website’s source code, making it simple for those interested to implement its framework and collect resources for additional regional and minority languages.
3. Significant marketing efforts are made to promote the project in northern Germany.

Since going online in December 2023, the platform has become very popular. Users have already created hundreds of entries.

As the project unexpectedly required continuous technical upkeep alongside the final editing of the entries, its scope was extended through an additional project funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The project's quality has significantly improved by enabling video uploads on the website plattdeutsch-sammeln.de. This update enables users to record and share the progress of their projects over time. Moreover, the new video feature can be used to record interviews, capturing regional varieties of Low German. Segments of stage plays can also be recorded, helping preserve the intangible cultural heritage of Low German theatre.

After another update, users will be able to create their own profiles. This includes selecting a profile name, adding a profile picture and using editing tools. Additionally, users will be able to reach out to others and discuss Low German. By providing these familiar features from other websites, plattdeutsch-sammeln.de becomes more appealing. At the same time, personalised profiles help users connect more with the project, encouraging more frequent use of the website. Furthermore, educational materials about plattdeutsch-sammeln.de have been created specifically for use in schools, in collaboration with teachers.

Objectives of the expanded project scope:

1. By adding video upload capabilities, the plattdeutsch-sammeln.de website can capture and document forms of cultural expression such as interviews and the intangible cultural heritage of Low German theatre.
 2. By adding user profiles and edit features, the platform facilitates and fosters user interaction, creating a “Plattdeutsch sammeln” community and enhancing project engagement.
 3. Creating information materials allows the project to reach and engage a broader audience beyond its current user base. With project-specific teaching materials, “Plattdeutsch sammeln” is introduced to schools, enabling pupils to notice and experience Low German in their immediate environment.
- In 2025, the State Centre for Low German implemented a video game project, supported by funding from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. This game aims to enhance the variety of leisure activities in Low German for children and young people. In this significant area of youth culture, there are currently no professionally crafted, attractive offers available. A game incorporating language learning elements aims to address this gap. The PC game was created in late 2025. Versions for smartphones and tablets could be developed at a later stage. The target group is young people aged 12 and over. The Low German video game has been available on a dedicated website since late December 2025 (<https://derodeplanet.studiomonstrum.com>).
 - On 25 October 2025, the State Centre for Low German held the international conference “Vielstimmig! Kleine Sprachen gar nicht leise!” (Polyphonic! Small languages, large voices!), exploring the significance of music for regional and minority languages across Europe. The conference, hosted at Bremen’s Zentrum für Kunst and closing with a West Frisian concert in the evening, gathered around 30 guests. In order to preserve the Low German language in the long term, it is particularly important to stimulate enthusiasm for Low German in people between the ages of 15 and 40. However, there is a lack of suitable cultural events tailored to this demographic. Music, being the primary medium for this generation, can offer an accessible and appealing gateway to Low German. Engaging with international attendees at the conference gave valuable new impetus for further work on successful formats, such as the Platbeats contest. Guests at the conference included international organisers of various music competitions in European regional and minority languages, along with singers who perform in these languages. The event was also open to everyone interested. The conference was expressly designed to serve as a platform for Low German innovators to exchange ideas and network.
 - In 2024, the state centre initiated the “Heimat un Spraak” video project, featuring interviews with individuals who do not conform to the typical image of a Low German speaker, discussing their connection to the language. The series started with a conversation with TV host Yared Dibaba. Additional interviews were recorded with

Matthäus Weiß, chairman of the Schleswig-Holstein Association of German Sinti and Roma, and Fatma Nur, winner of the “Schölers leest Platt” reading competition.

4.9.2.5 Article 7 (1) (e)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- No changes during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- Established in December 2017 and operating under new management since 1 September 2023, the State Centre for Low German has been instrumental in bringing together different actors involved in the promotion of Low German, ensuring their efficient networking. This includes government authorities, political bodies, committees, advisory boards, organisations, associations and individuals. This coordinating role involves facilitating the placement of full-time and voluntary staff, with the state centre providing guidance, advice, networking opportunities and support.
- Networking activities not only include the four donor states of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Lower Saxony, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, but also encompass initial contacts and partnerships with other states in which Low German is spoken and with other minority organisations.
 - For example, the state centre cooperates with Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania on the Low German Plattbeats song contest.
 - In addition, the state centre regularly collaborates on projects with the Competence Centre for Low German Teaching (Kompetenzzentrum für Niederdeutschdidaktik; KND) at the University of Greifswald.
 - It also works together with the Drèents Liedties festival in the Dutch province of Drenthe.
 - Finally, it maintains contact with the organisers of the Suuns festival for regional and minority languages in Europe, which takes place in the Italian province of Friuli.
- Furthermore, with the support of the State Centre for Low German, the Low German rock band Rockwark from the larger Bremen area took part in the final of the Liet international music competition for minority languages in Corsica in November 2024, giving the Low German language a prominent platform on the international stage.
- The travelling exhibition “Was heißt hier Minderheit?” (What do you mean, a minority?), initiated by the Minority Secretariat representing Germany’s four indigenous national minorities and ethnic groups, was also officially opened in Bremen in 2025 at the Bremen parliament, in the presence of representatives from the respective speaker communities. Between 27 August and 17 October 2025, the exhibition at the heart of Bremen highlighted Germany’s four officially recognised minorities and ethnic groups: the Danish

minority, German Sinti and Roma, the Sorbian people, the Frisian ethnic group and speakers of the Low German regional language. Different sections of the exhibition were devoted to each group, featuring stories and exhibits. The exhibition included a varied side programme, featuring a Low German concert reading on 18 September 2025, a multimedia lecture about the Low German writer Georg Droste on 23 September 2025, and a panel discussion on the perspectives and challenges of the Low German and Romani languages in Bremen on 30 September 2025.

- In addition, a joint meeting was held between the Low German Advisory Council of the Bremen parliament and the Low German Advisory Council of the Schleswig-Holstein parliament in Bremen on 25 and 26 November 2024, followed by a return visit in Schleswig-Holstein on 10 and 11 June 2025. This provided an excellent chance to discuss shared issues, challenges and examples of best practices at both political and administrative levels.

4.9.2.6 Article 7 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- There were no changes in the services of the ministry of education during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- In 2025, the State Centre for Low German, in cooperation with the Bremen State Institute for Schools (Landesinstitut für Schule – LIS), successfully carried out two optional mandatory courses for trainee teachers. The advanced training includes a concise language course, a module on using Low German in the classroom and a cultural component. Future educators participate in these courses during a pivotal phase of their training, enhancing their understanding of the Low German regional language and its significance. The concept and content of the optional compulsory course can also be copied and used as a template in other federal states.
- Furthermore, teachers in Bremen will have more networking opportunities in the 2025/26 school year through the commonly used learning platform “itslearning”, which will be updated with Low German content. The goal is to offer an easy and accessible way for sharing learning and teaching materials, teaching ideas and proven teaching concepts developed by Bremen’s teachers.

4.9.2.7 Article 7 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- No changes during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- The state centre's webinar programme described above is also aimed at people who do not speak Low German. Its primary goal is to extend the reach of the programme to all interested parties with internet access, thereby providing a readily accessible service that can be used by anyone, regardless of their location. Consequently, its influence is extensive, transcending local boundaries. The programme specifically targets young people, encouraging their active engagement with Low German.
- Another optional mandatory programme primarily intended for beginners is offered in collaboration with the Bremen State Institute for Schools.

4.9.2.8 Article 7 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The Linguistics and Literary Studies faculty at the University of Bremen continues to offer a "Low German language, literature and culture" module as part of its German Studies course.
- The State Centre for Low German offers advanced training for prospective teachers in collaboration with the State Institute for Schools (scope: two block courses per year).

ii. Practical measures

- On 28 April 2025, representatives of the Federal Council for Low German, the Institute for Low German, the Federal Council for Low German and the Leibniz Institute for the German Language met to discuss a representative survey on the state of Low German, planned for 2026. The collected data may also be useful for future research.
- The State Centre for Low German supports linguistic research by offering information on current surveys and studies.

4.9.2.9 Article 7 (1) (i)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- No changes during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- The state centre cooperates with the Drèents Liedties festival in the Dutch province of Drenthe.
- It also maintains contact with the organisers of the Suuns festival for regional and minority languages in Europe, which takes place in the Italian province of Friuli.

- Since October 2023, Bremen has also been a member of the prestigious UNESCO Creative City of Literature network. Multilingualism and translation issues are common topics of discussion within the network. Initial contacts have been established with the Afuk Foundation, an organisation that promotes the Frisian language and culture, and these will be further cultivated in the future.
- In 2025, the State Centre for Low German held the international conference “Vielstimmig! Kleine Sprachen gar nicht leise!” (Polyphonic! Small languages, large voices!), exploring the significance of music for regional and minority languages across Europe. On 25 October 2025, the conference at the Bremen Zentrum für Kunst facilitated cross-border dialogue on best practices and offered fresh momentum for continuing work with initiatives such as the Platbeats contest.

4.9.2.10 Article 7 (2)

- No changes during the reporting period.

4.9.2.11 Article 7 (3)

- No changes during the reporting period.

4.9.2.12 Article 7 (4)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- No changes during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- At its fourth session in October 2023, the Bremen parliament once again resolved to continue the Low German Advisory Council, which had already existed during the 18th, 19th and 20th legislative periods, and to place the advisory council under the authority of the president of the Bremen parliament. The advisory council meets at least once a year. Its purpose is to ensure a continuous dialogue on the preservation of Low German across political parties, ministries and institutions and to provide proposals for the implementation of the Language Charter.

4.9.3 Article 8 – Education

4.9.3.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- There were no changes in terms of pre-school education during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- In pre-school education in the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, the use of Low German is the responsibility of the relevant institution (day-care centres, including those with an emphasis on language development and reading, and city libraries). They use songs, books, stories and rhymes, sometimes with the help of volunteers. At day-care centres in the city of Bremen the demand for these services tends to be low, while in the outlying areas, and districts of Bremerhaven, there can be considerable interest in the Low German language.
- To meet this demand, the State Centre for Low German (LzN) offers a wide range of services that can be integrated playfully into the daily routines of day-care centres, nurseries, and primary schools:

“Riemel, riemel, rüm”: Low German throughout the day for children in day-care centres and primary schools. Since 2022, the State Centre for Low German has gradually expanded its services for day-care centres and nurseries, and in doing so has helped promote the use of Low German in this area. Experience has shown that language work is made easier with appropriate materials. In 2021, the State Centre for Low German therefore produced a collection of 16 illustrations of daily rituals such as mealtimes and other activities. These simple materials continue to help less experienced carers to use Low German with children in everyday contexts. The State Centre for Low German hopes that this book of illustrations will encourage more use of Low German in the daily routines of day-care centres and primary schools. Daily rituals are a good opportunity for this. Low German can easily be used for greetings, at mealtimes, for birthdays and for saying goodbye – and it’s fun! The humorous illustrations make excellent colouring-in templates, and audio recordings of the accompanying text are available on the website of the State Centre for Low German – an ideal resource for less experienced Low German speakers (<https://xn--linderzentrum-fr-niederdeutsch-0pc17e.de/service/bildung/kita-und-kindergarten/>).

4.9.3.2 Article 8 (1) (b) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- There were no changes in terms of pre-school education during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- Low German still has a firm place in the curricula for German and general-knowledge teaching at primary schools. In line with the quotas for the number of teaching hours per subject, all schools have the option of offering the mandatory Low German teaching components required under the overall curricula during a single term or as part of a project week in order to enable intense learning.
- In Bremen, Low German is taught in depth at four “profile schools” (schools that allow pupils to specialise in certain subject areas). In Bremerhaven, there is currently one

primary school that places a strong focus on Low German in its day-to-day teaching and school life.

- The profile schools in Bremen have access to additional teaching hours for systematic and continuous instruction. Depending on the location, this amounts to one or two hours a week per participating class or group. As a curricular basis, these profile schools are provided with guidelines and a common textbook in order to ensure systematic language development.
- In addition, the optional courses for Bremen trainee teachers, which are delivered in cooperation with the Bremen State Institute for Schools (LIS), ensure that trainee teachers come into contact with Low German at a key stage in their training. Ideally, this will raise their long-term awareness of Low German, increasing the chance that the language will play a part in their future teaching.
- Also worth mentioning are video tutorials for primary school children. Some time ago, the State Centre for Low German (LzN) published an activity book for children, which can be used to build Low German vocabulary in primary school. The book provides teachers with pedagogical guidance. As many teachers do not have sufficient Low German speaking skills to be able to teach the language, four tutorial videos have been created based on material available on the website of the State Centre for Low German. These videos can be used in the classroom as follows: an introductory video is shown to the class; the activity book is then handed out and worked on; at the end of the lesson a follow-up video is shown. The videos feature the actor Christian Richard Bauer from Hamburg. The project was fully funded by the Carl Toepfer Foundation in Hamburg. This funding was applied for jointly by Bremen's State Institute for Schools (LIS), Hamburg's Institute for Quality Development at Schools (LI) and the head teachers of the Schönebeck primary school in Bremen. Bremen's State Institute for Schools initiated the project, provided the materials, coordinated and oversaw the whole process, and put the videos online. The combination of videos and printed materials allows teachers with little or no Low German skills to integrate Low German speech into the classroom nevertheless.
- The Bremen State Institute for Schools has produced a lap book for primary schools titled "Mien Platt – dat Klappenbook" (My Low German – the lap book). The lap book contains activities through which children get to know the characters Klaas and Käthe Katteker. The book, and thus the Low German language, accompany the children throughout the year. The lap book was designed by the primary school educator Jane Haeger and illustrated by Nicola Ashtarany. Detailed teachers' notes are available to guide teachers on how to use the lap book effectively in the classroom.
- So far, Low German has not featured much in the field of museum education. As part of the State Centre for Low German's work on the federal project to develop "Hanserouten.de" (Hanseatic routes – see above), another lap book was created in cooperation with the European Hanseatic Museum in Lübeck. This book helps to give primary school children access to the Low German language as distinct from Standard

German, English and Swedish. It also provides insights into the Hanseatic era. The Hanseatic lap book is accompanied by a guide to help children learn about the Hanseatic era and the Low German language in a playful and creative way. It is a museum educational pilot project with Low German as the main language. One of the points the project aims to teach children is that Low German, Standard German, English and the Scandinavian languages are closely related, and that Low German speakers find those languages more accessible and easier to learn. The Hanseatic lap book can be used in preparation for visiting the museum and as a follow-up afterwards. But the book can also be used without visiting the museum. It can also be used outside of the school context without visiting the museum. Since 2022, the work has been freely available to download and print from the website of the State Centre for Low German (<https://xn--linderzentrum-fr-niederdeutsch-0pc17e.de/service/bildung/grundschule/>). It is also available free of charge from the European Hanseatic Museum in Lübeck.

- “Theatre plays for schools”: The easiest way to introduce Low German into school classes is through highly accessible formats that are also easy to use for teachers without much knowledge of the language. The State Centre for Low German aims to create a contemporary and accessible series of one-act plays for use in primary and lower secondary schools. These plays can be used, for example, at school events and celebrations. Eight one-act plays were written by an actor from the Ohnsorg-Theater in Hamburg, who studied Low German and worked as a teacher at a Hamburg school. Since 2022, the plays have been freely available from the website of the State Centre for Low German (<https://xn--linderzentrum-fr-niederdeutsch-0pc17e.de/service/bildung/sekundarstufe/>).

4.9.3.3 Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- There were no changes in terms of secondary school education during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- In order to further increase the accessibility of the “Snacken-Proten-Kören” textbook, published by the State Centre for Low German, key texts from the book have been read aloud and recorded. These texts have been available as audio files since 2021. In the context of foreign language teaching, these formats are now common. The aim is to promote the use of this book among pupils in lower secondary education. The book has also been requested by state-level expert advisers on Low German. The audio files are available for all interested teachers and pupils on the website of the State Centre for Low German (<https://xn--linderzentrum-fr-niederdeutsch-0pc17e.de/service/bildung/snacken-proten-koeren/>). This provides teachers from across federal states with accessible multimedia resources for contemporary Low German teaching.

4.9.3.4 Article 8 (1) (e) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- See 4.9.2.8

4.9.3.5 Article 8 (1) (f) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- No changes since the seventh monitoring cycle.

ii. Practical measures

- In 2018, the State Centre for Low German launched a project to introduce e-learning in Low German. The project has resulted in a permanent, effective and sustainable learning platform for Low German, which remains influential. Since its creation, the platform has been used for the broad dissemination of knowledge through various webinars. The objective was to establish a range of online language courses in order to activate language proficiency and for professional and general training purposes. In order to maximise effectiveness, the State Centre for Low German operates an e-learning platform that enables speakers and learners of Low German throughout Germany to access beginners' and advanced language courses and modules on selected topics relating to Low German language and literature in order to expand their proficiency. The platform also serves as a forum for inter-state dialogue. The range of webinars was continuously expanded to include language acquisition courses and training for online tutors. Since then, language courses have generally been offered at three levels: "beginner", "advanced" and "conversational". These were accompanied with Low German reading courses and online training specifically for teachers.

4.9.3.6 Article 8 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- In the 2024/25 school year, a revised curriculum was drawn up for the lower secondary level at upper and advanced secondary schools. The new curriculum is expected to be used in the 2026/27 school year. Low German is firmly established in the curriculum for German teaching. In the school years 7–8, Low German skills are considered relevant to learning about the culture, development and history of the language.

ii. Practical measures

- The Hanseatic lap book for use in schools and museums is worth mentioning here as a best-practice project. So far, the Low German language has not gained broad acceptance in the area of museum education. For this reason, as part of the State Centre for Low

German's work on the federal project to develop "Hanserouten.de" (Hanseatic routes – see above), a lap book was created in cooperation with the European Hanseatic Museum in Lübeck. This book helps to give primary school children access to the Low German language as distinct from Standard German, English and Swedish. It also provides insights into the Hanseatic era. The Hanseatic lap book is accompanied by a guide to help children learn about the Hanseatic era and the Low German language in a playful and creative way. It is a museum educational pilot project with Low German as the main language. One of the points the project aims to teach children is that Low German, Standard German, English and the Scandinavian languages are closely related, and that Low German speakers find those languages more accessible and easier to learn. The Hanseatic lap book can be used in preparation for visiting the museum and as a follow-up afterwards. But the book can also be used without visiting the museum. It can also potentially be used outside of the school context without visiting the museum. Since 2022, the work has been freely available to download and print from the website of the State Centre for Low German. It is also available free of charge from the European Hanseatic Museum in Lübeck.

4.9.3.7 Article 8 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- There were no changes in terms of training during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- Since 2022, online training for teachers across federal states has become firmly established. Each federal state offers a further training course that is recognised by the other federal states. All teachers thereby benefit from a wider range of courses and more frequent opportunities to take them.
- In 2023, teacher training courses (State Centre for Low German; Bremen and Hamburg; 8 units at 90 minutes each) were offered across federal states.
- In 2025, the State Centre for Low German launched two new optional courses for trainee teachers in cooperation with the Bremen State Institute for Schools (LIS). The training includes a concise language course, a module on using Low German in the classroom and a cultural component. Future educators participate in these courses during a pivotal phase of their training, enhancing their understanding of the Low German regional language and its significance. The concept and content of the optional course can also be copied and used as a template in other federal states.
- In 2025, a new webinar entitled "Waak op, Snack Platt!" was also launched at the State Centre for Low German. The webinar was aimed at teachers who had at some point in their lives been exposed to Low German (whether through speaking, listening to or reading the language) but no longer had the confidence to use it actively. From September to December 2025, ten webinars were offered to help reactivate participants' Low German

skills. The aim was to restore participants' confidence in their Low German skills in order to use the language in the classroom. The slogan was: OK, you can "Plattdüütsch ünnerrichten!" (teach Low German).

4.9.4 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

4.9.4.1 Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- As discussed in Germany's Seventh Report, the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen remains of the view that the undertaking to ensure that persons who use regional or minority languages can submit documents in these languages with legal validity and can use these as evidence in court proceedings does not require any special administrative rules because the Language Charter has the status of federal law in Germany.
- Germany continues to fulfil its undertakings with regard to Low German in Bremen in this respect.

ii. Practical measures

- See 4.9.4.1

4.9.4.2 Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- See 4.9.4.1

ii. Practical measures

- See 4.9.4.1

4.9.4.3 Article 9 (2) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- See 4.9.4.1

ii. Practical measures

- See 4.9.4.1

4.9.5 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

4.9.5.1 Article 10 (1) (a) (v)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen remains of the view that the undertaking to ensure that persons who use regional or minority languages can submit documents in these languages with legal validity does not require any special administrative rules because the Language Charter has the status of federal law in Germany.
- In April 2011, Bremen's Senator for the Interior informed the authorities and all staff within his remit about the undertakings resulting from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. He also called upon these staff to inform their supervisors of any informational materials or other documents in their area of responsibility which might usefully be made available in Low German translations. This applies until further notice.

As regards further undertakings under Article 10, there have been no changes since Germany's Seventh Report.

4.9.6 Article 11 – Media

4.9.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen reports that the Senate Chancellery, which is politically responsible for media law in Bremen, specified the use of Low German in television and radio in the most recent amendments of Bremen's two media acts. This was done to the extent constitutionally permitted from the perspective of broadcasting freedom and non-intervention in broadcasting by the government:
 - Radio Bremen Act (*Radio Bremen Gesetz*, RBG; last amended 13 March 2024):
 - Section 2 (3) specifies that Radio Bremen's broadcasting must also contribute to the fulfilment of the undertakings set out in Article 11 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages with regard to the regional language of Low German.
 - Section 3 (7) specifies that Radio Bremen's overall broadcasting must include an appropriate amount of regular programming in the Low German language.
 - Bremen Media Act (*Bremisches Landesmediengesetz*, BremLMG; last amended 28 February 2023):
 - Section 13 (3) specifies that private broadcasting must include an appropriate amount of regular programming in the Low German language.

- Section 31 (3) specifies that in assessing the diversity of programming, the state media authority must take account of the following criteria: the contribution made to the diversity of overall broadcasting, particularly with a view to the fulfilment of the State of Bremen's undertakings under Article 11 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages with regard to the regional language of Low German.
- Section 40 (1) no. 4 specifies encouraging and/or facilitating the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the regional language of Low German.
- Section 43 no. 3 specifies that community media must promote citizens' media literacy in particular by providing assistance for the production of media in the regional language of Low German.
- Section 45 (2) specifies that the state media authority must report to the Senate every two years on the extent to which Bremen's undertakings under Article 11 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages have been met with regard to the regional language of Low German, insofar as these undertakings relate to the provisions of the Bremen Media Act. The deadline for the first such report was 31 December 2019, and the Senate must submit the report to the state parliament.
- The Bremen state media authority's report of 18 December 2023 on the extent to which Bremen's undertakings under Article 11 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages draws the following conclusion:

"The proportion of programme content in the Low German language has remained stable in recent years and in some cases even increased; the state media authority expressly welcomes this development and will continue to observe it through occasional monitoring."

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to 4.9.6.1.i.
- See also the following additional points concerning programming:
- Radio Bremen offers a comprehensive range of programmes with content in Low German:
- A regular news programme in Low German:
 - From Monday to Friday, the latest news is regularly broadcast on Radio Bremen 1 ("Bremen Eins") at 10.30 a.m. in Low German.
 - Radio Bremen 1 also broadcasts irregular programmes once or twice a week:
 - Radio Bremen 1's "Plattrundfahrt" (Low German tour), broadcast from 12–30 July 2021
 - The presenters Britta Uphoff and Ansgar Langhorst drove a VW bus through the north-west region and stopped off at two different locations per day, each of which had

to be guessed by listeners. At these locations, the presenters took turns to meet locals who could describe where they were in a few sentences of Low German.

- “Vertell doch mal”, broadcast from 23–26 January 2024
- Ansgar Langhorst launched the four-day “Vertell doch mal” tour, during which he drove the station’s VW bus around the area between Bremen, Bremerhaven and Oldenburg and met listeners who spoke with him in Low German. Two daily broadcasts from two different locations or with two different speakers were planned. The tour coincided with the launch of the “Vertell doch mal” writing competition, which was organised that year by Radio Bremen and the North German broadcaster NDR.
- “Plattdütsch to’n Fieravend”, broadcast from 4–17 March 2025
- From Monday to Friday at 5:20 p.m., a programme by Markus Weise was broadcast with a one-minute slot called “Plattdütsch to’n Fieravend”. During this slot, Low German words and phrases were explained and explored.
- The radio station also broadcasts programmes on current issues relating to Low German as and when such issues arise.
- On 29 April 2022, for example, the North German football derby between Werder Bremen and Holstein Kiel was broadcast live on bremeneins.de, on the ARD Sportschau app and in the Low German section (“op Platt”) of the ARD audio library. Ludger Abeln did the commentary for the football match live in Low German together with Mathias Arians, a Radio Bremen sports reporter. The two men had already done the commentary for the first leg match of the derby, also in Low German. These Low German broadcasts were very much appreciated and generated a great deal of positive feedback.
- Radio Bremen 2 also broadcasts a radio play in Low German every other Sunday at 6 p.m. These fortnightly plays are also broadcast on the four NDR regional radio frequencies. Radio Bremen and NDR cooperate to produce Low German radio plays, with Radio Bremen taking the lead role.

Low German radio plays, 2021–2026:

Year	No. programmes	of which new productions
2021	26	8
2022	27	9
2023	28	7
2024	28	8
2025	26	4
2026	26	6–7

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The new provisions of sections 40, 43 and 45 of the Bremen Media Act directly implement the recommendation of the Committee of Experts “to encourage the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the Low German language.” As one of the objectives of community media is to train media professionals, the recommendation “to support the training of journalists and other staff for media...who use Low German” is also implemented.
- It is not possible for radio and TV programming to be influenced further, as the broadcasting freedom arising from Article 5 of the German Basic Law prohibits the state from influencing the content of programming in any way. No additional stipulations or interventions in radio and TV programming on the part of the state are permitted in Germany. Accordingly, the state government may not take any further action in this area and will not do so in the future.

4.9.6.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Radio Bremen’s public television service does not create its own TV programming. Instead, it creates regional television programming (as referred to in section 28 (2) of the Interstate Agreement on Media (*Medienstaatsvertrag*, MStV)) jointly with NDR. But as Radio Bremen is by far the smallest public service broadcaster, it provides only a very small contribution to programming. With the entry into force of the Radio Bremen Act, which now provides for minority languages to be taken into account regularly and appropriately (section 3 (7)), a corresponding provision was introduced to include the Low German language in the station’s programming. As a result, Low German has been given more broadcasting time in regional public service television programming. The improvements described in the Committee of Experts’ Seventh Report on Germany to the Committee of Ministers (Strasbourg, 11 July 2022, page 12 paragraph 34) therefore also relate to the city state of Bremen.

ii. Practical measures

- Please also refer to 4.9.6.1.i.

4.9.6.3 Article 11 (1) (d)

Please refer to 4.9.6.1.i.

4.9.6.4 Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)

Please refer to 4.9.6.1.i.

ii. Practical measures

- In the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, WESER-KURIER is the most popular printed local newspaper. At its own initiative, the WESER-KURIER publishes a weekly Low German column entitled “De plattdüütsche Eck” and reports on Low German concerns and activities at regular intervals.
- The Nordsee-Zeitung is the equivalent local daily paper in the port city of Bremerhaven. It, too, publishes regular articles and columns in Low German or about Low German activities.

4.9.6.5 Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)

Please refer to 4.9.6.1.i.

ii. Practical measures

- Nordmedia is the central media funding agency for Bremen and Lower Saxony. It has supported the establishment and development of the media industry in both North German federal states since 2001. It has consistently provided financial support for audiovisual productions in Low German at various stages in their development. One very successful production was “Bremen ward bunt” by the Bremen filmmaker Daniel Tilgner, which was shown at the “Platt - Land - Fluss” festival at the Bremer Filmkunsttheater on 13 September 2023, and later also at the Bendestorf film museum as part of the “Plattdüütsch in’t Kino op Platt” series of films in Low German. In addition, Nordmedia provided around 169,000 euros of funding for two episodes in a series of village stories called “Yared kommt rum – Dibaba erzählt Dorfgeschichten”. The episodes, which were made by a Bremen production company for the public service broadcaster NDR, include dialogue in Low German.

4.9.6.6 Article 11 (1) (g)

Please refer to 4.9.6.1.i.

ii. Practical measures

- The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen reports that the public service broadcasters also provide training for journalists and other media staff as part of their production activities. Because the production of news and features in Low German is one of Radio Bremen’s legally mandated tasks, it can be assumed that the necessary skills are taught in this framework. The state government is not allowed to exert targeted influence on staff training because broadcasting is not governed by the state.

4.9.6.7 Article 11 (2)

Please refer to 4.9.6.1.i.

4.9.7 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.9.7.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- No changes during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- Kulturhaus Walle is one of the institutions in Bremen that has been particularly active in supporting the dissemination of Low German with a wide range of different cultural events in recent years. Some events are aimed at a wide audience, including young people. These are monthly formats like the Low German meet-up “Dat Klöönwark”, regular concerts in Low German, readings and cabaret shows, workshops and Low German performances. The “Poetry Slam op Platt” format is particularly innovative. In this series, contestants present original texts in Low German which they write within a short, set period of time; if they run into linguistic obstacles, the organisers help with translation. At the Kulturhaus Walle cultural centre, which has recently undergone comprehensive renovation work, the range of events on offer (including events held in Low German) has been very restricted for the past year and a half. By the end of 2025, the premises will be fully available again. There are plans to expand the monthly “Dat Klöönwark” meet-up in future, with a new programme each month and presentations.

4.9.7.2 Article 12 (1) (b)

ii. Practical measures

- The cultural content and formats offered by the Kulturhaus Walle, the State Centre for Low German (LzN) and the Niederdeutsche Bühne Waterkant theatre in Bremerhaven are generally designed to make the Low German language and culture equally accessible to both old and young, and to speakers and non-speakers of Low German alike.
- In recent years, the State Centre for Low German in particular has developed and launched a number of innovative and accessible formats aimed at a new, young audience. One such format, the “Plattbeats” song contest, has been very successful. In addition, the State Centre for Low German regularly offers tours of Bremen’s state parliament in Low German. And at the initiative of the State Centre for Low German, the football club Werder Bremen offers tours of its stadium in Low German.
- In addition to the institutional funding available from the State Centre for Low German, Bremen’s senator for cultural affairs can submit applications for project funding each year to secure financial support for cultural projects connected with Low German. In recent years, almost all applications for projects connected with Low German were granted financial support from the cultural affairs department as long as they complied with the funding guidelines and were approved by the expert jury. Like all other areas of project

funding, the projects were not always financed in full, but always to a sufficient extent to enable the projects to be implemented. Examples of projects that have received funding in recent years are the “Platt - Land - Fluss” festival (2021 and 2023), a Low German trial integration course (2021), and the Low German song contest “Plattbeats” (2024).

4.9.7.3 Article 12 (1) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- The film “Bremen wird bunt” (Bremen is getting colourful) has been subtitled accordingly. See also 4.9.6.5.f.ii.

4.9.7.4 Article 12 (1) (d)

ii. Practical measures

- The Kulturhaus Walle cultural centre, the State Centre for Low German, the Bremen Packhaustheater and the Niederdeutsche Bühne Waterkant theatre in Bremerhaven are particularly active in this area and are planning to become more so in future.

4.9.7.5 Article 12 (1) (e)

ii. Practical measures

- The Kulturhaus Walle cultural centre, the State Centre for Low German, the Bremen Packhaustheater and the Niederdeutsche Bühne Waterkant theatre in Bremerhaven are particularly active in this area and are planning to become more so in the future.

4.9.7.6 Article 12 (1) (f)

ii. Practical measures

- Cooperation with the State Centre for Low German and the Kulturhaus Walle in their planning of cultural activities in the area of Low German remains excellent.

4.9.7.7 Article 12 (1) (g)

ii. Practical measures

- While demand for Low German plays at Theater Bremen has consistently decreased in recent years, the Niederdeutsche Bühne Waterkant theatre still regularly stages plays in Low German. For theatregoers with an interest in Low German, some private and state-funded theatres in the area around Bremen also offer plays in Low German. Since Jörn Meyer recently took charge of the Packhaustheater in close cooperation with Dirk Böhling, it now seems likely that Low German theatre productions will be staged there in the future.

4.9.7.8 Article 12 (3)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- No changes during the reporting period.

ii. Practical measures

- Since its creation, the State Centre for Low German has been successful in raising awareness of Low German across federal states. It had done this using a wide variety of projects and formats (with national and international connections). And in doing so, it has addressed not only the Low-German-speaking community, but also representatives from the church and social institutions as well as representatives from the fields of education, cultural life, media, tourism, politics and public administration. Maintaining and expanding Low German presence on social media and in professional journalism, producing detailed information and teaching brochures – all these approaches help Low German to become established across federal states and throughout Germany over the long term.

4.9.8 Article 13 – Economic and social life

4.9.8.1 Article 13 (1) (a)

ii. Practical measures

- There have been no changes to the comments of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen compared with the previous reporting periods.

4.9.8.2 Article 13 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- No changes during the reporting period.

4.9.8.3 Article 13 (2) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen reports that some of those who are now of the generation living in care homes used to speak Low German at home. Those who provide services in care facilities are required to take into account the languages spoken by their residents. How they do so is up to them. Staff in care homes for the elderly rarely have Low German language skills, but those that do are happy to speak Low German to the residents in their care. The fact that an increasing number of staff in care homes come from abroad has contributed to the decrease in Low German skills in this context. Understandably, such staff are more concerned with acquiring sufficient skills in Standard

German rather than Low German. However, Low German skills among residents are also declining, according to the associations of care providers in Bremen. It is also becoming more common for residents of care homes to have an immigrant background. This often leads to communicative challenges, according to the care providers. In the past, care workers would sometimes speak Low German to residents, but many residents today do not speak Low German. For people with dementia, Low German could be a useful “door opener”.

- In the past, training provided to carers for the elderly included Low German language teaching, as it was acknowledged that Low German skills were important in this context (interestingly this was considerably more the case in Bremerhaven than in Bremen). This Low German language element was voluntary and consisted of 24 teaching hours within the 80-hour German course. However, since the training programme for “carers for the elderly” was replaced by a more general care training programme, German teaching has no longer been part of the syllabus. The new programme is also more demanding than the old one. On the other hand, care training schools report that it has become a huge challenge in recent years to support trainees who speak German as a second language. In order to help as many people as possible to become successfully qualified in this demanding profession, Low German teaching cannot currently be prioritised.
- The representation for senior citizens is planning to publish an updated version of its flyer in several languages to inform older Bremen residents about the representation and its work. This flyer will once again be translated into Low German, among other languages.
- In 2022, the Bremen-based State Centre for Low German received an award from the German Academy for Language and Literature for its 64-page brochure “Platt in de Pleeg”, which was produced in cooperation with the Carl Toepfer Foundation and the Catholic Academy of Stapelfeld. The brochure presents people who have been especially successful in promoting Low German in the field of care provision, and who are thus considered role models. The State Centre for Low German has drawn up a list of criteria for institutions which sets new standards for Low German in care settings. The criteria are based on practical experience and are intended for use in practical settings. The aim is to make more care institutions aware of the topic, and it is hoped that they will apply the criteria. To encourage this, the State Centre for Low German awards a seal of approval known as “Platt Hart” (Low German heart) with the slogan “Hart to Hart mit Platt”. A total of 13 residential care facilities in the North German federal states have received the Platt Hart award. The figures for Bremen are not available.
- In addition to recognising care institutions that use Low German, the State Centre for Low German has issued a Low German activity book for use with elderly residents in care homes. The activity book is available in hard copy and can also be downloaded and printed from the centre’s website (<https://xn--lnderzentrum-fr-niederdeutsch-0pc17e.de/download-area/beschaefigungsheft/>). The online version can be adapted to the desired dialect of Low German before being printed out.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The aforementioned measures have been taken with the aim of effecting significant improvements in this area.

4.10 Low German in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

4.10.1 Article 6 – Information

Since 2023, a regular meeting of various Hamburg authorities has been held four times a year to discuss the subject of Low German (the authorities in question being the schools authority, the institute for teacher development, the Authority for Science, Research and Equality and the Authority for Culture and Media). Whenever new developments or issues emerge related to the implementation of the Language Charter, these are specifically raised at the meetings and then passed on to other relevant circles for discussion.

4.10.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

The Senate is and remains committed to the promotion of the Low German language. A key instrument for the practical implementation of the Language Charter is the State Centre for Low German (LzN), which is based in Bremen. Please also refer to section E.VI.e.1 in Germany's Seventh Report and to the comments of the Hanseatic City of Bremen in section E.VI.d.1 of that report.

- At the request of Hamburg's parliament (parliamentary document 22/14800), a Low German translation prize worth 5,000 euros has been created and will be awarded every two years from 2026. The aim of the prize is to promote and maintain the Low German language. The first prize will be awarded on "Low German Day" (Plattdeuschtag) in April 2026 in order to maximise publicity for the prize and for the Low German translations.

4.10.2.1 Article 7 (1) (b)

Please refer to section E.VI.e.1.b of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.10.2.2 Article 7 (1) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- At Hamburg's Authority for Science, Research and Equality, a 30 per cent full-time post was created for the topic of Low German, starting on 1 May 2025. The primary purpose of this post is to play a coordinating role in matters concerning Low German, particularly the monitoring and implementation of the Language Charter within the Hamburg administration. The post also promotes dialogue between the administration and civil society.
- In order to help develop Low German teaching and to coordinate tasks within and outside the school context, the Authority for School, Family and Vocational Training (BSFB) has set up a post for an expert policy officer in Low German.
- At the languages department of Hamburg's institute for qualification and quality development at schools (LI), measures to support Low German are coordinated by the

head of department and a member of staff in the German language team. Measures are also funded by foundations, e.g. the Alfred Toepfer Foundation.

- In 2022 and 2024, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg provided funding of 3,500 euros for the Low German Day, of which the senator and second mayor were the patrons. The aim of Low German Day is to raise public awareness of the Low German language. To achieve this aim, various events are held across the city. These events are held in different formats to target different audiences, and all of them are held in Low German, including walks, tours, exhibitions, presentations (e.g. on the history of Low German), readings (including for children), concerts and prayers.

4.10.2.3 Article 7 (1) (e)

ii. Practical measures

- In 2023, an annual meeting was established between representatives of relevant authorities and representatives of civil society. This meeting is attended, among others, by the Low German council, the state centre for Low German, and by representatives from writers' associations and the fields of culture and the media. The aim of the meeting is to discuss topical issues, to engage in networking and to raise awareness of the various initiatives concerning Low German. The meeting also allows the administration to consult civil society representatives on important issues such as, most recently, the establishment of the translation prize, and to take the needs of civil society into account.

4.10.2.4 Article 7 (1) (f)

ii. Practical measures

Teaching materials and textbooks

- Hamburg uses its own teaching tool called “Fietje” to teach Low German in primary school. Schools can order this tool from the Authority for School, Family and Vocational Training (BSFB). The teachers' guide to the textbook is available online to all teachers. Additional electronic resources are provided to help teachers use the tool.
- Hamburg's institute for qualification and quality development at schools (LI Hamburg) has an e-mail address dedicated to fielding questions on Low German (platt@li.hamburg.de). It has its own Low German task card to encourage networking and provide information. A newsletter provides regular information.
- The State Centre for Low German (LzN) has produced a wide range of materials for teaching Low German, and the LI Hamburg institute regularly reminds Hamburg's teachers of this. All LzN materials can be found at <https://länderzentrum-für-niederdeutsch.de/service/bildung/>.
- In this section we will briefly present the most significant Low German project to be carried out at primary school level: The project “Mien Platt – dat Klappenbook” (My Low

German – the lap book) is an innovative education initiative developed by the LzN to promote Low German at primary schools. The project is aimed at primary school children and teachers who are not themselves fluent Low German speakers. The approach is to use a combination of activity sheets and learning videos that teach basic Low German words and sentences. Materials include activity sheets that can be printed out, educational videos presented by a Low-German-speaking actor, video tutorials and written guides for teachers, and a cardboard folder that is gradually transformed into a Low German “artwork”. All the materials are available free of charge from the LzN website. The project provides an accessible and entertaining introduction to Low German for children and makes it easier for teachers to begin teaching Low German in class even without advanced skills in the language. (<https://xn--lnderzentrum-fr-niederdeutsch-0pc17e.de/service/bildung/grundschule/mien-platt-plattdeutsch-lernen/mien-platt-plattdeutsch-lehren/>)

- For lower secondary school level, the LzN has published the textbook “Snacken, Proten, Kören”. This is a Low German teaching book with a practical focus. Over the course of ten chapters, the book follows the fortunes of two families with secondary-school-age children going through the joys and challenges of everyday life in Low German, both at school and at home. The book combines humorous stories with clearly explained grammar and extensive word lists, making it suitable for beginners and more advanced students alike. Accompanying materials, audio files and online exercises also support teaching and promote the use of Low German at school.
- The Hamburg learning management system (LMS) also contains various courses with materials:
 - The LMS course on lyrical and epic texts contains Low German texts and audios. (A cooperation project between Hamburg’s institute for qualification and quality development at schools (LI Hamburg) and the Hanseatic City of Bremen).
 - The LMS course “FR Deutsch” contains a Low German reader for use in German lessons and texts about the history of Low German at upper secondary level.
 - For teachers in Hamburg, there is also an overview of all Low German materials on LI Hamburg’s aforementioned Low German task card.
- Other materials are currently under development:
 - Working in cooperation with LI Hamburg and the State Centre for Low German (LzN), the Low German unit of the Authority for School, Family and Vocational Training (BSFB) is currently developing a bilingual tour (in standard and Low German) of the Port of Hamburg, which will be free for schools to take part in.
 - The Low German unit of the BSFB, in cooperation with the LzN, is currently supporting the Bergedorf museum and the Vierlande region in developing an audio guide for school classes in Low German.

4.10.2.5 Article 7 (1) (g)

Please refer to section E.VI.e.1.d of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- The State Centre for Low German (LzN) offers a comprehensive online language teaching programme aimed at anyone wishing to learn Low German or improve their Low German language skills. The programme combines modern digital teaching methods with in-depth linguistic expertise, giving learners flexible access to Low German from wherever they are in the world. Interactive courses, webinars and multimedia learning materials teach both language skills and cultural knowledge. Of particular note is the practical nature of the programme, which allows learners to actively apply Low German in their everyday life or work.
- LI Hamburg regularly offers educational events in the Low German language. Between 2021 and 2024, 37 events were held in cooperation with the LzN or one of the participating federal states (Bremen, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony). Some of the events were held in person at LI Hamburg and some as online seminars, with a total of 370 participants. The events included practical suggestions on how to teach Low German at primary school, lower secondary and pre-school levels ("Christmas", "food and drink", "games", "building blocks for Low German teaching at lower secondary level", "Low German teaching with escape rooms") and ideas for practical language training ("Fit in Platt" and learning Low German with video clips).

4.10.2.6 Article 7 (1) (h)

Please refer to section E.VI.e.1.e of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.10.2.7 Article 7 (1) (i)

Please refer to section E.VI.e.1.f of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.10.2.8 Article 7 (2)

No changes during the reporting period.

4.10.2.9 Article 7 (3)

ii. Practical measures

In addition to the measures resulting from the reports of the Federal Republic of Germany, the following measures should be highlighted:

- In 2023, a regular meeting was set up between representatives of the authorities for equality, culture/media and education, Hamburg's institute for qualification and quality development at schools (LI Hamburg) and the State Centre for Low German (LzN). The

meeting was established with the purpose of discussing measures to promote Low German. The meeting takes place four times a year.

- Furthermore, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg regularly takes part in joint federal and state level meetings on the promotion and preservation of the Low German language. Hamburg also takes part in the Consultative Committee on Issues concerning the Low German Speakers' Group.
- Finally, the undertaking to include Low German as part of German teaching ensures that all Hamburg pupils come into contact with Low German and have knowledge of Low German culture (especially poems and songs).

4.10.2.10 Article 7 (4)

No changes during the reporting period.

4.10.3 Article 8 – Education

It is up to schools to decide whether to establish Low German as a subject to teach. The Authority for School, Family and Vocational Training (BSFB) supports Hamburg's schools by allocating posts to set up or continue providing school-based or non-school-based teaching of Low German.

To ensure a needs-based and targeted distribution of available resources, the process for allocating posts was restructured in May 2023. Since then, schools that did not previously receive funding have also been eligible to apply for posts. Under the new framework for teaching Low German, all programmes aimed at promoting the Low German language and culture are eligible to apply. For the 2024/25 school year, nine schools applied for posts and nine schools have also been allocated posts for the 2025/26 school year.

4.10.3.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

ii. Practical measures

- The education programme for pre-school classes, published in 2020, provides guidance on the implementation of regional language references in the chapter "Language, communication and literacy". Educators are encouraged to engage with Low German in a way that is accessible to children. This is achieved using various materials and through cooperation with institutions and active speakers of Low German.
- Language teaching principles are firmly established in the daily routine of Hamburg's day-care centres. These principles permeate all areas of education in which many and varied opportunities can be found for active and passive language learning. In 2024, binding educational guidelines for teaching in day-care centres were published. With regard to communication, languages and written culture, these guidelines highlight the importance of languages and multilingualism in children's lives and highlight the fact that this is

acknowledged by professionals in the field. The guidelines also describe multilingualism within languages in the form of regional dialects, but do not name any specific languages or dialects. The design and implementation of pedagogical work in day-care centres is the responsibility of the day-care centres themselves.

4.10.3.2 Article 8 (1) (b) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

Preliminary remarks concerning all types of schools:

- Since 2023, Low German has been firmly established in the German curricula for primary schools, lower secondary and upper secondary schools. As Low German is included in regular German lessons, pupils acquire Low German language skills and cultural knowledge at both primary and secondary level. In addition, the curricula for primary school, lower secondary school and for years 5 to 11 of district school all include a teaching plan for the subject of Low German.
- The preparation of the aforementioned curricula provided an opportunity to improve the teaching of Low German language, culture and literature. The framework for teaching German and Low German has been updated and supplemented. The introduction of core curricula with required content will give schools better guidance than before. The core curricula identify the topics, content and learning areas that must be developed. The curricula thus ensure that a common basic level of knowledge of Low German language, culture and literature is attained across schools. This level of knowledge is necessary in order to understand historical, social and aesthetic phenomena and contexts, and it encourages pupils to participate in Low German culture.

For primary school:

Curriculum for Low German:

- The primary school curriculum for Low German, published in December 2022, entered into force for the 2023/2024 school year. In this regard, please see the comments in section D.X.1., Article 8, of Germany's Mid-Term Report following the Seventh Report.

Low German as a school subject

- It is up to schools to decide whether to establish Low German as a subject to teach. As set out in 4.10.2.3, Article 7 (1) (c), since May 2023 Hamburg's schools have been able to apply for extra staff (teaching posts) to set up teaching of Low German. The increase in Low German teaching for all pupils took place as a result of revising the curricula for the compulsory subject of German.

Low German as part of German lessons

- The study of Low German language, literature and culture is firmly established in the German curriculum for primary schools, which was published in December 2022 and has been in force since 2023/24. In this regard, please see the comments in section D.X.1., Article 8, of Germany's Mid-Term Report following the Seventh Report.
- The teaching resources referred to in the aforementioned section are all available to teachers online via the Hamburg Learning Management System (LMS). For further details, see 4.10.2.6, Article 7 (1) (f).
- In addition, since 2024, all book boxes for primary schools, compiled in cooperation with the Hamburg book halls for almost all Hamburg's primary schools, have included a contemporary work in Low German.

Extracurricular activities and initiatives at Hamburg schools

- The Low German reading competition "Jungs un Deerns leest Platt" has been held in Hamburg since 1983. It is aimed at pupils of all school years at all types of school. First, individual schools identify their best readers by holding internal reading events. These readers then take part in district-level competitions. The winners at district level may then enter the state-level finals, which are held according to age group / school year. Participants are required to read short texts in Low German. Participants are free to choose these texts themselves; an appropriate collection of texts is made available by the authority responsible for education. For decades, the competition was held every two years, but since the 2023/24 school year it has been held annually. In 2024, the regional broadcaster NDR produced a video report on the "Jungs un Deerns leest Platt" competition. (<https://www.ardmediathek.de/video/hamburg-journal/plattdeutscher-lesewettbewerb-im-ohnsorg-theater/ndr/Y3JpZDovL25kci5kZS80MGQwMDNlZC1mMTE2LTQ0OGEtOTI4MS0xZmM5OTlkZTMwMDk>).
- A collection of online tips and links to Low German resources provided by the State Centre for Low German (LzN), the Hamburg book halls and other cooperation partners is intended to support schools in setting up or expanding their own Low German programmes both during and outside of school instruction. For further details, see 4.10.2.6, Article 7 (1) (f).

4.10.3.3 Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

At secondary level

Curricula for Low German

- The Low German curricula for lower secondary schools and for years 5 to 11 of district schools were published in 2023 and entered into force for the 2024/2025 school year. In this regard, please see the comments in section D.X.1., Article 8, of Germany's Mid-Term Report following the Seventh Report.

Low German as a school subject

- In this regard, please see 4.10.3.2, Article 8 (1) (b) (iii).

Low German as part of German lessons

- The study of Low German language, literature and culture is firmly established in the German curricula for secondary schools (lower and upper secondary levels) which were published in December 2022 and has been in force since 2023/24. In this regard, please see the comments in section D.X.1., Article 8, of Germany's Mid-Term Report following the Seventh Report.

Extracurricular activities and initiatives at Hamburg schools

- In this regard, please see 4.10.3.2, Article 8 (1) (b) (iii).

4.10.3.4 Article 8 (1) (d) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

- The core tasks of vocational schools are to teach job-related skills. Language teaching plays a key role in this regard: vocational schools in Hamburg use elements of Low German culture and language or make reference to them. The training curricula for professions that are regulated in Hamburg are based on the relevant fields of professional activity and the relevant training strategies. The Low German language is therefore not taught to the same extent in all training curricula.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.10.3.5 Article 8 (1) (e) ii

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments in E.VI.e.2.e of Germany's Seventh Report.
- In the summer semester of 2025, the faculty of education offered its first seminar on teaching Low German at primary school. This was part of a module on teaching German at primary school. The plan is to make this seminar a regular event.

4.10.3.6 Article 8 (1) (f) ii

ii. Practical measures

- Hamburg's adult education institute (Volkshochschule) regularly offers Low German language courses, which are in high demand. In 2024, 28 such courses were offered with 180 participants, ranging from beginner to advanced. Some of these were delivered online and some in person. They also included conversation courses and literary courses. It is possible that intensive Low German courses may in the future be recognised as eligible for educational leave. This question is currently under consideration.

4.10.3.7 Article 8 (1) (g)

ii. Practical measures

- An innovative concept is that of "core curricula" in the teaching of Low German. These core elements stipulate compulsory content in the study of regional culture. A key principle is to enable bilingual teaching. Bilingualism makes it possible to address more complex regional cultural matters. It makes it easier to understand the role of Low German language past and present, including its interdependence with northern German and northern European culture: for example, Low German and the Hanseatic League; the "Missingsch" dialect of Hamburg; Low German within Standard German; similarities to other northern European languages, and so on. The aim is to strengthen regional cultural identity, especially Hamburg's. In this regard, please see 4.10.3.2, Article 8 (1) (b) (iii).

4.10.3.8 Article 8 (1) (h)

ii. Practical measures

In this regard, please see section E.VI.e.2, Article 8 (1) (i) of Germany's Seventh Language Report.

4.10.3.9 Article 8 (1) (i)

ii. Practical measures

- As has already been stated several times, the decision on whether to introduce Low German as a school subject must be taken by all general education schools in Hamburg, irrespective of whether they are located in areas with high numbers of Low German speakers. In addition, the obligation to include Low German content in German lessons ensures that all Hamburg pupils acquire basic knowledge of Low German language and culture and engage with Low German works – especially poems and songs.
- See also the comments in section VI.e.2.i, Article 8 (1) (i) of Germany's Seventh Report.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.10.4 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

4.10.4.1 Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- This undertaking has already been fulfilled for the territory of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg since the ratification of the Language Charter, as already stated several times in Germany's various reports. Sections 142 (3) sentence 1 and 144 (1) sentence 1 alternative 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*, ZPO) – in conjunction with the corresponding reference norms of the other procedural rules – are consistent with the undertaking under the Language Charter. Additional non-legislative or state-legislative norms are not necessary and not required.

ii. Practical measures

- There have been no changes in implemented measures compared with the previous reporting period as regards undertakings made under this Article in the territory of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- This recommendation could perhaps be implemented at federal level by means of a declaratory reference to the Act Ratifying the Language Charter. Whether this would be of any value is questionable, as the current legal situation would not change. However, the Charter undertakings would become somewhat more visible and easily identifiable. The Federal Government has the legislative power to amend/extend the legal foundations for

the admissibility of documents and evidence in the Low German language in civil, labour, social, financial and administrative court proceedings. There is legislative power for this at federal state level.

4.10.4.2 Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please see 4.10.4.1 regarding measures in the field of policy and/or legislation.

ii. Practical measures

- Please see 4.10.4.1 regarding practical measures.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please see 4.10.4.1 regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

4.10.4.3 Article 9 (2) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please see 4.10.4.1 regarding measures in the field of policy and/or legislation.

ii. Practical measures

- Please see 4.10.4.1 regarding practical measures.

4.10.5 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

There have been no changes to the measures relating to Article 10 since the previous reporting period.

4.10.5.1 Article 10 (4) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- This requirement is met for all public sector employees of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, as the entire territory of Hamburg is part of the traditional linguistic area of Low German. Thus, all of Hamburg's public sector employees are deployed within that language area. There is therefore no need for specific implementation measures.

4.10.6 Article 11 – Media

4.10.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in E.VI.e.5.a and E.VI.e.5.b of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- Hamburg's regional radio station NDR 90.3 regularly broadcasts programmes and reports in Low German. Essentially, there are four radio formats that are exclusively in Low German: "Narichten op Platt" (news), "Wi snackt Platt", "Hör mal'n beten to" and "Das Niederdeutsche Hörspiel" (Low German radio play). In addition, the "Kulturjournal" programme on NDR 90.3 focuses on Low German issues, sometimes using a mixture of standard and Low German language and sometimes using Low German only. An overview of Low German radio programmes as of 24 June 2025 is provided below:
 - "Narichten op Platt" – Monday–Sunday, 9:30 – local (Hamburg) and international news and weather – duration: ~ 3 mins, formats: radio, podcast, online transcript ([ndr.de/hamburg](https://www.ndr.de/hamburg) and [ndr.de/platt](https://www.ndr.de/platt))
 - "Wi snackt Platt" – every Sunday, 8:30–9:00 – magazine show with reports, interviews, stories and Low German music – duration: 30 mins, formats: radio, podcast, detailed EPG in Low German, thematically related articles online ([ndr.de/hamburg](https://www.ndr.de/hamburg) and [ndr.de/platt](https://www.ndr.de/platt))
 - "Hör mal 'n beten to" – Monday–Friday, 13:15; Saturday, 16:40 – compact stories and perspectives on everyday life – duration: ~ 1:40 mins, formats: radio, podcast, online transcripts of selected texts ([ndr.de/hamburg](https://www.ndr.de/hamburg) and [ndr.de/platt](https://www.ndr.de/platt))
 - "Das Niederdeutsche Hörspiel" (the Low German radio play) – every other Wednesday, 21:00–22:00 – co-production of NDR and Radio Bremen (new and classic radio plays) – duration: ~ 55 minutes, formats: radio, podcast, online preview ([ndr.de/hamburg](https://www.ndr.de/hamburg), [ndr.de/kultur](https://www.ndr.de/kultur) and [ndr.de/platt](https://www.ndr.de/platt))
 - "Kulturjournal" – Monday–Friday, 19:05 – reports and cultural news (in Standard German, but also frequently in Low German) on the latest productions of the Ohnsorg Theatre and the Low German amateur theatre in Hamburg, with Low German music and Low German artists. The programme also follows important Low German events such as the "Plattdeutscher Tag" (Low German Day) in Hamburg. Formats: radio, online audio, and possibly transcribed as an online article ([ndr.de/hamburg](https://www.ndr.de/hamburg), [ndr.de/kultur](https://www.ndr.de/kultur) and [ndr.de/platt](https://www.ndr.de/platt))
- Since 16 March 2024, Hamburg's broadcasting centre has resumed news broadcasts in Low German on Saturdays at 9:30. This news broadcast has now replaced the week-in-review programme "Düsse Week op Platt".

- Since April 2021, there have been special bonus editions of the podcast version of “Wi snackt Platt”. This allowed certain events to be given full-length coverage, such as the opening of the Low German Day, the finals of the Hamburg schools’ Low German reading competition “Jungs un Deerns leest Platt”, and interviews with famous Low German speakers such as the Ohnsorg Theatre actors Heidi Mahler and Ursula Hinrichs.

4.10.6.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

ii. Practical measures

- The “Hamburg Journal” (broadcast by Hamburg’s broadcasting centre from Monday to Friday at 18:00 and Monday to Sunday at 19:30) regularly reports on Low German culture in the city (e.g. premieres at the Ohnsorg Theatre, Low German musicians in Hamburg, winners of the Hamburg Low German writing competition “Vertell doch mal”, the Hamburg schools’ Low German reading competition “Jungs un Deerns leest Platt” and the Low German Day in Hamburg). The reports are mainly in Standard German, but also feature statements, excerpts from songs and stage performances in Low German. In addition, Hamburg’s broadcasting centre provides NDR television with a monthly report (“De Noorden op Platt”) about a Hamburg-related topic; the report is entirely in Low German.
- Since May 2022, the aforementioned television programme “De Noorden op Platt” (duration: half an hour) has been broadcast on the last Saturday of the month at 11:30, featuring regular reports from Hamburg’s broadcasting centre.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- NDR television regularly broadcasts programmes in Low German. Please refer to the measures described in the previous paragraph. Article 11 (1) (d)

4.10.6.3

ii. Practical measures

- The NDR regional broadcaster currently has two permanent editors in charge of Low German programming. Seven employees (freelance and contract staff) are available to write the Low German news programme. Approximately nine Low German writers are available for the “Wi snackt Platt” programme and podcast format.
- The regional traineeship programme for people wishing to work in journalism welcomes applications from people with Low German language skills. The Low German editorial office of Hamburg’s broadcasting centre is constantly looking for new freelance writers for the Low German programmes of the regional radio station NDR 90.3. Since 2021, various new writers have been recruited to contribute to the station’s Low German programmes.

- The Low German editorial office of Hamburg's broadcasting centre also welcomes applications for internships. For example, for two months in 2024, the editorial office benefited from the support of an intern who was a digital communication student from the HAW Hamburg university.

4.10.6.4 Article 11 (1) (e) ii

Regarding this undertaking, there have been no changes to the measures compared with the comments for the previous reporting periods.

4.10.6.5 Article 11 (1) (f) ii

Regarding this undertaking, there have been no changes to the measures compared with the comments for the previous reporting periods.

4.10.6.6 Article 11 (1) (g)

Please refer to the comments in E.VI.e.5.f of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.10.6.7 Article 11 (2)

Regarding this undertaking, there have been no changes to the measures compared with the comments for the previous reporting periods.

4.10.7 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.10.7.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

ii. Practical measures

- Hamburg's public libraries have the following media holdings in Low German:

Section	No.	Central library
Books for adults	350	206
CDs for adults	114	25
Books for children	459	50
CDs for children	6	5
DVDs for children	1	1
Sheet music / songbooks	23	21
Total	953	308

4.10.7.2 Article 12 (1) (d)

Regarding this undertaking, there have been no changes to the measures compared with the comments for the previous reporting periods.

4.10.7.3 Article 12 (1) (g)

Regarding this undertaking, there have been no changes to the measures compared with the comments for the previous reporting periods.

4.10.7.4 Article 12 (3)

Regarding this undertaking, there have been no changes to the measures compared with the comments for the previous reporting periods.

4.10.8 Article 13 – Economic and social life

Regarding this undertaking, there have been no changes to the measures compared with the comments for the previous reporting period.

4.11 Low German in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

4.11.1 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

4.11.1.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The Low German language is protected in the constitution of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania; see Article 16 (2) of the constitution of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.
- Item 282 of the coalition agreement for the seventh legislative period in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (2021-2026) provides for increased support for the Low German language.

4.11.1.2 Article 7 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments below.

4.11.1.3 Article 7 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 3.8 and 4.11.2.1.

4.11.1.4 Article 7 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 3.8 and 4.11.2.1.
- We also wish to report on a decision by the state parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania on 14 March 2025 concerning parliamentary document 8/4636. This document called for the promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The state parliament's decision provides for the introduction of a list of intangible cultural heritage factors in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and for the submission of a plan to raise awareness of and better promote such heritage. One of the recognised intangible cultural heritage factors in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is Low German theatre.

4.11.1.5 Article 7 (1) (e)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments in Germany's Seventh Report.
- Since 2021, the "Low German Weeks" have been held in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania under the patronage of the state prime minister and at the initiative of the "Heimatverband" (local heritage association) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Many stakeholders throughout the state have contributed to the Low German Weeks by putting on various events (e.g. readings, plays, talks, stage programmes).
- Based on a decision by the state parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania to honour the work of Fritz Reuter (1810–1874), 2024 was designated a year to commemorate Fritz Reuter in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The year 2024 was also the 150th anniversary of Fritz Reuter's death. (The parliamentary decision is available here: <https://www.dokumentation.landtag-mv.de/parldok/vorgang/40568>.) Numerous projects dedicated to the outstanding Low German author Fritz Reuter received funding from the federal state's budget. Such projects included, for example, a Fritz Reuter commemoration year in Reuter's birth town of Stavenhagen, under the patronage of the state prime minister.
- On 12 November 2024, to mark the occasion of Fritz Reuter's birthday on 7 November, the Representation of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in Berlin held a Low German event organised by the Fritz Reuter Society (Fritz-Reuter-Gesellschaft) and the local heritage association (Heimatverband) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. This was accompanied by an exhibition organised by Berlin's state library (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin) at the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz), showing original works borrowed from the estate of Fritz Reuter.

4.11.1.6 Article 7 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 3.8 and 4.11.2.1 of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments below.
- Institutes of higher education in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania are obliged to teach Low German in order to fulfil undertakings under the Language Charter. The following

Low German courses are provided and further developed at universities in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania:

- The University of Greifswald is home to the Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German (Kompetenzzentrum für Niederdeutschdidaktik) and provides opportunities for study in the context of teacher training programmes (Low German as a subsidiary subject for advanced secondary school teachers and regional school teachers; Low German as a third and fourth language for primary school teachers). The Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German and the Low German programmes for trainee teachers are financed under the state's target agreements with the University of Greifswald. Under the framework for higher education development from 2026 to 2030, and according to the target agreements for 2026 to 2030, the subject of Low German will continue to be supported at the current level by the Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German.
- Founded on 22 January 2025 at the University of Rostock, the Centre for Mecklenburg's Regional History and Culture (Zentrum für Regionale Geschichte und Kultur Mecklenburgs) aims to combine university research on Low German language, literature, culture and regional history with diverse activities in these fields in Mecklenburg and Western Pomerania. To this end, close cooperation is planned with regional partners such as the local heritage association (Heimatverband) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the round table for state history (Runder Tisch Landesgeschichte), the advisory board for the preservation of local heritage and Low German (Beirat für Heimatpflege und Niederdeutsch) and the local museums association (Museumsverband). The Centre's academic core consists of a professorship for Low German language and literature and a professorship for the regional cultural history of Mecklenburg. The target agreements for 2026 to 2030 specify that the Centre will evolve into a research platform with a focus on regional language.
- The Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German at the University of Greifswald has worked together with an external partner to create an online Low German dictionary based on the rules of Low German spelling by Renate Herrmann-Winter: <https://germanistik.uni-greifswald.de/institut/arbeitsbereiche/kompetenzzentrum-fuer-niederdeutschdidaktik/online-woerterbuch-nach-herrmann-winter/>.

4.11.1.7 Article 7 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in Germany's Seventh Report.
- The advisory board for the preservation of local heritage and Low German was appointed jointly by Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania's Minister of Education and Daycare Facilities for Children and its Minister of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs. The advisory board is preparing a recommendation for an update to the programme "My

homeland – My modern Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania” (Meine Heimat – Mein modernes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), to be released from 2026 under the new title “Hier Bün ik Tauhus”.

4.11.1.8 Article 7 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The target agreements between the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and the universities of Greifswald and Rostock for the period 2026–2030, upon which funding is based, envisage continued funding for the following: the Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German at the University of Greifswald; the training of primary school teachers in the subject of Low German and of upper-secondary level teachers in Low German as a subsidiary subject at the University of Greifswald; and the academic chair for Low German language and literature at the University of Rostock.

ii. Practical measures

- On 1 October 2024, a new research post for Low German in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania was filled at the University of Rostock. The post, attached to the Academy of Sciences and Literature in Mainz, researches regional linguistic variation in the federal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Its main task is to draw up a digital map of Low German. The project is funded under the Academies Programme by the Union of Academies and the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

4.11.1.9 Article 7 (1) (i)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- In principle, the regulation of cross-border cultural exchange does not fall within the federal states’ scope of action.

ii. Practical measures

- In March 2025, staff from the Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German at the University of Greifswald visited Brazil to investigate the teaching of Low German in that country. Their aim was to observe the teaching of Pomerano (Pomeranian) in Brazilian schools. Pomerano is a variety of Low German that stems from families who immigrated to Brazil from Pomerania in the 19th century. It is still spoken today by around 250,000 people.

4.11.1.10 Article 7 (2)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to 3.8 and 4.11.2.1.

4.11.1.11 Article 7 (3)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Regarding this undertaking, please refer to the previous and subsequent comments.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the previous and subsequent comments.

4.11.1.12 Article 7 (4)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the previous and subsequent comments.
- During the eighth parliamentary term in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (2021-2026), the Minister of Education and Daycare Facilities for Children and the Minister of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs jointly appointed a new advisory board for the preservation of local heritage and Low German. Represented on the board are the local heritage association (Heimatverband) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and the spokesperson of the Federal Council for Low German. The advisory board usually meets twice a year.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the previous and subsequent comments.
- The local heritage association of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania was given the opportunity to comment in preparation for Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania's contribution to Germany's Eighth Report.

4.11.2 Article 8 – Education

4.11.2.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The state programme “My homeland – My modern Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania” (Meine Heimat – Mein modernes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), which was adopted in 2016, is dedicated to promoting the Low German language in all areas of education, in academia and in cultural life. Since the aforementioned state programme entered into force, the teaching of Low German and local heritage has been firmly established in education, from early childhood and throughout school. An updated version of the programme is currently being planned.

- In 2024, a voluntary ambassador for Low German was appointed. The person appointed to fill this role is currently still attending a Low German profile school in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The role will include voluntary and high-profile tasks to support and promote Low German as a cultural language and make it attractive to young people.

ii. Practical measures

- In 2025, for the first time ever, 40 day-care centres in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania were given awards in the form of seals of approval and certificates. The centres were given these awards to acknowledge their provision of regular services to preserve and promote Low German. The aim of this measure is to continually encourage the provision of Low German services at day-care centres.
- In 2025, day-care centres received a one-off payment of 15,000 euros in return for implementing measures to preserve and promote Low German. This funding is awarded based on expenditure up to a maximum of 1,500 euros per centre or childminder. The certificates and seals of approval are awarded as part of an all-day event focusing on Low German teaching.
- This event was held for the first time in 2025. The plan is to establish it as an annual event for teachers and other Low German specialists in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.
- All day-care centres are invited once again to participate in the biennial Low German competitions in 2026.
- The Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German continuously works to provide good quality learning materials online: <https://germanistik.uni-greifswald.de/institut/arbeitsbereiche/kompetenzzentrum-fuer-niederdeutschdidaktik/>

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts, reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.11.2.2 Article 8 (1) (b) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to 4.11.3.1 i.
- Low German is a fixed element of the curricula for primary schools, including all-day primary schools.
- Under the state programme “My homeland – My modern Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania” (Meine Heimat – Mein modernes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), all-day

primary schools are given the opportunity to support learning through excursions to explore the local region, its geography, culture, world of work, museums, etc.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to 4.11.3.1 i.
- Under the school curricula, which have been revised since 2019, Low German has been firmly integrated into teaching across multiple subject areas. Since the 2023/24 school year, Low German culture has been represented in the images that adorn the cover of the curricula, and which are specific to the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.
- Low German is taught at primary schools for at least one hour as part of all-day schooling, as an elective subject, and as an alternative subject.
- In the 2024/25 school year, 1,302 learners were taught Low German at 34 schools in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. This includes 19 primary schools with 648 learners: 81 learners in year 1; 160 in year 2; 202 in year 3; and 205 in year 4 – all of whom learned Low German.
- Since 2024, the “Beo” app for learning Low German has been provided free of charge. The app was developed by the Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German: <https://germanistik.uni-greifswald.de/institut/arbeitsbereiche/kompetenzzentrum-fuer-niederdeutschdidaktik/sprachlern-app-beo/>
- The Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German at the University of Greifswald has created ALWiNE, an online platform for learning Low German vocabulary: <https://www.uni-greifswald.de/studium/ansprechpartner/qualitaet-in-studium-und-lehre/digitale-lehre/praxisbeispiele/softwaregestuetztes-plattdeutschlernen-mit-alwine-und-quizlet/>

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts, reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.11.2.3 Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to 4.11.3.1 i.
- Low German is a fixed element of the curricula for secondary schools, including all-day schools.
- The new Low German curriculum for the lower and upper secondary levels (2017) provides for Low German language classes. This curriculum satisfies the requirement to

offer Low German at regional schools in years 7–10 and at upper secondary level at advanced secondary schools as a core curriculum option or an elective subject.

- It is planned to introduce Low German as a special profile subject at the four advanced secondary schools that have a Low German profile. This will be done from year 8 or year 9 at the latest, up to Abitur level (university entrance exam) after upper secondary level.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to 4.11.3.2 ii.
- Low German is taught at regional schools for at least one hour as a core curriculum option and an alternative subject.
- Low German is taught at advanced secondary schools for one hour as a core curriculum option. At the four “profile schools” it is taught as a mandatory subject for two to four hours (depending on the year). And as an elective and alternative subject, it is taught for one hour.
- Low German is a fixed element of the curriculum for German as a subject at regional schools, with a focus on language varieties, language history and regional and Low German literature.
- The current curriculum provides not only for Low German to be considered as a separate subject, but also for it to be taught across multiple subject areas. It also states that learning in extracurricular settings in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, projects, school trips and participation in the Low German competition provide an appropriate framework for implementing the objectives of the state programme “My homeland – My modern Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania” (Meine Heimat – Mein modernes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern).
- Since the 2023/2024 school year, Low German has been expanded throughout the entire education system under Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania’s language education strategy.
- For the 2024/2025 school year, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania’s official statistics for secondary school education include the following data:
 - Seven regional schools taught Low German to 222 learners: 24 learners in year 5; 32 in year 6; 69 in year 7; 64 in year 8; 18 in year 9; and 15 in year 10. In these lessons, Low German was taught as a core curriculum option.
 - At six advanced secondary schools, 425 learners were taught Low German: 86 learners in year 7; 15 in year 8; 113 in year 9; 193 in year 10; and 9 in year 11. Low German was not taught in year 12. For 381 learners, Low German was taught as a core curriculum option; for 26 learners, it was taught outside of half-day school hours. Nine learners attended the Low German elementary course at upper-secondary level.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts, reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.11.2.4 Article 8 (1) (d) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The curricula for vocational education are currently being revised with a view to including Low German in teaching across multiple subject areas.

ii. Practical measures

- In addition to its regular courses, the Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German offers a “certificate course” as part of its training for teachers and educators. This means that a teaching qualification is acquired while teaching, as part of the teaching degree in question.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts, reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.11.2.5 Article 8 (1) (e) ii

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Language training in Low German has expanded considerably since the establishment of the Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German (KND) at the University of Greifswald.
- Please refer to 4.11.3.2 i.

ii. Practical measures

- The Competence Centre for the Teaching of Low German enables educators to gain qualifications while working. This applies to staff from day-care centres and to teachers of Low German / local heritage.
- When hiring teachers, if candidates are equally suitable for a position, the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania gives precedence to those who are qualified to teach Low German. Moreover, candidates with a qualification in Low German are given

precedence when it comes to being allocated a place for work experience as part of their teacher training.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts, reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.11.2.6 Article 8 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to 4.11.3.1 i.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to 4.11.3.1 ii and 4.11.3.2 ii.
- In 2022, the federal state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania provided funding of 45,763.90 euros for teacher training in connection with a comic book from the “MOSAİK up Platt” series. “De Abrafaxe in de Hansetiet” is a comic book commissioned by the Institute for Quality Development in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania for the purpose of teaching Low German language and northern German culture and history, set in the wider European context of Hanseatic History. Altogether, two volumes of approximately 450 pages were commissioned, comprising a total of 26 individual comic books (the whole series is called “Die Hansezeit”). In addition, a special 48-page book was created exclusively for use in teacher training. Since September 2022, training courses have been offered on a regular basis.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts, reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.11.2.7 Article 8 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to 4.11.3.1 i.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on Article 8 (1) (e) (ii).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts, reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.11.2.8 Article 8 (1) (i)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The undertaking to preserve the Low German language is enshrined in Article 16 (2) of the state constitution of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.
- In accordance with the government coalition agreement for the current (eighth) parliamentary term in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the coalition partners are committed to preserving and promoting Low German (see point 282).
- The federal state revised its strategy for supporting highly gifted learners in the field of Low German / “profile schools” 2023.

ii. Practical measures

- In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Low German profile schools are evaluated once a year.
- The state’s strategy is implemented through the strategies of the respective schools, which include interdisciplinary aspects. The “profile” specialisation is part of the respective school programme. The aim of the Low German profile is to teach the regional language of Low German through foreign language teaching in accordance with the Language Charter. Systematic teaching ensures that this regional language is passed on in a regulated manner. The organisation of teaching and extracurricular activities promotes, on the one hand, a connection to learners’ homeland, personal identity, tradition and local history; on the other hand, it encourages their openness towards other European cultures and the wider world by focusing attention on their own cultural characteristics.
- In 2023, the advisory board for the preservation of local heritage and Low German (Beirat für Heimatpflege und Niederdeutsch) was convened jointly by two of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania’s ministries. The members of the advisory board were appointed by representatives of the state’s Ministry of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs and its Ministry of Education and Daycare Facilities for Children. The advisory board is composed of experts from various associations and institutions. The main task of the advisory board is to provide expert advice on fulfilling the undertakings made by the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania under the Language Charter and on completing the tasks arising from those undertakings, and to develop recommendations for specific implementation measures.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts, reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.11.3 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

4.11.4 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

4.11.5 Article 11 – Media

Regarding Article 11 (1) (b)–(d), the comments made in the previous periodic report still apply.

4.11.5.1 Article 11 (1) (e) ii

ii. Practical measures

- The Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania local heritage magazine “Stier und Grief” has been published twice a year since 2017. Each edition contains numerous articles in the Low German language. The magazine is published by the local heritage association (Heimatverband) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and the Stiftung Mecklenburg foundation and is funded by the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

4.11.5.2 Article 11 (1) (f) ii

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania’s cultural funding guidelines of July 2023, in particular point 3.4 (f), also allow funding for non-commercial audiovisual productions in Low German: <https://www.lfi-mv.de/foerderfinder/kulturelle-projektfoerderung/>

ii. Practical measures

- The “Service Center Kultur” (cultural service centre), which is financed by the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, also offers advice on obtaining funding: <https://foerderfinder.servicecenter-kultur.de/>.
- As part of the 2024 Fritz Reuter commemoration year, the Fritz Reuter society (Fritz Reuter Gesellschaft e.V.) received funding for the project “Fritz Reuter zum Anhören” (audio recordings of Fritz Reuter’s works). The money was provided from Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania’s budget for cultural project funding.

- Please refer to the comments on the funding activities of the local heritage association (Heimatverband) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in Germany's Seventh Report.

4.11.5.3 Article 11 (2)

There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

4.11.6 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.11.6.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 4.11.2.1 above, and to the comments below.
- The advisory board for the preservation of local heritage and Low German was appointed jointly by Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania's Minister of Education and Daycare Facilities for Children and its Minister of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs. The advisory board is preparing a recommendation for an update to the programme "My homeland – My modern Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania" (Meine Heimat – Mein modernes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), to be released in 2026.
- Various official websites of the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania promote the Low German language and provide information on resources for learning it. Such websites include the following: Ministry of Science, Culture, Federal and European Affairs (<https://www.regierung-mv.de/Landesregierung/wkm/Kultur/Sparten/Niederdeutsche-Sprache>); the education server (<https://www.bildung-mv.de/unterricht/rahmenplaene/rahmenplaene-fuer-die-allgemein-bildenden-faecher/niederdeutsch/>); and the cultural website (<https://www.kultur-mv.de/kunst-kultur/literatur-sprache-niederdeutsch/plattdeutsch-in-mv-die-serie-teil-8.html>).
- In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania's cultural funding guidelines of July 2023, the Low German language is explicitly mentioned as a funding priority in point 3.4. (f).

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments in 4.11.2.5 of Germany's Seventh Report.
- Low German theatre associations – in particular the "Niederdeutsche Bühne" theatres in Rostock and Neubrandenburg and the "Theaterwerft" in Greifswald – receive financial support for producing Low German plays and theatre programmes. This financial support is awarded to successful applicants for cultural project funding.
- In 2024/2025, the local heritage association (Heimatverband) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania was awarded federal state funding to implement a project to attract young people to get involved in Low German theatre.

- The state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania finances the Mecklenburg State Theatre, and with it the Fritz-Reuter-Bühne (Fritz Reuter theatre), which was established in 1926 and is the only professional Low German theatre in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.
- For many years, the Fritz Reuter society (Fritz Reuter Gesellschaft e.V.) has been involved each year, upon request, in the teaching of Low German literature (especially that of Fritz Reuter and his contemporaries) and in the publication of the literary periodical “Beiträge der Fritz-Reuter-Gesellschaft”.

4.11.6.2 Article 12 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Financial support is possible both in the context of cultural funding and in the context of film funding in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

ii. Practical measures

- Fritz Reuter’s birth town of Stavenhagen received cultural funding from the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in 2024 and 2025 to produce plays in Standard German for open air performances. The plays were based on the story “Kein Hüsung”, originally written by Fritz Reuter in Low German, and the novel “Ut den Franzosentid”.

4.11.6.3 Article 12 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Financial support is possible both in the context of cultural funding and in the context of film funding in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

ii. Practical measures

- Each year, the “Darß-Festspiele” (festival productions in the coastal region of Darß) are awarded funding from the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania to produce and perform a new (open-air) production of a play based on Ehm Welk’s novels “Die Heiden von Kummerow” and “Die Gerechten von Kummerow”, which were published in Standard German (<https://www.darss-festspiele.de/>).
- The film “Mittagsstunde”, starring Charly Hübner, was produced with funding from Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania’s cultural film funding budget. Two versions of the film were made – one in Standard German and one in Low German (<https://www.mittagsstunde-film.de/>).
- We would like to highlight once again the Virtual Museum of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the text of which is also available in Low German: <https://www.landmuseum-mv.de/pd/>. This museum was already mentioned in Germany’s Seventh Report.

4.11.6.4 Article 12 (1) (d)

Please refer to the comments in Germany's Seventh Report.

4.11.6.5 Article 12 (1) (e)

Please refer to the comments in Germany's Seventh Report.

4.11.6.6 Article 12 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the previous comments for the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, in particular on the state's advisory board for the preservation of local heritage and Low German.

4.11.6.7 Article 12 (1) (h)

Please refer to the comments in Germany's Seventh Report.

4.11.6.8 Article 12 (3)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments in Germany's Seventh Report.
- Please also refer to 4.11.2.9.

4.11.7 Article 13 – Economic and social life

There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

4.12 Low German in Lower Saxony

4.12.1 Article 6 – Information

4.12.1 See the comments under para. 4.5.1.

4.12.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

Regarding Article 7(1)(a) to (d) and (h) to (i) and (2) to (4) there are no changes to the comments from the previous reporting cycle.

4.12.2.1 Article 7 (1) (e)

ii. Measures in practice

- At the initiative of the management, the State Centre for Low German (Länderzentrum Niederdeutsch – LzN) set up the advisory working group of young Low German speakers, the “Jugendwarkkring”, on 21 October 2024. The aim of the working group is to advise and support the management on youth-related aspects of the LzN’s work. The “Jugendwarkkring” is currently made up of five members aged between 20 and 30.

4.12.2.2 Article 7 (1) (f)

ii. Measures in practice

- Since the last report, the state of Lower Saxony has funded the development of a language learning app for East Frisian German (PlattinO – die Plattlern-App) at B1 level (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) that is provided by the office for Low German (Plattdüütskbüro) of the East Frisian regional council, with a total amount of 41,000 euros in 2023 and 2024.
- Since the last report, the state of Lower Saxony has provided a total amount of 30,000 euros to fund the translation and publication of three mini-books (24,000 copies each) from the ‘Lieselotte’ series of children’s books in four language versions (North Low Saxon, East Frisian, Eastphalian and Sater Frisian) published by the ‘Platt is cool’ activity group for distribution to schools and kindergartens in Lower Saxony.
- Since the last report, the state of Lower Saxony has supported the development of a Low German language learning (BEO) app for Lower Saxony with a total amount of 60,000 euros in the years from 2021 to 2024. The app has been developed by seven regional associations (Landschaften und Landschaftsverbände) together with the University of Greifswald. As people in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania speak a different variant of Low German, the app has a switch to this variant. The app was launched in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania at the same time as in Lower Saxony (2024).

4.12.2.3 Article 7 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Increase in the financing of LzN gGmbH by 8,500 euros each for the years 2024 and 2025 to a total of 125,500 euros (share contributed by Lower Saxony). From 2026 (until 2029), the state's share will be increased by a further 16,000 euros to 141,500 euros.

4.12.3 Article 8 – Education

4.12.3.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

ii. Measures in practice

- Because child day-care centres are operated by different organisations (see also Germany's 7th periodical report), the state of Lower Saxony does not collect any data on the use of Low German in the state's educational institutions. As a result, no reliable statements can be made.
- In total, more than 300 schools in Lower Saxony provide regional language offerings. It is particularly noteworthy that a constantly increasing number of schools have included Low German in their school programme and are actively and continuously promoting language learning, among other things, by using Low German as the language of instruction for other subjects.
- Schools that make sustained and special efforts not only to provide an opportunity for language encounters but also to promote the acquisition of Low German, and also consider this to be part of their school profile, for example, schools that are on the way to implementing Low German in everyday teaching can continue to receive compensation for a limited period of time by being designated as "starter" and "project" schools.
- Schools still receive support from the four Regional State Offices for Schools and Education (Regionale Landesämter für Schule und Bildung; RLSB), and teachers are still granted remission from teaching duties to work on preparing language instruction. Specialist advisers on Low German give the schools advice and support, among other things, with the purchasing and production of teaching materials. A continuously expanding pool of materials, complemented by a task card, has been available to all schools on the Lower Saxony Education Portal (Bildungsportal Niedersachsen) since 2025.
- In 2021, the lower secondary level textbook "Snacken, Proten, Kören", developed with the support of the state of Lower Saxony, was published. It is now available to schools for Low German teaching at lower secondary level. In 2024, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Culture supported the financing of a second edition of this textbook for East Frisian Low German.
- Primary level:

Primary schools are particularly important when it comes to acquiring and cultivating Low German language skills. In order to maintain and expand the language skills acquired before enrolment in school, a primary school can teach selected mandatory subjects in the regional language, with the exception of German and English. This is also available for pupils who wish to begin learning the language. Subjects are generally taught bilingually, or using the immersion method. Such language instruction is generally possible at all primary schools.

- Transitional measures in primary school - lower secondary school - upper secondary school:

Exposure to Low German is mandatory for all primary and secondary schools and school types. More information about this is available in sources including the core curricula for the subject of German. However, long-term success in preserving and promoting a language in line with the intentions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages can only be achieved if it is possible to learn the language in classroom instruction.

There is currently a particular focus on the expansion and further development of the model project 'Low German in lower secondary education'. Since 2019, the measures established in primary school have been continued in school years 5 to 10 as part of the model project, which was extended to 2030 in June 2024.

In the current project period, the schools tested, among other things:

- teaching of Low German in compulsory elective modules (Wahlpflichtkurse – WPK);
- language encounters in different non-language subjects;
- the involvement of 'language tutors', or
- the cooperation with extracurricular partners from the regions.

In future, there must be a particular focus on developing evaluated teaching offers in lower secondary education, as the regular classes that are to be introduced will be taught on this basis. Classes are usually offered as compulsory elective modules (second foreign language only possible on request). They are based on curricular guidelines available for download on the Lower Saxony education portal (Niedersächsisches Bildungsportal).

All model schools are, for example as part of regular staff meetings, already involved in the development of the teaching subject and the testing of suitable teaching materials, in particular for school years 9 and 10, which complement the "Snacken, Proten, Kören" textbook for Low German teaching at lower secondary schools which was published in 2022.

Together with the Regional State Offices for Schools and Education (RLSB), the schools will also be involved in developing, by 2028, the requirements for a core curriculum for the subject of Low German, taking into account existing school-based work plans.

The next step will be the development of upper secondary education offerings. In vocational education, some schools already offer classes with a Low German component or teaching sequences in Low German.

- Promoting teacher training:

Since 2023, Oldenburg's Carl von Ossietzky University has been offering a study programme for student teachers specialising in Low German. For this reason, specifically tailored internships in schools must be provided as early as 2025.

The model schools with an evaluated teaching offering are available to the university to provide training and internships. The Ministry of Culture and its executive agencies and the University of Oldenburg continue to be in regular contact.

- Further development of the decree "The region and the languages of Low German and Sater Frisian in school education"

The decree "The region and the languages of Low German and Sater Frisian in school education" governs the promotion of Low German (Plattdeutsch) and Sater Frisian in Lower Saxony's school system. The aim is to preserve regional diversity and give students the opportunity to learn and experience these languages.

Key elements of the decree:

- Promotion of regional and minority languages:

Low German and Sater Frisian should be incorporated in school education at all types of schools.

- Regional references in school education:

The decree requires that regional references be made visible in school education.

- There is a wide range of implementation options:

Schools can offer Low German and Sater Frisian in regular classes, compulsory elective modules, activity groups or in a project format.

- Support for schools:

The Regional State Offices for Schools and Education provide advice to help schools implement such offerings.

- School awards:

Schools that are particularly active in promoting languages can be awarded the label "Plattdeutsche Schule" (Low German School) or "Saterfriesische Schule" (Sater Frisian School).

- The decree, which expires at the end of 2025, is to be developed further with the aims of strengthening regional references in school education and specifying the tasks resulting from the deliberations of the Regional State Offices for Schools and Education. The

regional associations of Lower Saxony, the Lower Saxony Heritage Association (Niedersächsischer Heimatbund – NHB) and the Regional State Offices for Schools and Education are involved in developing the decree.

4.12.3.2 Article 8 (1) (e) (ii)

There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

4.12.3.3 Article 8 (1) (i)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Since 2011, a supervisory body has monitored how Lower Saxony is meeting the education-related requirements set by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The body is composed of one representative each from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for Science and Culture, the Ministry for European Affairs and Regional Development (since 2025 part of the State Chancellery), the regional associations (Landschaften and Landschaftsverbände) and the Lower Saxony Heritage Association.
- Monitoring is based on the annual report of the Regional State Offices for Schools and Education, which provides information on the activities of the advisers for Low German, on how the allotted teaching hours are used and on measures to promote the regional and the minority language as intended by the Language Charter over the previous year.
- The supervisory body can make proposals concerning the further implementation of the articles of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to which Lower Saxony is a signatory. Since 2023, the independence of the supervisory body has been strengthened by the fact that it is now the regional associations rather than the Ministry of Culture that chair and convene the meetings; this addresses a point that was also criticised by the Committee of Experts.

4.12.4 Art. 9 – Judicial authorities

There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

4.12.5 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

4.12.6 Article 11 – Media

4.12.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Lower Saxony refers to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under VI.g.5.a.i.

ii. Measures in practice

- “Community media” organised under private law have included Low German content in their programming in recent years and continue to do so, e.g.

OS-Radio 104,8 e.V.: Until the end of 2023 and the end of 2024, there were two weekly formats in Low German featuring stories and songs, as well as a continuous monthly programme in the public access radio programme: “Meta Butendieck” (three-minute contribution on a current weekly topic), “Hässe ahl hört” (weekly summary of local news in the form of a news release in Low German) and “Geplättet Vertellses und Dönkes” (monthly one-hour public access radio programme). The news was published on the website www.osradio.de.

Radio Weser.TV: Elements/programmes in Low German are broadcast on a weekly basis as part of the radio programme, and on a regular basis, but without a fixed broadcasting slot, in the TV programme. News in Low German is usually produced on a weekly basis and broadcast once per hour on Wednesdays (duration: five minutes; except on public holidays and during the editorial summer break). The weekly Low German column “Meta Butendiek – Ansichten einer Landfrau aus der Wesermarsch” (Meta Butendiek – Views of a rural woman from the Wesermarsch) (duration approx. 2-3 minutes; fixed dates: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:15 and as part of the “Radio Weser.TV am Nachmittag” programme, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 14:00 to 15:00) has existed for many years. In 2024, a second column was introduced: “Wat ik immer all mol seggen wull” (duration: approx. 2-4 minutes; regularly on Wednesdays as part of the general programme without fixed broadcasting slot). The weekly programme “Versook dat mol” is a Low German learning series for children (duration 30 minutes, every Wednesday from 13.30 to 14:00). Once a month, the Low German magazine “Plattdüütsch to’n Koffie” is broadcast (stories and poems, also in the form of a talk with guests; duration 55 minutes, every third Wednesday at 15:05). Until 2024, there was a regular series called “Theatervorschau op Platt” (theatre previews in Low German). Now there are occasional replacements (duration: approximately 3-4 minutes, no fixed slot). “ABC des Sendegebietes” is a series of broadcasts in Standard German which was regularly broadcast until 2024 and later translated and broadcast in Low German. The series is to be resumed without a regular broadcasting slot (duration: approximately one to two minutes, regularly on Wednesdays, without a fixed slot). “Fährtalk op Platt” – a long-standing talk programme with a Low-German-speaking talkmaster on Radio Weser.TV’s TV programme, which is also edited for the radio programme (duration: 30 minutes) – is regularly featured on TV and radio programmes without a fixed broadcasting slot. In addition, stories in Low German by an author from the Wesermarsch are recorded with the camera and broadcast on Radio Weser.TV’s TV programme on an irregular basis (duration: approximately five minutes), as appropriate if there is a broadcasting slot available. In addition, a young woman has produced some editions “Platt för Junge Lüü” (Low German for Young People) for the TV programme. The programme explains Low German terms in a humorous way (duration:

approximately five minutes, broadcast at irregular intervals without a fixed broadcasting slot). Some programmes (“Fährtalk op Platt” and “Meta Butendiek”) were redistributed on platforms such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

Radio aktiv e.V.: The programme “Spätlese – das Seniorenmagazin” (Late vintage – a magazine for senior citizens) regularly features content in East Prussian dialect. It also includes content in Low German and in the Tündern dialect. The programme is broadcast via VHF and online streaming every Sunday from 18.00 to 19.00. The current programme is available in the media library for seven days. In addition, the local editorial office reported several times on Low German issues; these contributions can be found in the media library.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above-mentioned comments on this article.

4.12.6.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Lower Saxony refers to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under VI.g.5.b.i.

ii. Measures in practice

- The regional broadcaster Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR), Lower Saxony broadcasting station, has stated that it broadcasts the following content relating to the Low German language via its public broadcasting service:

“De Noorden op platt” (TV, once a month on Saturdays from 11:30 to 12:00)

For radio broadcasting (NDR 1 Lower Saxony), various formats in Low German are produced, which are then available on demand as podcasts:

“Düt un dat op Platt” (two-hour magazine, on Sundays, 18:00 to 20:00, reports, short articles and interviews from various regions of Lower Saxony, current issues, ‘Land und Leute’ (the region and its people), art and culture, society and politics, news about the Low German language, such as new online offers)

“Plattddeutsch” (hourly format, every second Monday, from 19:00 to 20:00, various content such as regional specificities and attractions, tourist destinations in Lower Saxony, Low German events, competitions such as ‘Vertell doch mal’ (Share your story), newly released Low German literature and music, thematic programmes in the fields of nature, the environment, health and politics)

“Plat-Schnack Mucke” (two-hour talk format, every third Sunday of the month from 10:00 to 12:00 at NDR Schlager; the following Sunday evening instead of ‘Düt un dat’ at NDR 1 Niedersachsen, also available as a podcast in the audio library)

Between them, the local broadcasting stations (Landesfunkhäuser) produce the radio columns “Hör mal’n beten to” (at 11:45 on working days), the Low German radio play (every second Monday of the month from 19:00 to 20:00) and the “Platt-Post”, a Low German newsletter from the Low German editorial offices (Lower Saxony, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Schleswig-Holstein, once a month with currently 1,620 subscribers).

All offerings (NDR-wide) are summarised and available on the NDR homepage.

- On social media platforms, the NDR regularly addresses aspects of the Low German language, in particular:

by presenting individual “Low German words” on Facebook and Instagram (and engaging in interaction with the community on favourite words “op Platt” (in Low German))

by presenting people enriching the Low German language (platfluencers, podcasters, etc.)

by organising events (such as the Low German writing competition “Vertell doch mal” (Share your story!))

by preserving traditions (Low German Martinmas and Christmas songs and poems)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above comments on the measures taken in practice.

4.12.6.3 Article 11 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under VI.g.5.c.i.

ii. Measures in practice

- The following projects in Low German were supported by nordmedia:
 - “Mittagsstunde” (The Lunchtime Hour): in addition to the Standard German version of the cinema film, a Low German version was also released (funding decision on 4 November 2020, cinema launch on 22 September 2022).

- “Wild Wild Westfalen”: a Low German Western short film based on a Low German novel uses a Low German dialect from the Münsterland region. All dialogues are subtitled.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Experts, reference is made to the practical measures described previously.

4.12.6.4 Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Lower Saxony refers to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under VI.g.5.d.

ii. Measures in practice

- Since 1 January 2023, the print version of the “Grafschafter Nachrichten” newspaper has featured the daily column “Spreckwöarde, Spröckies enwiese Pröte” (proverbs, aphorisms and wisdoms). The content can also be found online.
- The “Nordwest Zeitung” newspaper features regular columns and various local editions in Low German. There is a page in Low German which is published regularly but not at fixed times.
- The weekly “Elbe-Jeetzel-Kiebitz” features a loose series entitled “Up Platt” (published at irregular intervals, approximately once a month). Several readers provide anecdotes from their childhood comprising about 40 lines of text.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above comments on the measures taken in practice.

4.12.6.5 Article 11 (1) (f) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Lower Saxony refers to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under VI.g.5.e.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above-mentioned comments on this article.

4.12.6.6 Article 11 (2)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Lower Saxony refers to the comments on this article in the seventh periodical report under VI.g.5.f.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts, Lower Saxony refers to the above-mentioned comments on this article.

4.12.7 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.12.7.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- In Lower Saxony, a budget of 320,000 euros was made available again in 2024 and 2025 to support the regional associations (Landschaften and Landschaftsverbände) in their efforts to promote the Low German language.
- Moreover, regional associations in Lower Saxony may obtain regional cultural funding (total volume 3,15 million euros) for important regional cultural projects, e.g. for the Low German language and the Sater Frisian minority language, involving a volume of up to 10,000 euros. In addition, Lower Saxony funds cultural projects that strengthen the regional identity and encourage active use of the regional language Low German.

ii. Measures in practice

- Regional funding provided by the regional associations and additional funds to support Low German projects were used, among other things, to support the “Plattsounds” band contest. Young bands and solo artists can apply with self-written songs. The regional associations may support them when it comes to translating their texts into Low German.
- The ‘Platt is cool’ activity group, together with the Regional State Offices for Schools and Education, launched the “Freedag is Plattdag” initiative. On Fridays in September, the aim is to encourage those who are not yet able to speak Low German to try it out and those

who speak it to speak as much Low German as possible, including with people with whom they normally communicate in Standard German.

4.12.7.2 Article 12 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The state of Lower Saxony was not made aware of any specific requirements in the reporting period.

4.12.7.3 Article 12 (1) (c)

ii. Measures in practice

- The “Platt is cool” activity group received a total of 30,000 euros between 2023 and 2025 to support the printing of three different mini-books from the “Lieselotte” series in four different language versions (North Low Saxon, Eastphalian, East Frisian and Sater Frisian) (cf. no. 3.7).
- Together with the state forest management agency (Niedersächsische Landesforsten), the State Centre for Low German (LzN) has developed a brochure on ‘forest animals’ which is also published in Low German. In so doing, the LzN translated, among other things, the animal names into Low German.

Regarding Article 12 (1) (d) to (g) and (2), the comments made in the previous periodical report still apply.

4.12.8 Article 13 – Economic and social life

There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

4.12.9 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

There are no changes to the statements made in the previous reporting cycle.

4.13 Low German in Schleswig-Holstein

4.13.1 Article 6 – Information

Schleswig-Holstein refers to Section 4.1.1.

4.13.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

4.13.2.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Constitution of the State of Schleswig-Holstein in the version of 2 December 2014 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 344), as last amended by the Act of 22 October 2024 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 749)
- Schleswig-Holstein Schools Act (Schulgesetz – SchulG) in the version of 24 January 2007 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 276), as last amended by Article 6 of the Act of 29 January 2025, (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 17)
- Teacher Training Act of Schleswig-Holstein (Lehrkräftebildungsgesetz Schleswig-Holstein – LehrBG) of 15 July 2014 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2014, p. 134), as last amended by Article 7 of the Act of 29 January 2025 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no.17)
- State Ordinance Governing the Preparatory Service and State Examinations of Teachers (Ausbildungs- und Prüfungsverordnung Lehrkräfte – APVO Lehrkräfte) of 9 December 2023 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 14)
- State Ordinance on the Appointment of Teachers to Preparatory Training (Landesverordnung über die Einstellung in den Vorbereitungsdienst der Lehrerinnen und Lehrer - Kapazitätsverordnung Lehrkräfte – KapVO-LK) of 8 July 2023 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 351) Section 5(1) no. 7, (2) and Annex
- Act to Promote Children in Day-Care Facilities and Nursing Care Centres (Gesetz zur Förderung von Kindern in Kindertageseinrichtungen und in Kindertagespflege - KiTaG) of 12 December 2019, promulgated as Article 1 of the Act to Strengthen the Quality of Childcare and to Reduce the Financial Burden on Families and Local Authorities (Gesetz zur Stärkung der Qualität in der Kindertagesbetreuung und zur finanziellen Entlastung von Familien und Kommunen – KiTa-Reform-Gesetz) of 12 December 2019 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 759), in force pursuant to Article 7 (1) sentence 2 of the Act of 12 December 2019 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 759), amended by Article 25 no 1 of the Act of 8 May 2020 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 220) on 1 January 2021; as last amended by the Act of 13 December 2024 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 963)

- Guidelines of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein on the promotion of regional and minority languages in day-care facilities and nursing care centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality (Richtlinie des Landes Schleswig-Holstein zur Förderung von Regional- und Minderheitensprachen in Kindertageseinrichtungen und Kindertagespflege) of 14 December 2022, Official Journal of Schleswig-Holstein 2023, p. 184 - in force from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026
- Act on the Ninth State Treaty amending the provisions of media law in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein – (Gesetz zum Neunten Staatsvertrag zur Änderung medienrechtlicher Vorschriften in Hamburg und Schleswig-Holstein - 9. MÄStV HSH) of 29 March 2022, (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 320)
- General Administrative Act for the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein (Landesverwaltungsgesetz – LVwG) in the version published on 2 June 1992 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances pp. 243, 534); last amended by Act of 26 March 2025 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances 2025 no. 51)
- Schleswig-Holstein Libraries Act (Bibliotheksgesetz - BiblG), promulgated as Article 1 of the Act Governing Libraries in Schleswig-Holstein and Amending the State Press Act (Gesetz für die Bibliotheken in Schleswig-Holstein und zur Änderung des Landespressegesetzes) of 30 August 2016 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 791), last amended by Article 63 of the State Ordinance (LVO) of 27 October 2023 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, p. 514)
- State Planning Act (Landesplanungsgesetz – LaplaG) in the version of 27 January 2014, (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 8), last amended by Act of 24 May 2024, (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances p. 405).
- Language Policy Action Plan of the Schleswig-Holstein State Government in the Context of Regional or Minority Languages for the 20th Legislative Period - Identity and Added Value of 23 July 2024
- Please note: Regarding further legal provisions, please refer to Section E.VI.h no. 2(a)(i) of the seventh periodical report.

ii. Measures in practice

- Protecting and promoting the regional language of Low German has high priority in Schleswig-Holstein. In addition to the obligations arising from the inclusion of Low German in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Schleswig-Holstein has enshrined the protection and promotion of the Low German language in the Schleswig-Holstein Constitution (Article 13(2)).
- In order to preserve the regional language of Low German and promote its use in Schleswig-Holstein, the federal state set up two regional bodies in 1994: the Centres for Low German (Zentrum für Niederdeutsch – ZfN) in Leck and Mölln, which cover the

regions of Schleswig and Holstein, respectively. For over 30 years, the Centres for Low German have been supporting the work of the groups, institutions, organisations and individuals active in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein and have been developing modern concepts for teaching Low German.

- At the interregional level, Schleswig-Holstein continues to benefit from the Bremen-based State Centre for Low German (Länderzentrum für Niederdeutsch gGmbH – LzN), which was founded in December 2017 together with the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the federal state of Lower Saxony.
- Since its inception, the State Centre for Low German, which contributes to the anchoring and preservation of the Low German language in northern Germany, has been actively pursuing the tasks laid down in the articles of association – in accordance with the company’s purpose of promoting the preservation of local traditions and local history as well as education in general, adult education and vocational training.
- The State Centre for Low German coordinates, advises, connects and supports bodies, advisory councils, associations, organisations and individuals working to preserve the Low German language, as well as state and political bodies. It also gets engaged in overarching issues and public life, developing modern forms of cooperation and formats for teaching Low German in consultation with regional stakeholders. The State Centre for Low German initiates and supports projects and project-related scientific work. At the same time, the State Centre for Low German has been tasked with developing modern language learning concepts and establishing close contact with political representatives at federal and state level and with members of the Federal Council for Low German (Bunnsraat för Nedderdütsch).
- The range of tasks assumed in Schleswig-Holstein by the State Centre for Low German since 2017 shows that all channels must be used to make sure that language finds its way to people. The production of textbooks and materials that serve to activate the (language) memories of people in need of care are just as natural a part of this offering as are YouTube explanatory videos, webinars or the “Plattdeutsch-Sammeln” project, which aims to encourage people in Schleswig-Holstein to perceive and digitally collect Low German language samples from their surroundings.
- In addition to the important advisory work for the management of the State Centre for Low German, the meetings of the Low German advisory board at the Schleswig-Holstein State Parliament also serve to connect stakeholders across federal states. The two advisory board members from Schleswig-Holstein are particularly active here, bringing the perspective and current needs of their federal state to bear. The presence of state-specific issues and concerns at the State Centre for Low German is thus strengthened and secured on a permanent basis, also across the region.
- The management of the State Centre for Low German regularly attends the meetings of the Low German advisory board of the Schleswig-Holstein State Parliament and is also closely involved in the two working groups of the advisory board on “Education” and

“Media” (meeting frequency twice a year) through the management’s membership. This ensures a continuous and close exchange process between the state institutions and the State Centre for Low German.

- From his work as head of the Centre for Low German in Mölln, the current director of the State Centre for Low German, who has been working in this capacity since September 2023, can draw on close ties to Schleswig-Holstein institutions; this is also reflected in the continuity of the projects. For example, the project “Plattbeats”, a Low German song contest, was launched in 2018 by the Mölln Centre for Low German and has been organised by the Bremen-based State Centre for Low German since 2024. In order to preserve the Low German language in the long term, it is particularly important to stimulate enthusiasm for Low German among the 15-40 age group. From the outset, the young amateur musicians from Schleswig-Holstein have occupied a special place among the participants. Many of them come from Germany’s northernmost state, and in each year of the competition, musicians from Schleswig-Holstein have been among the winners of the awards. In particular, innovative and creative contributions came from Schleswig-Holstein, setting standards for a Low German youth culture throughout northern Germany.
- The patronage of the “Plattbeats” final (21 November 2025 in Lübeck) was assumed by the President of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament.
- The ‘Hanserouten.de’ project of the State Centre for Low German (www.hanserouten.de) is a digital offering depicting the historical Hanseatic routes focusing on the Low German language and the cultural heritage of the Hanseatic era. The aim is to illustrate the importance of Low German as a trading language in the Hanseatic era and to make historical routes and the language associated with them visible in various Hanseatic towns.
- This project was carried out in close cooperation and consultation with the Research Centre for Hanse and Baltic History (Forschungsstelle für die Geschichte der Hanse und des Ostseeraums –FGHO) and the European Hanse Museum in Lübeck.
- As part of the State Centre for Low German’s work on the federal project to develop a ‘Hanse-Lapbook’ for use in schools and museums, a Lapbook was created in cooperation with the European Hanse Museum in Lübeck, enabling primary school children to have access to the Low German language as distinct from Standard German, English and Swedish. The flapbook about the Hanse can be used both for the preparation and follow-up of a museum visit and also independently at home. Since 2022, the work has been available for downloading and printing free of charge on the website of the State Centre for Low German and is also available free of charge from the European Hanse Museum Lübeck: https://www.hansemuseum.eu/educational_offers/klappenbuch.
- In 2022, the State Centre for Low German was awarded the German Language Initiative Award for its “Platt in de Pleeg” project. This includes extensive material such as the booklet “Plattdeutsch – Sprache des Herzens” (Low German – the language of the heart) or

the activity book “Maak wat mit Platt” (Do something with Low German), as well as the care label “Dat PlattHart” (The Low German Heart), which is awarded to care facilities where Low German is an integral part of the mission statement and everyday life.

- In awarding the “Platt in de Pleeg” (Low German in the care sector) project, the State Centre for Low German worked closely with the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions (Schleswig-Holsteinischer Heimatbund) and the Centres for Low German in Leck and Mölln.
- The following four institutions received awards:
 - The Tabea care facility in Fehmarn received the “PlattHart” label in 2023.
 - Three nursing homes were awarded in North Frisia in 2022: the Johannes Carstensen mobile care service in Haaslund, the St. Christian Diakonie Eiderstedt in Gaarn and the Wilhelminen Hospice in Niebüll.
- In accordance with the financing agreement of the four federal states involved, the state of Schleswig-Holstein has supported the State Centre for Low German with an annual grant of 42,000 euros since 2018; in 2025, this grant increased to 45,000 euros and from 2026 it will amount to 51,000 euros. The total support provided by the four federal states amounted to: 2017 – 2023: 271,000 euros, 2024-2025: 291,000 euros and from 2026: 328,500 euros. All four states hold an equal share in the State Centre for Low German (Länderzentrum für Niederdeutsch gGmbH) and assume their technical responsibility jointly and on an equal footing in a supervisory board.

4.13.2.2 Article 7 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein is a signatory to the obligations for the regional language of Low German on a state-wide basis.

ii. Measures in practice

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein does not consider there to be any need for action.

4.13.2.3 Article 7 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in section 4.13.2.1.

ii. Measures in practice

- In 2025, the two Centres for Low German received a total of 107,500 euros in institutional funding. In 2026, funding was increased by 5,000 euros for each of the two centres. Since then, the Centre for Low German in Holstein has been receiving 100,000 euros in

institutional funding to cover also the staff costs for the management of the centre and the Low German centre for the Schleswig region (Vereen Plattdüütsch Zentrum Landsdeel Sleswig e.V.) has been receiving 17,500 euros.

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein supports institutions and organisations promoting the Low German language and culture in the state with around 360,000 euros.
- The measures from the previous monitoring cycles are being continued.

4.13.2.4 Article 7 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- General Administration Act for Schleswig-Holstein / State Administration Act (*Allgemeines Verwaltungsgesetz für das Land Schleswig-Holstein/Landesverwaltungsgesetz – LvwG*) in the version published on 2 June 1992 (Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, pp. 243, 534), most recently amended by the Act of 26 March 2025, Schleswig-Holstein Gazette of Laws and Ordinances, 2025, no. 51
- Decree of the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Research, Economics and Transport of 31 March 2009 (VII 423 - 621.121.108) Governing the Use of Multilingual Town Signs
- (Article 13 (2)) of the State Constitution
- Language Policy Action Plan of the Schleswig-Holstein State Government in the Context of Regional or Minority Languages for the 20th Legislative Period of July 2024
- Article 12 (1) (e) for Low German: In relation to cultural institutions and activities [...]: to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population.

ii. Measures in practice

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein promotes the use of Low German by funding projects and associations that encourage the use of Low German (the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions (Schleswig-Holsteinischer Heimatbund, SHHB), the Centres for Low German in Leck and Mölln, the State Centre for Low German in Bremen)
- On its website, the Bremen-based State Centre for Low German links to all institutions and facilities that promote Low German, thus providing a comprehensive digital overview of the funding landscape in the states of Bremen, Hamburg, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein (see homepage – Länderzentrum für Niederdeutsch gGmbH: <https://xn--lnderzentrum-fr-niederdeutsch-0pc17e.de/>)
- Since 2023, the “Plattdeutsch sammeln” (Collect Low German terms) project initiated by the Bremen-based State Centre for Low German has documented and preserved the manifold traces of the Low German language in public places in northern Germany by

inviting citizens to enter Low German items such as street names, inscriptions, texts or songs in an interactive online map. The aim is to archive both openly visible and hidden testimonies of the Low German language, to secure regional linguistic and cultural knowledge and to increase the visibility and awareness of the Low German language. The data collected do not only serve the purpose of scientific documentation but may in future also be used for projects such as local guided tours, audio-walks or explanatory signs.

- In 2025, the State Centre for Low German in Bremen, in cooperation with the Ostheide Forest Education Centre (Waldpädagogikzentrum Ostheide), published a brochure entitled “Waldtiere op Platt – aus Norddeutschen Wäldern” (Low German names of forest animals – from North German forests). This brochure contains the names of some 100 forest animals in Standard German and Low German and is intended to promote knowledge of species and broaden the Low German vocabulary, particularly of children and in educational institutions. The brochure is designed as a handy picture book and is available both from the Ostheide Forest Education Centre and from the State Centre for Low German in Bremen (New brochure explains names of forest animals in Low German | ndr.de) and is very popular.
- “Jugendwarkkring” (advisory group of young Low German speakers): In order to preserve the Low German language in the future, it is essential to involve young stakeholders from the Low German scene in the work of the State Centre for Low German in Bremen. The “Jugendwarkkring” at the State Centre for Low German currently consists of five members aged between 20 and 30 from the state centre’s area of competence. It meets online at least twice a year. The task of the advisory group is to advise and support the management with regard to all youth-related aspects of the work of the State Centre for Low German. The management, in turn, undertakes to keep the Supervisory Board regularly informed of the outcome of the meetings of the advisory group.
- Since its foundation in 1994, the Centre for Low German in Holstein has been working within the region and in wider contexts far beyond. Regional, supraregional and now international cooperation are traditions maintained by the Centre for Low German in Holstein. Since its inception, Low German cultural work has been a key focus of its work. The Centre for Low German in Mölln remains committed to this approach, paying particular attention to the development and expansion of a Low German youth culture. This includes: the development and implementation of regional and supraregional youth culture projects such as “Plattbeats”, the Low German song contest for the whole of North Germany. Since 2024, the “Plattbeats” song contest has been organised by the State Centre for Lower Germany in Bremen.
- The “PlattHart” certificate for institutions (e.g. nursing homes and day-care facilities for the elderly, outpatient nursing services and hospices) that provide some of their counselling, support and care in Low German

- The Schleswig-Holstein school reading competition “Schölers leest platt” (students reading Low German) (every two years in rotation with the “Emmi för Plattdüütsch” award.)
- “Emmi för Plattdüütsch in Sleswig-Holsteen” (Emmy for Low German in Schleswig-Holstein) award: The prize for promoting Low German in day-care centres, schools, universities and youth groups; “Emmi för Plattdüütsch in Sleswig-Holsteen”, was jointly initiated by the state parliament of Schleswig-Holstein, the Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture and the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions (Schleswig-Holsteinischer Heimatbund - SHHB). Every two years, the prize is awarded by the President of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament together with the Schleswig-Holstein Minister of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture and the SHHB.
- Low German training courses for teachers and carers in order to enable the use of Low German at day-care centres and in care facilities
- The campaign run by the Centre for Low German in Leck “Rut mit de Spraak” (Speak up!), addressed at both native and new speakers or readers of the regional language, aims to strengthen the perception and dissemination of the regional language in everyday life and among the general public (<https://www.platt.best/platt-leven/alldag/brottuetenkampagne-fuer-mehr-platt-im-alltag>).
- The 2025 “Plattdutsche Woche” (Low German Week) under the slogan “Rut mit de Spraak” (Speak up!) in the district of Schleswig-Flensburg, organised at the initiative of the Centre for Low German in Leck and local heritage associations as a participative format for providers and interested parties in the region who actively speak and promote Low German. A roll-out to other districts/regions in the following years is planned. The aim of the week is to make the Low German language visible and audible in everyday life, culture, education and society.
- Since 2022, the “platt drift barcamp”, an open network format, has been held annually as an event organised in cooperation between the Centre for Low German in Leck, the North Sea Academy (Nordseeakademie) and the “Kulturknotenpunkt Nordwest”.
- Since 2021, the “Lecker SprachenBüfett” has been organised every year; it is an afternoon event that offers an encounter with the languages of Northern Frisia in the form of lectures and opportunities to join in; the event is organised in cooperation between the North Frisian association (Nordfriesischer Verein), the Centre for Low German in Leck and the North Sea Academy.

4.13.2.5 Article 7 (1) (e)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Promotion of contact between representatives of the language communities through joint participation in the creation of reports, e.g. Language Policy Action Plan of the Schleswig-

Holstein State Government in the context of regional or minority languages for the 20th legislative period, dated 23 July 2024, with the focal areas of identity and added value

- Participation of representatives of the regional language of Low German and representatives of minority groups in joint projects, e.g. Open House of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament 2025 in Kiel
- Creation of an established post for an official for regional and minority languages at the Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture

ii. Measures in practice

- As part of the cultural events organised by the representation of the state Schleswig-Holstein regional representation, the state government also regularly offers a platform for the Low German language. For example, a Low German evening event takes place every year in cooperation with the NDR and the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions (Schleswig-Holsteinischer Heimatbund) and under the auspices of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament. This format was streamed and also published on YouTube under the heading “Plattüütsch allerbest” (*Low German at its best*) on 13 November 2025.
- In November 2024 and June 2025, joint meetings were held between the Low German Advisory Council of the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament and the Bremen Low German Advisory Council. At these meetings, representatives of the Low German Speakers’ Group from both federal states were able to exchange views and establish contacts.
- Joint advanced training measures for teachers of regional and minority languages on minority languages and their didactics by the Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture.
- Promotion of the North Frisian Language Day / “Lecker Sprachenbuffett”, an annual event in North Frisia which has been held since 2022, offering lectures and readings in North Frisian and Low German. The event is hosted by the North Frisian Association and the Centre for Low German in Leck.
- The state of Schleswig-Holstein provides funding for selected cultural institutions that make an important contribution to the development of society and its cultural identity:
 - Schleswig-Holstein contributes 45,000 euros per annum to the funding of the State Centre for Low German (Länderzentrum für Niederdeutsch gGmbH).
 - The Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions (Schleswig-Holsteinischen Heimatbund): Projects that aim to preserve and foster the Low German language are funded as part of the institutional funding provided by the state government (262,000 euros per year). Among other things, these funds are used to support the Association for the Promotion of Low German (Verein für niederdeutsche

Sprachförderung), an association tasked with promoting the Low German language, and the “Bevensen Tagung”, a symposium for Low German language and literature.

- Since 2000, the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions has also provided a domicile for the Low German Council, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2025. This lobby for the Low German language community, which was established in connection with the ratification of the Language Charter, is a successful model that represents the interests of Low German in all relevant committees in the state. The Low German Council constitutes the political representation of Low German speakers in Schleswig-Holstein and promotes language policy work at state and federal level. Since 2016, the state government has funded this work with institutional support of 5,000 euros linked to the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions.
- The Centres for Low German (ZFN) in Leck for the Schleswig region and Mölln for the Holstein region each receive institutional funding from the state of Schleswig-Holstein (cf. 4.13.2.3 (ii)). The two centres serve as information, advisory and coordinating centres for the promotion and teaching of the Low German language. They coordinate the activities of the associations, groups and initiatives that support and promote the Low German language and develop proposals aimed at cultivating and preserving the Low German language and culture. The Centres for Low German have undertaken to promote synergies and partnerships in line with the activities of the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry for General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture. In addition, both centres support the Low German Model School Project at a total of 53 model schools across Schleswig-Holstein (in the 2024/25 school year), of which 41 primary schools and 12 lower secondary schools, including six grammar schools that systematically promote the Low German regional language.

4.13.2.6 Article 7 (1) (f)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments in section 4.13.3.1.

4.13.2.7 Article 7 (1) (g)

ii. Measures in practice

- Schleswig-Holstein reports on this under 4.13.3.5(ii).

4.13.2.8 Article 7 (1) (h)

ii. Measures in practice

- Since February 2022, Flensburg’s European University (EUF) has been implementing the internally and externally funded project “Repertory of Middle Low German literature”,

which provides a transparent digital presentation of data on Middle Low German literature via a globally accessible database.

- Since July 2024, the editorial team of the SASS online dictionaries has been installed at the EUF. In cooperation with external partners, the SASS editorial team is responsible for processing and updating the established SASS dictionaries for North Low German and the associated SASS grammar book. The project is funded by the state of Schleswig-Holstein through the project partner “Fehrs-Gilde”.
- In April 2025, the schoolbook “Paul un Emma un ehr Frünnen. Mien Arbeitsbook” (Paul and Emma and their friends. My workbook) was published. It was developed at the EUF with external partners and with funding granted by the state of Schleswig-Holstein and provides a basis for intensive language studies at the initial level of primary school and at the lower level of secondary school.
- In 2022, the University of Kiel, together with colleagues from the University of Frankfurt (Oder) finalised the second volume of the “Language Atlas of Northern Germany” (Norddeutscher Sprachatlas, NOSA), which documents the dialect shift in Northern Germany on the basis of annotated language maps. (More information about this publication is available here: <https://www.uni-kiel.de/de/phil/institute/germanistik/forschen/sprachwissenschaft-niederdeutsch>)

4.13.2.9 Article 7 (1) (i)

ii. Measures in practice

- There are no changes to the statements made during the previous reporting cycles.

4.13.2.10 Article 7 (2)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Low German is protected by the State Constitution of Schleswig-Holstein. Please also refer to the comments in 4.13.2.1. Further details are also set out in the provisions for Part III.

4.13.2.11 Article 7 (3)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in E.I.2.k of Germany’s Seventh Report.
- The state of Schleswig-Holstein supports the establishment and operation of a Low German media platform in the years 2025 to 2027. For media law reasons, the state cannot provide any direct funding in this case, which is why the Media Authority for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein (MA HSH) has received the support. The Media Authority launched a call for tenders for the project on 28 April 2025. A total of two applicants applied. On 23 July 2025, the Media Council of the MA HSH decided to support the project

‘Low German Media Platform’ of the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions (SHHB) to strengthen local and regional media diversity and preserve minority languages in broadcasting and telemedia in Schleswig-Holstein with a total amount of 369,800 euros over three years. The aim is to disseminate the Low German language culture via innovative digital channels, providing a regular radio and telemedia offer in Low German with up-to-date news and journalistic contributions.

On 5 January 2026, the new broadcast format “PLATTform – Media mit Wietsicht” of the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions (SHHB) was launched. The format offers half an hour of radio broadcast with news from Monday to Saturday at 17.00, as well as an online magazine and social media posts. Information on the dissemination of the programme in the “Offener Kanal” and on the other offerings on PLATTform is available on the SHHB website <https://www.heimatbund.de/plattform.html>.

4.13.2.12 Article 7 (4)

ii. Measures in practice

- The facts described by Schleswig-Holstein in E.VII.b.1.l. of Germany’s Seventh Report remain valid.

4.13.3 Article 8 – Education

4.13.3.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- For further details, see 4.1.3.1.

ii. Measures in practice

- Schleswig-Holstein reports that since 2011, more than 250 educational staff and volunteers have received extensive training as part of the “Platt för de Lütten” (Low German for the little ones) training programme at the Centre for Low German in Leck so that children’s day-care centres can offer small children an opportunity to become familiar with the Low German language. With a view to ensuring the sustainable effect of the training and taking into account the diversity of already existing skills, the programme has been expanded to include an annual refresher offer entitled “Lütten-Opfrischer” (Little ones - refresher course) on different priority topics and an accompanying online language course. Since 2018, all the measures referred to above have been supported by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality as part of a pro rata project funding. In the meantime, the format, which was initially offered as a five-day in-person event, has been developed into an inhouse training programme entitled “Platt för de Lütten - in’t Huus” (Low German for the little ones - inhouse). Multiplier teams

were trained to facilitate institutions' access to Low German training modules so that they can then offer them in their respective institutions and to entire teams.

- In addition, in 2023, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein provided total funding of 612,910 euros for regional and minority language support at day-care centres and nurseries. This includes funding for Danish, Frisian and Low German. In 2023, 367 care groups at day-care centres and nurseries benefited from additional funding under the aforementioned Directive. Of these, 261 childcare groups providing Low German language support received state funding totalling approximately 435,000 euros. In 2024, a total of 397 such care groups were funded under the Directive. Of these, 271 childcare groups providing Low German language support received state funding totalling approximately 509,000 euros. In 2025, a total of 451 childcare groups providing minority language support received state funding totalling 635,000 euros. For 2025, precise figures on the number of childcare groups providing Low German language support and the level of funding they received will only be available in mid-2026, when the local organisations running the services in question present proof that the funds have been used appropriately.

4.13.3.2 Article 8 (1) (b) (iii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to section E.VI.h.2.h in Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Measures in practice

- In the 2025/26 school year, Low German is being taught at 55 model schools, including 43 primary schools and 12 lower secondary schools, including six grammar schools. More than 4,000 pupils attend the Low German lessons at the model schools. The model schools are assigned up to two classroom hours per week and per grade for providing Low German language tuition.
- The Low German regional language is not considered a school subject.
- There are other schools in Schleswig-Holstein which teach Low German in various forms, from extracurricular activity groups to compulsory elective modules, but are not model schools for Low German. There are also individual offerings at vocational schools.
- In December 2024, a survey of offerings in Low German was carried out at all schools providing general education in Schleswig-Holstein. The results are not yet available.
- In 2024, the Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture (MBWFK) funded the printing of the fairy-tale brochure "Steerndaler, Poggendeern un Wunnerbloom – Määrken för Lütt un Groot" (Star Money, Frog Girl and Wonderflower – fairy tales for Children and Adults") for use in Low German classes at all

school types, which was published by the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (IQSH).

- In the 2024/25 school year, the MBWFK cooperated with the IQSH to initiate a series of training events, focusing on methodology, for teachers of regional and minority languages. These events were also designed to encourage networking among such teachers. The aim is to continue holding these events during the 2025/26 school year. These and other training opportunities for teachers of Low German and other regional and minority languages are funded by the IQSH.
- In addition to various training formats for teachers of Low German, the IQSH organised an annual Low German Symposium in 2022. In 2024 and 2025, regional Low German “fairs” with a high degree of practical relevance were held in the districts of Schleswig-Flensburg and the urban district of Lübeck, each at a model school. These regional events led to some schools applying for status as a model school for Low German. A Low German fair at a model school is also planned for 2026.
- In 2024, 75,000 fire safety education booklets in Low German entitled “Philipp un sien Rookengel” (Philipp and his smoke detector) were financed with financial support from the Ministry of the Interior, Municipal Affairs, Housing and Sport (MIKWS) and the Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture (MBWFK), which provided 9,993 euros each.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- In the 2021/22 school year, there were 44 model schools offering classes/teaching in Low German, including 34 primary schools and 10 lower secondary schools. Since then, the number of model schools has steadily increased to 55 in the 2025/26 school year.
- At the model schools, Low German is taught for two classroom hours a week for each grade. It is not possible to allocate more resources.
- At selected schools providing lower secondary education, Low German is offered as a compulsory elective module (three to four classroom hours per week).

4.13.3.3 Article 8 (1) (c) (iii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to section E.VI.h.2.h in Germany’s Seventh Report.

ii. Measures in practice

- Please refer to 4.13.3.2 for the statistics. The schools are responsible for organising the classes. Schools are also responsible for exploiting the possibilities of teaching non-language subjects using Low German as the medium of instruction.

4.13.3.4 Article 8 (1) (e) (ii)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Reference is made to the seventh periodical report, E.VI.h.2.e.

ii. Measures in practice

- In Schleswig-Holstein, Low German can be taken as a supplementary subject for students training to be grammar school teachers at the Institute of German Studies at the Christian Albrecht University of Kiel (CAU). Similar courses are offered by the Institute of German Studies at the European University of Flensburg (EUF). As regards the study courses offered, reference is made to the seventh periodical report, E.VI.h.2.e.
- It is also reported that Low German was introduced as an additional subject at Flensburg's European University in the autumn semester 2024/2025. This allows students of all subjects to study the Low German language and literature and the relevant didactics. They can get up to 30 credit points if they do so. In addition, in the autumn semester 2024/2025, the already existing option for German-language students to obtain additional certificates in Low German language studies was renewed and new study documents were provided. In the Bachelor's degree programme, students can obtain the university certificate Low German I (20 credit points) and, on that basis, the university certificate Low German II (10 credit points) in the master's degree programmes.

4.13.3.5 Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)

ii. Measures in practice

- A number of adult education institutions and educational centres offer language activities and courses in Low German. Current information on courses can be found at www.sh.kursportal.info.

4.13.3.6 Article 8 (1) (g)

ii. Measures in practice

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments in 4.1.3.9 regarding the implementation of the recommendation made by the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the federal states in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK).

4.13.3.7 Article 8 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the fields of policy and/or legislation

- Language Policy Action Plan of the Schleswig-Holstein State Government in the Context of Regional or Minority Languages for the 20th Legislative Term of 23 July 2024, focusing on identity and added value, https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/landesregierung/ministerien-behoerden/I/Presse/PI/2024/BM/240724_bm_handlungsplan_sprachenpolitik
- The existing actions will be continued and reference is made to Germany's Seventh Report, E.VI.h.2.h.

ii. Measures in practice

- The existing actions will be continued and reference is made to Germany's Seventh Report, E.VI.h.2.h.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the implementation of the recommendation for immediate measures to further strengthen the offer for Low German in primary and secondary education, including by ensuring adequate teacher training (evaluation report on the interim report), the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to the measures under (i) and (ii) and the following measures.
- The number of model schools has further increased from 50 schools in the 2023/24 school year to 55 schools in the 2025/26 school year, of which 12 are schools with lower secondary education, including 6 grammar schools. All students training to become German teachers at schools providing general education in Schleswig-Holstein attend a module in Low German as part of their preparatory service for the subject of German.
- In the autumn semester 2024/25, Low German was introduced as a supplementary subject at the European University in Flensburg. This allows students of all subjects to study the Low German language and literature and the relevant didactics. They can get up to 30 credit points if they do so. In addition, in the autumn semester 2024/2025, the already existing option for German-language students to obtain additional certificates in Low German language studies was renewed and new study documents were provided. In the Bachelor's degree programme, students can obtain the university certificate Low German I (20 credit points) and, on that basis, the university certificate Low German II (10 credit points) in the master's degree programmes.

4.13.3.8 Article 8 (1) (i)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Regarding the implementation of the recommendation on the establishment of a supervisory body responsible for monitoring progress in the teaching of Low German and drawing up a public report on its findings at regular intervals, which was contained in the evaluation report on Germany's Seventh Report, the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to the measures taken, which are reported under 4.1.3.11.

4.13.3.9 Article 8 (2)

ii. Measures in practice

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein reports that the Centre for Low German in Leck offers further training in the field of adult education. This includes both formats that enable participants to act as course leaders themselves, as well as courses for initial or advanced language acquisition. The latter often take place in the form of weekly courses and also as part of educational leave (at adult education institutes and other educational centres).
- Schleswig-Holstein continues to provide a wide range of further education and training opportunities for those wishing to learn Low German or maintain their skills in that language. Apart from the Centres for Low German in Leck and Mölln, there are a number of adult education centres that offer Low German courses. Apart from language-learning courses, there are also discussion groups where participants meet to use the language. Educational establishments also offer classes/activities in Low German. Current information on courses can be found at www.sh.kursportal.info.

4.13.4 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

4.13.4.1 Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 3.2.2 and 4.1.4.1.

4.13.4.2 Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 3.2.2 and 4.1.4.2.

4.13.4.3 Article 9 (2) (a)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.1.4.3.

4.13.5 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

4.13.5.1 Article 10 (1) (a) (v)

ii. Practical measures

- Employees in tax offices who speak Low German show this by wearing a button to encourage taxpayers who come to the office to speak Low German.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- With regard to the measures taken to strengthen employees' language skills in regional and minority languages, and to anchor these languages in relevant legal standards, the state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.1.5.2.
- With regard to the implementation of the Act to Improve Online Access to Administrative Services (*Onlinezugangsgesetz, OZG*), Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 3.2.2.

4.13.5.2 Article 10 (1) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section 4.15.2.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- For the implementation measures, please refer to E.VI.h.4.a in Germany's Seventh Report.

4.13.5.3 Article 10 (2) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in E.VI.h.4.a of Germany's Seventh Report. Further progress will be made on the implementation of section 82b of the State Administration Act (*Landesverwaltungsgesetz, LVwG*).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Since 2024, the authorities of Schleswig-Holstein have been collecting information on their staff's regional and minority language skills on a voluntary basis, in order to deploy staff more effectively in cases involving Low German submissions or communications. This will be reported on in the state government's report on staff structure and human resources management as soon as sufficient data is available.
- Since 2023, two units focusing on minorities and the regional language of Low German have been included in the compulsory international competence module for students specialising in general administration at the University of Applied Sciences for Administration and Services (Fachhochschule für Verwaltung und Dienstleistung; FHVD) in Schleswig-Holstein. In this context, students are also encouraged to report to their employers any knowledge of the Low German language and to use it at work.

4.13.5.4 Article 10 (2) (b)

ii. Practical measures

- In the remit of the Ministry of Finance, the tax offices, as a direct contact point between citizens and the tax administration, have an important role to play with regard to the Language Policy Action Plan. Some tax offices have staff with Low German language skills. This means taxpayers can submit some documents in the respective language.
- Some colleagues at the Niebüll police station, for example, have knowledge of the Low German language. The button and the "Ick snack Platt" signs are well known. The frequency of use is not recorded. Language courses are offered and used occasionally by public and private institutions, for example at institutes for adult education (AVHS).
- There are no known cases of a person being transferred to a specific part of the federal state due to proficiency in Low German.
- Please refer to the comments in 4.13.5.3.

4.13.5.5 Article 10 (2) (f)

ii. Practical measures

- In rural communities, it is not unusual to hold meetings of the local council in Low German. Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments in Section E.VI.h.4.e. of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.13.5.6 Article 10 (2) (g)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein also refers to its comments in E.IV.h.4.f of Germany's Seventh Report.

4.13.5.7 Article 10 (4) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- No such applications have yet been made in Schleswig-Holstein. Nor is this likely, as Low German is spoken throughout the entire state.

4.13.6 Article 11 – Media

4.13.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 4.1.6.1 i.
- See 4.13.2.11 for details of the support for the Schleswig-Holstein to enable a Low German media platform.

ii. Practical measures

- Upon request, the broadcaster Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) confirmed that the NDR programming also addresses regional and minority languages.
- In the radio sector, NDR 1 Welle Nord – the NDR's local station – broadcasts across Schleswig-Holstein:
 - “Moin! Schleswig-Holstein – Von Binnenland und Waterkant” / Monday–Friday, 19:00–21:00
 - “Feierabend-Magazin”, featuring regular content from the Low German community and/or in Low German / Mondays, 8:00–9:00 in Low German, plus Monday–Friday in B+W Low German at irregular intervals
 - “Gesegneter Abend op Platt” / Monday, 19:04
 - “Worte zum Tag”, duration: ~1:40h, broadcast via: radio, podcast
 - “Das Niederdeutsche Hörspiel” / every 14 days on Fridays, 21:00–22:00; co-production by Radio Bremen and NDR (eight new radio plays per year and classic radio plays), duration: ~55 minutes, broadcast via: radio, podcast
 - “Hearing mal ‘n beten to” / Monday–Saturday, 10:40

- “Pointiert erzählte Geschichten und Alltagsbetrachtungen”, duration: ~1:40h, broadcast via: radio, podcast
- “De Week op Platt” / Saturdays, 07:10
- “Pointiert erzählte Geschichten und Alltagsbetrachtungen”, duration: ~2:30h, broadcast via: radio, podcast

These formats are also broadcast by the radio station NDR Schlager as re-runs.

- Since the revision of the NDR Interstate Treaty, numerous projects and formats have been added to the existing programming. This is particularly true in radio, in particular on the channel NDR Schlager, which broadcasts a large number of successful Low German formats. The “Platt Schnack Mücke” format is particularly notable, broadcasting two-hour programmes featuring discussions with North German musicians in Low German alongside their music. The NDR also covers the “Pepper lernt platt” project, in which a robot was taught Low German using artificial intelligence. In addition, variants of the formats created primarily for the non-linear section (see below) are also played on the radio.
- Under section 2 (1) of the 2006 State Act on the Establishment of a Corporation under Public Law “Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein” (*Gesetz über die Errichtung einer Anstalt öffentlichen Rechts “Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein”, OK-Gesetz*) the Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein must contribute to the promotion of minority languages. It does so extensively. During the reporting period, this was done through the following measures, among others (selection for Low German):
 - “Platt ut der Hansestadt” (Low German from the Hanseatic City), a weekly radio magazine programme in Low German on the radio station LübeckFM, produced by a team of volunteers
 - PlattRadio – temporary hosting, maintenance and broadcasting of the editorial office and the programme format “PlattRadio” during its three-month run on the radio stations KielFM, WestküsteFM and LübeckFM
 - Occasionally: Low German segments on television magazine programmes such as “Flensburg Aktuell” (Flensburg Today) or “In Kurz – Live” (In a Nutshell – Live) on FlensburgTV
 - 1/2021 to 10/2023, one episode per week of the TV series “TEIN VÖR Acht – Plattdüütsch in’n OK Flensburg” with readings of Low German poems and short stories
 - “Knietzsche” is the smallest philosopher in the world – and a cartoon figure. In his many animated films, he explains complex issues in such a way that children can quickly understand them. The episode “Knietzsche und der Demenz” was first broadcast in Low German. The voice recordings took place at Offener Kanal Flensburg. On 5 and 6 August, the head of the Schleswig-Centre branch of the Center for Low German and an 8-year-old child who lends his Low German voice to Knietzsche, came to Offener Kanal Flensburg

for synchronisation. The final video was published as part of the dementia-awareness week “Verbunnen blieven – Demenz op Platt” (19–25 September 2022) and can be viewed here: <https://www.demenz-sh.de/plattdeutsch/wat2022/#knietzsche>

- Fixed mobile studio appointments every year:
- Award of the Low German Prize for Literature of the City of Kappeln
- Meeting of amateur Low German theatre groups in Scheersberg
- Theatre plays or readings in Low German are recorded by alternating teams with a mobile TV studio
- On the radio station WestküsteFM, Low German segments are mostly spread throughout the programming irregularly under the title “De Plattdeutsche Moment” (Low German’s Moment) and are not broadcast within a specific structure. FriiskFunk also has irregular but substantial segments in Low German.
- The famous Hamburg band “De Tüdelband” produces a monthly column in Low German titled “Die Tüdelband klönschnackt” (The Tüdelband chats), which is broadcast on the radio station WestküsteFM.
- Offener Kanal Westküste regularly features Low German stories of hobby authors in the studio or at events.
- Every year, at the end of the school year, Low German speaker Jürgen Boe produces radio plays with his students in the Low German working group (PlattAG) at the Lüttenheid primary school. The radio play “De Katt is weg” (The Cat is Gone), produced in 2021, was awarded the “Emmi för Plattdütsch in Sleswig – Holsteen” of the state parliament.
- 3/2022: Rap workshop in Low German with hip-hop artist LPP 143, a.k.a. Joachim Südekum, from Kiel, in cooperation with the Schleswig-Holstein Centre for Low German, funded by the cultural fund of the district of Dithmarschen.
- A two-day radio play workshop for Low German took place in 2022.
- As part of the series of events titled “Kunstgriff” (Trick), every year a Low German talk show is held by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (Friedrich Naumann Stiftung), which Offener Kanal Westküste records and broadcasts.
- Since 4/2025, the science podcast “klookluustert” (Smart Listening) by the Secretariat for Low German has been broadcast in Offener Kanal Schleswig-Holstein’s radio programmes every month
- The private radio station R.SH occasionally broadcasts content in Low German as well as recent developments concerning the Low German language.

4.13.6.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

ii. Practical measures

- The NDR has also expanded its television offering to include regional and minority languages, as required by law, by producing and broadcasting the programme “De Noorden op Platt” (The North in Low German). “De Noorden op Platt” is a 30-minute programme that airs on NDR television once a month. It covers issues relating to the Low German language from all over northern Germany. Formats primarily created for non-linear media are also broadcast on television.
- The NDR also broadcasts:
 - “Büttenwarder op Platt” (Büttenwarder in Low German; new synchronisation)
 - Ohnsorg Theatre in Hamburg (old and new stage productions several times a year)
- However, in addition to the regular programmes, there are also individual productions. For example:
 - “Dinner For One op Platt” (Dinner for One in Low German) (New Year’s Eve 2022)
 - “Dibaba in Amerika - 2000 Meilen durch den Mittleren Westen” (Dibaba in America – 2,000 miles across the Midwest) (three episodes), following the footsteps of Frisian emigrants and their language in the U.S. (Low German) (2022)
 - Individual fairytale films from the children’s programming in Low German (new synchronisation).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to the recommendation in the evaluation report on Germany’s Seventh Report to take further measures to extend the duration and frequency of Low German television broadcasts. The requirement of media independence of broadcasting and the programmes described above apply to these broadcasts.

4.13.6.3 Article 11 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Article 13 (2) of the State Constitution
- Language Policy Action Plan of the Schleswig-Holstein State Government in the Context of Regional or Minority Languages for the 20th Legislative Term of July 2024, focusing on identity and added value.

ii. Practical measures

- Through the “Mit Drift” (With Drift) format, the NDR follows young Low German-speaking people in the prime of their lives for whom the Low German language is an integral and natural part of their daily existence. The episodes appear in Low German and are subtitled in Standard German.
- The State Centre for Low German (LzN) in Bremen continues to use new technologies, including new media for language learning. This includes the development of the digital map “Plattdeutsch sammeln” (Collecting Low German). For example, it supports the development of audio guides, digital learning environments and offers a broad range of online language courses. It thus plays a key role in anchoring and preserving the Low German language in the communities.
- “Plattbeats”, the Low German song contest for the whole of northern Germany, combines modern music styles such as pop, rock, hip-hop and metal with the Low German language. The competition promotes creative songs, which can initially be submitted in either Standard German or English, before being translated into Low German with the help of professionals. During the final rounds of the annual competition, participants perform their songs live on stage, showcasing an increasing range of musical styles. “Plattbeats” is an innovative approach to revitalising the Low German language and introducing it to a young audience. This competition for amateur musicians aged between 15 and 35 years was organised by the Centre for Low German in Mölln up until 2023. Since 2024, the “Plattbeats” song contest has been organised by the State Centre for Low German in Bremen.
- Up until September 2023, the head of the Centre for Low German in Mölln regularly published columns and articles in various print publications. They took over the role of CEO of the State Centre for Low German in Bremen in September 2023.
- Until 2023, the Centre for Low German published its own media segments in Mölln under the title “Podcast, Texte und Videos” (Podcasts, Texts and Videos), thereby building a small media library. This has been continuously supplemented with new content from the Centre for Low German. Under the heading “Vun anner Lüüd” (From Other People), it also contains links to selected Low German segments relating to Holstein. In addition, the Centre for Low German continued to produce the “Plattfunk” podcast in Low German and Standard German. This podcast was also broadcast by the broadcasting station Offenes Kanal Lübeck.
- Conference of authors at the Centre for Low German in Mölln: By the end of 2023, 17 conferences of Low German authors had been held in Mölln. New formats were also tested in 2023, when the conference of Low German authors was combined with an experimental theatre production of “Othello” in Low German. With the appointment of new management, the conference of Low German authors was resumed in 2025.

- The Centre for Low German in Leck, in collaboration with the association for short films in northern Germany (Filmkorte e.V.) and Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, has organised four rounds of the “PLATTSPOTS” short film competition, which encourages creative engagement with the language.
- “Mien Lütte Geschichtenbüdel – ik höör un lees op Platt” (My Little Story Bag – I listen and read in Low German) is a collaborative project between the Centre for Low German in Leck, the Husum municipal library, and the “Mien Moderspraak” foundation. It offers children the opportunity to borrow a selection of picture books with audio versions, providing a modern medium for learning the Low German language.
- Articles on the website of the Centre for Low German in Leck are always written in Low German and are also provided as an audio file.
- The Centre for Low German in Leck supports local Low German enthusiasts in preparing and publishing teaching materials and books. For example, in 2022, “Nie’e Leder für Lütte Lüüd” (New songs for little people) was released, offering another album of songs and a musical for primary schools.
- In 2021, the book “Arlewatt und Olderup – Abenteuer in Nordfriesland” (Adventure in North Frisia) was published in collaboration with the Centre for Low German in Leck in four simultaneous editions: Standard German, Low German, Frisian and Danish. The follow-up volume was published in both Standard German and Low German versions.
- Project partners of the Centre for Low German in Leck:
 - Netzwerk Junge Ohren (Network of Young Ears) (www.jungeohren.de): “Pop op Platt” (Pop in Low German).
 - 2022 project by NDR on Facebook: “Wat söken wi?” (What are we looking for?), in which children explain Low German terms.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments in Section E VI.h of Germany’s Seventh Report. 5c iii

4.13.6.4 Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Please refer to the comments in 4.4.6.4.

4.13.6.5 Article 11 (1) (f) (iii)

ii. Practical measures

- In accordance with its statutes and policies, the Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein Film Fund provides funding for documentary and fictional films on the basis of artistic and business considerations. The production of audiovisual works in Low German can be supported by the Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein Film Fund on the basis of its current regulation.
- The following Low German film was produced with the participation of Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein (FFHSH), the film funding institution of the German federal states of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein: Lars Jessen's 2021 film "Mittagsstunde" (Midday) is an adaptation of the bestseller of the same name by Dörte Hansen, filmed in standard and Low German.

4.13.6.6 Article 11 (2)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The Basic Law guarantees freedom of information, including the reception of radio and television programmes from neighbouring countries. The Advisory Committee considers this undertaking fulfilled.

4.13.7 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.13.7.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Article 13 (2) of the State Constitution
- Language Policy Action Plan of the Schleswig-Holstein State Government in the Context of Regional or Minority Languages for the 20th Legislative Term of July 2024, focusing on identity and added value.

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein supports the creation of cultural works by providing financial and moral support through numerous projects. The minister-president of Schleswig-Holstein assumed patronage of the annual theatre festival "op Platt" in 2024 and 2025. Funding for the Low German workshops at the international learning centre, Jugendhof Scheersberg, promotes theatre as an important cultural activity for the Low German community.
- The Platt German Theatre Academy (Plattdeutsche Theaterakademie) at the international learning centre, Jugendhof Scheersberg, is a cooperation project between institutions focusing on regional languages and/or theatre. It promotes Low German theatre

productions, which are nationally recognised intangible cultural heritage. This project is a collaboration between the international learning centre, Jugendhof Scheersberg, the Centre for Low German in Leck, the Low German Stage Association (Niederdeutscher Bühnenbund), the Regional Amateur Theatre Federation Schleswig-Holstein (Landesverband der Amateurtheater Schleswig-Holstein e.V.), the Schleswig-Holstein State Association for Play and Theatre (LAG Spiel) and the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions (Schleswig-Holsteinischer Heimatbund), as well as the Schleswig-Flensburg District Cultural Foundation (Kreiskulturstiftung Schleswig-Flensburg).

- Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry of General Education and Vocational Training, Science, Research and Culture (MBWFK) supports the Low German Stage Association (NBB) with 52,800 euros per year. Among other things, this funding is intended to help the NBB to promote the Low German language and stage Low German theatre productions. As a linguistic multiplier, it is also planned that the NBB will focus on youth work by strengthening theatre activities for young people, as well as adult education and training seminars.
- "Schölers leest Platt" (pupils read Low German): more than 1,000 students from over 200 schools of general education took part in the national reading competition in 2023/24. Children from grades 3 to 10 showed how well they can handle Low German texts in front of an audience. Funded by the savings banks (Sparkassen) and with support from the Schleswig-Holstein library association (Landesverband Bibliotheken SH e.V.), the Schleswig-Holstein Heritage association (SHHB), in cooperation with the Centre for Low German, the broadcaster NDR and the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung an Schulen Schleswig-Holstein; IQSH), conducts the state-wide reading contest "Schölers leest Platt" every two years. The aim of the contest is to raise awareness of the regional language Low German among children, parents and schools and to promote an important part of Schleswig-Holstein's culture and identity. The post of the state-wide specialist for Low German at the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung an Schulen Schleswig-Holstein; IQSH) has been vacant since August 2023. Since then, cooperation has taken place with the coordinator for regional and minority languages at the MBWFK for the 2023/24 and 2025/26 cycles.
- The federal state also provides institutional support to the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions. This support includes funding for the Association for Low German Language Research (Verein für niederdeutsche Sprachforschung) and the Bevensen Tagung symposium for Low German language and literature, for example. There is also a position for Low German and Frisian which is responsible for co-organising the large nationwide reading competition "Schölers leest Platt" and the "Kappelner" award for literature.

4.13.7.2 Article 12 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein supports various Low German institutions, both institutionally and with project funding, such as the Centres for Low German, the Schleswig-Holstein Heritage association (SHHB) and the State Centre for Low German.

ii. Practical measures

- In 2021, the state of Schleswig-Holstein supported the production of the film “Der Krug an der Wiedau”, which was filmed in the region’s three minority languages (Danish, Low German and North Frisian) as well as Standard German, and was fully subtitled in Standard German.
- In 2024, funding from the literature budget supported Clivia Appeldorn’s project, “Eine Stimme für Sophie Dethleffs” (One Voice for Sophie Dethleffs). The project was launched in the form of three online workshops to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the death of the heroic poet Sophie Dethleffs (1809–1864). Shining the spotlight on Sophie Dethleffs’ work made it available to a wider audience, bringing it new attention as part of the region’s cultural heritage. Her life and work were commemorated. Additionally, the preservation of Low German was generally promoted, as Sophie Dethleffs wrote in both standard and Low German.

4.13.7.3 Article 12 (1) (c)

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein provides institutional funding for the Schleswig-Holstein Low German Stage Association (Niederdeutscher Bühnenbund Schleswig-Holstein e. V.; NBB) and the Regional Amateur Theatre Federation Schleswig-Holstein (Landesverband der Amateurtheater Schleswig-Holstein e.V.), thereby supporting their work as umbrella organisations. They provide services and advice for their member theatres and offer workshops and training courses for members. In addition, festivals are organised to showcase the work of member theatres. For the first time, members of the NBB will jointly develop and launch a production in Low German in 2026.

4.13.7.4 Article 12 (1) (d)

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section E.VII.h.d of Germany’s Seventh Report and section 4.4.7.4 in the current report.
- Schleswig-Holstein also has a large number of Low German theatres which promote the Low German language and Low German theatre in Schleswig-Holstein together with their

umbrella organisations, the Low German Stage Association (Niederdeutscher Bühnenbund) and the Association of Amateur Theatrical Societies (Amateurtheaterverband). These groups have agreed on aims and measures intended to help give Low German greater weight, in particular exposing young people to the Low German language and theatre, providing basic and further training in order to enhance the quality of theatrical offerings, and fostering contact and cooperation among all stakeholders in Low German across state borders.

- The state government also regularly supports the newly designed theatre festival “Op Platt”, organised by the Low German Stage Association (NBB). Since 2024, the festival has taken place in alternating locations in Schleswig-Holstein, featuring a large opening gala and decentralised theatre performances. It enables guest directors to be engaged for the first performances of Low German theatre productions. A major “Bellmann” project by the NBB is being funded for 2026, bringing together various member theatres to perform a new play in Low German.

4.13.7.5 Article 12 (1) (e)

ii. Practical measures

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in E.I.6.a of Germany’s Seventh Report.

4.13.7.6 Article 12 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The Low German Speakers’ Group is part of Schleswig-Holstein’s identity. The state government places great importance on this in terms of visibility. This is evident in the emphasis placed on identity and added value in the Language Policy Action Plan of the 20th legislative term.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments in 4.4.7.6 ii.

4.13.7.7 Article 12 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in E. VI.h.6.g of Germany’s Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

- The examples given in Germany’s Seventh Report are still valid.
- The Low German language is promoted in many and various ways by the library system of Schleswig-Holstein, including by the Schleswig-Holstein library association. This is done

by offering and publicising literature in and about Low German and by organising readings by authors in Low German. A special reading department has been set up for this purpose. A comprehensive review of the market – advertising leaflets of publishing houses, journals, and contacts with the relevant authors ensure that publications on the non-professional sector are also taken into account. These media are reviewed by the reading office, and lists are drawn up of those recommended for purchase by libraries. Literature about, and in, Low German is kept as a separate category so that library customers have quick and direct access to these analogue and digital media.

4.13.7.8 Article 12 (3)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to the comments in E.VII.h.h of Germany's Seventh Report and those in E.I.12.a of Germany's Sixth Report. Furthermore, the federal state refers to its comments in section 4.4.7.10.

4.13.8 Article 13 – Economic and social life

4.13.8.1 Article 13 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The applicable laws of the Federal Republic of Germany are consistent with this obligation. Accordingly, the provision is already fulfilled throughout Germany with regard to all regional or minority languages.

4.13.8.2 Article 13 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The legal system in Germany prohibits such restrictions. This provision is thus already being complied with nationwide in respect of all regional or minority languages.

4.13.8.3 Article 13 (1) (d)

- There have been no changes since the previous reporting periods.

4.13.8.4 Article 13 (2) (c)

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Schleswig-Holstein has announced the launch of the "PlattHart" label, allowing care facilities such as care homes for the elderly, hospitals and hospices to apply for accreditation. This is subject to the condition that institutions prove they have implemented the use of Low German in their daily work. The partners involved in developing and awarding the label are the Carl-Toepfer Foundation (Hamburg), the

Catholic Academy of Stapelfeld, the Federal Council for Low German, the Low German Secretariat, as well as the regional associations of Lower Saxony, the Schleswig-Holstein Union for Local and Regional Traditions, and the two Centres for Low German in Leck and Mölln. By the end of 2023, the label had been awarded to 13 facilities. The State Centre for Low German in Bremen was awarded the German Language Initiative Prize 2022 (Initiativpreis Deutsche Sprache 2022) for “Platt in de Pleeg!” (Low German in care facilities). Care facilities that have firmly anchored Low German in their guiding principles and make appropriate provision for the language in their day-to-day care activities can still apply for recognition as a Low German care facility (Plattdeutsche Pflegeeinrichtung). In cooperation with the Federal Council for Low German (Bundesrat för Nedderdütsch; BfN), the State Centre for Low German has developed a catalogue of criteria to enable old age care facilities to apply for the “PlattHart” award.

- Low German provides a means of engaging with older people, often opening doors and building trust. It is the linguistic basis that promotes interpersonal engagement and can activate memories. Basic language skills can help people in helper role situations to perform their tasks. As part of the “Platt hölpst hölpst” (Low German helps with helping) training series, the Centre for Low German in Leck regularly organises language learning and training, as well as biographical work, for employees in caring professions.
- In 2022, the Centre of Excellence for Dementia (Kompetenzzentrum Demenz), a project of the Schleswig-Holstein’s Alzheimer’s association (Alzheimer Gesellschaft Schleswig-Holstein e.V.), initiated Dementia Week under the slogan “Verbunnen blieven – Demenz op Platt” (Staying connected – Low German in dementia). This event resulted in the synchronisation of a video on dementia by cartoon figure Knietzsche, available at www.knietzsche.com/international.
- Following the event “Nordfriesland pflegt Platt” (North Frisia preserves Low German), a film was made based on a schoolgirl’s essay describing the life and emotions within a family whose grandfather suffers from dementia: “Op dat Leven?! – Millas bewegende Reise mit ihrem Opa durch das Vergessen” (Here’s to life?! – Milla’s moving journey with her grandad through the realm of forgetfulness).

4.14 Romani in Hesse

4.14.1 Article 6 – Information

On the basis of the state treaty of 23 May 2022, the federal state of Hesse is in regular contact with the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Hessen). Furthermore, there are exchange and information schemes within the remit of the respective government departments. Reference is also made to 4.14.2 Article 7.

4.14.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

The federal state of Hesse attaches great importance to the preservation and promotion of the Romani language. The aim is to preserve the linguistic and cultural identity of German Sinti and Roma, while creating appropriate framework conditions so that it can be passed on to future generations. In this context, however, discussions within the Sinti and Roma community on how to deal with the language must also be taken into account, in particular as regards the question whether and to what extent it should be open to the majority society.

Against this background, a state treaty was concluded between the Hesse state government and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma. In this state treaty, the state of Hesse commits to further developing educational offerings for members of the minority. For its part, the association of German Sinti and Roma in Hesse declared that it will take further measures to promote Romani.

In practice, however, providing Romani classes is challenging. This is due to the continued reluctance of many members of this minority who are opposed to using the Romani language in public, not least because of historical experience. Opening up and embedding Romani in education is therefore an institutional process which will take time and require close coordination.

4.14.2.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- The state treaty between the federal state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, first concluded in 2017, was extended on 23 May 2022 for another 10 years until the end of 2032. The treaty ensures the promotion of the culture, tradition and language of the Sinti and Roma people in Hesse and provides for an increase in financial support. The aim is to increase social participation and combat antigypsyism.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.7 Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.7 Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities).

4.14.2.2 Article 7 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Hesse is not aware of any problems in this regard.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- No comment from the federal state of Hesse at this point; there are no known problems in this regard.

4.14.2.3 Article 7 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.3 Article 8 (Education).

4.14.2.4 Article 7 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.7.1 Article 12 (Cultural activities and facilities).

4.14.2.5 Article 7 (1) (e)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- There have been no changes in this area since the previous reporting periods.

ii. Practical measures

- No comments from the federal state of Hesse at this point.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- No comments from the federal state of Hesse at this point.

4.14.2.6 Article 7 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- In practice, implementation has so far proved to be very challenging, as Romani is not a standardised written language.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- For a number of years, there has been a very close exchange with the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma on possibilities for implementing Romani lessons in the state of Hesse.

4.14.2.7 Article 7 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments in the Seventh Language Report under Chapter E, Section II (11) on Article 8 (1) (f) (iii). The challenges associated with the implementation continue to lie, among other things, in the ongoing discourse among German Sinti and Roma on the

approach to opening up the Romani language. For historical reasons, many members of the minority have long been opposed to using the Romani language in public.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts were taken note of and examined.

4.14.2.8 Article 7 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- At the Technical University of Darmstadt, half a post was created in 2024 to teach the history of the Sinti and Roma to teacher students in the initial phase of their study programme and to teach them how to prevent antigypsyism. This post is initially limited until the year 2026. A possible extension of the post is currently being examined by the Hesse Ministry of Culture, Education and Opportunities (HMKB).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments in 4.14.2.8 ii.

4.14.2.9 Article 7 (1) (i)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- There have been no changes in this area since the previous reporting periods.

ii. Practical measures

- No comments from the federal state of Hesse at this point.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts were taken note of and examined.

4.14.2.10 Article 7 (2)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 6.

ii. Practical measures

- An anti-discrimination body is established within the Ministry of Labour, Integration, Youth and Social Affairs.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments in 4.14.2.10 ii.

4.14.2.11 Article 7 (3)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- Hesse's core curricula, particularly in the field of humanities, religion and ethics, address the issues of migration, plurality, diversity and thus minorities. According to the core curriculum for history teaching at the upper secondary level, the genocide perpetrated against the Sinti and Roma is a mandatory topic to be covered in the second half of the qualification period. In addition, a handbook has been developed to complement the core curricula with a view to raising awareness of the genocide of Sinti and Roma.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments in 4.14.2.11 ii.

4.14.2.12 Article 7 (4)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma of 23 May 2022, Articles 2 and 3

ii. Practical measures

- In the above-mentioned state treaty, the establishment of a “joint body” was agreed. It meets once a year.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments in 4.14.2.12 ii.

4.14.3 Article 8 – Education

4.14.3.1 Article 8 (1) (a) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- In the field of pre-school education, reference is again made to the “Schaworalle” nursery school in Frankfurt am Main. This daycare facility is open to Roma children only. The project is unique in Germany. The “Schaworalle” nursery school was established in 1996. A crèche (called “Jek, Dui, Trin” meaning one, two, three) with 10 places, run by the same organisation, was set up nearby in 2013.
- The 2024 annual report states that language teaching and promotion is an important area of action for the institution. The teaching is done on a bilingual basis. This ensures that children also learn German. Romani, their native language, is the main language. Providing child-care in Romani and resolving conflicts and problems in the children’s native language is crucial because some children have insufficient German language skills, but particularly because language is part of their cultural identity. This is essential for the overall strategy. Native Romani-speaking staff are role models, creating trust and self-confidence, providing a sense of security and offering children the opportunity to articulate their experience in their native language. According to its statutes, “Schaworalle” cooperates with Roma and non-Roma on equal terms.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.3 Article 8 (1).

4.14.3.2 Article 8 (1) (a) (iv)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments in 4.14.3.1 ii.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments in 4.14.3.1 ii.

4.14.3.3 Article 8 (1) (b) (iv)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Providing Romani lessons at schools in Hesse is something that is still very difficult to implement in practice due to the ongoing discourse among the German Sinti and Roma. Nevertheless, the above-mentioned state treaty underlined the special importance the state of Hesse attaches to the language of the Sinti and Roma. In particular, the federal state undertook to expand the educational opportunities for Sinti and Roma.
- In return, the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma agreed to take further measures. Specifically, a regular exchange takes place between the HMKB and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma. However, members of the minority are very concerned about offering lessons in Romani in schools, because they regard the Romani language as providing an individual safe space for members of the minority, given the negative events in the past that have left a mark on their collective memory.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on Article 8 (1) (b) (iv) (ii).

4.14.3.4 Article 8 (1) (c) (iv)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.3.3 Article 8 (1) (b) (iv).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.3.3 Article 8 (1) (b) (iv).

4.14.3.5 Article 8 (1)(d)(iv)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.3.3 Article 8 (1) (b) (iv).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.3.3 Article 8 (1) (b) (iv).

4.14.3.6 Article 8 (1) (e) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- In 2022, the federal state of Hesse re-signed the state treaty with the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, thereby renewing it for another 10 years. The aim of the treaty is to protect and promote the culture, tradition and language of the Sinti and Roma. In addition, the financial support was increased by 200,000 euros as of 2025. The total support for the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma thus amounts to 500,000 euros per

year. The state treaty explicitly states that the federal state of Hesse attaches great importance to the preservation and protection of the language of the Sinti and Roma.

- On the part of the federal state of Hesse, there are no restrictions on Romani as a possible subject of study. Higher education institutions in Hesse draw up their own development plans and decide which study courses they offer. Currently, there are no study courses for Romani at the universities/higher education institutions in Hesse.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.3.6 Article 8 (1) (e) (ii).

4.14.3.7 Article 8 (1) (f) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Attempts to establish Romani courses at adult education schools have not been successful. In practice, teaching Romani in adult education therefore continues to be challenging.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts were taken note of and examined.

4.14.3.8 Article 8 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on Article 7(3) and Article 8(1)(b)(iv).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on Article 7(3) and Article 8(1)(b)(iv).

4.14.3.9 Article 8 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on Article 8(1)(b)(iv).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on Article 8(1)(b)(iv).

4.14.3.10 Article 8 (1) (i)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- The HMKB holds the main responsibility for monitoring progress regarding classroom instruction in Romani for the state of Hesse. Of course, developments in this regard also depend on pupil numbers. There is constant contact with the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma on this matter.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments in 4.14.3.10 ii.

4.14.3.11 Article 8 (2)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 4.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on Article 8(1)(b)(iv).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on Article 8(1)(b)(iv).

4.14.4 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

4.14.4.1 Article 9 (1) (b) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- The federal state of Hesse has involved judicial practitioners in drafting the Eighth Language Report. Accordingly, as already described in the run-up to the Seventh Language Report, there have still been no cases concerning the use of Romani as a minority language, either in evidence or in the use of interpreters and translators.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments in 4.14.4.1 ii.

4.14.4.2 Article 9 (1) (c) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.4.1 Article 9(1)(b)(iii).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments in 4.14.4.1 ii.

4.14.4.3 Article 9 (2) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.4.1 Article 9(1)(b)(iii).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.4.1 Article 9(1)(b)(iii).

4.14.5 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

4.14.5.1 Article 10 (2) (e)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State Treaty between the federal state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma of 23 May 2022, Article 6 (The federal state, together with the association, is committed to combating discrimination and exclusion through appropriate measures).

ii. Practical measures

- The competent Hesse Ministry of the Interior, Security and Homeland Defence has no information on the practical use of Romani as a minority language at meetings of the regional authorities. No complaints have been brought to the attention of the state of Hesse about inadequate use of the language.

4.14.5.2 Article 10 (2) (f)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 6.

ii. Practical measures

- The competent Hesse Ministry of the Interior, Security and Homeland Defence has no information on the practical use of Romani as a minority language at city council or local council meetings. No complaints have been brought to the attention of the state of Hesse about inadequate use of the language.

4.14.5.3 Article 10 (3) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 6.

ii. Practical measures

- To date, the state of Hesse is not aware of Romani speakers ever having made applications to public service providers in the Romani language.

4.14.5.4 Article 10 (4) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 6.

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Hesse is not aware of any such case having arisen. Should this happen, provisions are in place for examining possible courses of action with the state of Hesse.

4.14.5.5 Article 10 (5)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 6.

ii. Practical measures

- Under the Act on Name Changes by Minorities (*Minderheiten-Namensänderungsgesetz*, *MinderNamÄndG*) (adopted as Article 2 of the Act of 22 July 1997 (Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) II, p. 1406) implementing Article 11(1) of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of 1 February 1995, last amended by Article 3 of the Act of 11 June 2024 (Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) 2024 I No. 185), persons to whom both the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and German naming law apply, can already, by making a declaration before the civil registrar: 1. assume a form of their name translated into the language of the national minority or ethnic group, if their name is translatable (conceptual adaptation); 2. change the spelling of their name into a form that matches the orthography of the minority or ethnic group's language (phonetic adaptation); or 3. revert to a name in the language of the national minority or ethnic group that was previously changed into a German form or

some other name. It is enough for the declarant to be able to demonstrate in a credible manner that he/she previously held that original name.

- Declarations under the Act on Name Changes by Minorities are made in Hesse before the registrar in whose district the declarant is domiciled or permanently resident.
- Rules going further than the Act on Name Changes by Minorities in Hesse and allowing the use or acceptance of surnames in regional or minority languages at the request of those concerned were not adopted and are not technically necessary, since this obligation already exists under the Federal Act following the transposition of Article 10(5) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

4.14.6 Article 11 – Media

4.14.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 6.

ii. Practical measures

- Given the constitutional principle of government non-intervention in broadcasting, no government may determine programming content. Thus, Hesse has no way to exert influence on the design or selection of programmes. However, Hesse has informed the broadcaster Hessischer Rundfunk about Germany's obligations and initiated a dialogue between the state public service broadcasting corporation and the Hessian Association of German Sinti and Roma, while respecting the constitutional principle of government non-intervention in broadcasting. According to our information, representatives of the Sinti and Roma have still not asked the state public service broadcaster for any programming in the Romani language.

4.14.6.2 Article 11 (1) (c) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 6.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii).

4.14.6.3 Article 11 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Article 8.

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Hesse promotes projects to raise awareness of the history, culture and fate of the Sinti and Roma. More specifically, the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma published 'News in Romanes' on its homepage <https://sinti-roma-hessen.de/> between 2020 and 2024.

4.14.6.4 Article 11 (1) (e) (i)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- To our knowledge, the minority's wish to use the language only within the community has not changed. It should also be noted that Romani is not a standardised written language. Consequently, the requirement to create a daily or weekly newspaper in Romani will hardly be feasible in practice.

4.14.6.5 Article 11 (1) (e) (ii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Hesse has no comment to make here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The state of Hesse has no comment to make here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

4.14.6.6 Article 11 (1) (f) (iii)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.6.1 Article 11 (1) (b) (ii).

4.14.6.7 Article 11 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- If the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma wishes to support the training of journalists and other media personnel, the state of Hesse will examine appropriate options.

4.14.6.8 Article 11 (2)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Hesse has no comment to make here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The state of Hesse has no comment to make here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

4.14.7 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

4.14.7.1 Article 12 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Articles 3, 4 and 8.

ii. Practical measures

- Promoting the cultural life of Sinti and Roma is a concern of the state government of Hesse. In addition to what is stated in the Seventh Language Report (VII.a 6 a ii), since 2020 the Philharmonic Association of Sinti and Roma has received institutional funding from the budget of the Hessian Ministry of Science and Research, Arts and Culture. The current funding amounts to 20,700 euros per year. A continuation of the funding measure is planned. The aim of the funding is to support the artistic creativity of the Sinti and Roma and to make it more visible with a view to strengthening their identity.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The state of Hesse has no comment to make here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

4.14.7.2 Article 12 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Articles 3, 4 and 8.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.7.1 Article 12(1)(a)(ii) “Practical measures”.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.7.1 Article 12(1)(a)(ii).

4.14.7.3 Article 12 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Articles 3, 4 and 8.

ii. Practical measures

- There is an ongoing exchange on this issue with the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.7.1 Article 12(1)(a).

4.14.7.4 Article 12 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Hesse has no comment here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The Committee of Experts considers this undertaking fulfilled. For this reason, there is no contribution from the state of Hesse.

4.14.7.5 Article 12 (2)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma, Articles 3, 4 and 8.

ii. Practical measures

- Please refer to the comments on Article 12(1)(a).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.7.1 Article 12(1)(a).

4.14.7.6 Article 12 (3)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Hesse has no comment here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Please refer to the comments on 4.14.7.1 Article 12(1)(a).

4.14.8 Article 13 – Economic and social life

4.14.8.1 Article 13 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- Thus, the state of Hesse has no comment here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- The Committee of Experts considers this undertaking fulfilled. For this reason, there is no contribution from the state of Hesse.

4.14.8.2 Article 13 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- Thus, the state of Hesse has no comment here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

4.14.8.3 Article 13 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- Thus, the state of Hesse has no comment here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

4.14.9 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

4.14.9.1 Article 14 (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

- State treaty of 23 May 2022 between the state of Hesse and the Hesse Association of German Sinti and Roma.

ii. Practical measures

- The state of Hesse has no comment to make here, as nothing has changed since the previous reporting periods.

4.15 Romani in the rest of Germany

4.15.1 Article 6 – Information

Baden-Württemberg

For Baden-Württemberg, please refer to our comments in Germany's Seventh Report.

Lower Saxony

As mentioned in section XIV of the mid-term report following Germany's Seventh Report, "Latscho Dibes", a music and culture magazine, is now the only Sinti radio programme in Lower Saxony. It is broadcast simultaneously on the third Sunday of every month from 14:00 to 15:00 on Radio Tonkühle (Hildesheim), Stadtradio Göttingen, Radio Okerwelle (Braunschweig), Radio Wüste Welle (Tübingen) and Webradio Flora (Hanover).

Rhineland-Palatinate

Rhineland-Palatinate has worked closely and trustingly with associations and members of the Sinti and Roma minority for decades. In particular, the close existing cooperation between the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.) is constantly being continued and intensified in the spirit of remembrance, the promotion of social diversity, and the democratic principles and values of respect for the ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity of the minority.

The website of the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of the Interior and Sport (Ministerium des Innern und für Sport; Mdi) also provides a link to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages under the heading "Citizens and the State – Legal Basis for the Protection of Minorities: Cooperation with the German Sinti and Roma Minority" (*Bürger und Staat - Rechtliche Grundlagen des Minderheitenschutzes zur Zusammenarbeit mit der Minderheit der deutschen Sinti und Roma*) (<https://mdi.rlp.de/themen/buerger-und-staat/nationale-minderheiten>).

The state of Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in section 3.1.6.

Saarland

No new measures have been taken by Saarland since the mid-term report following Germany's Seventh Report.

Schleswig-Holstein

The **state of Schleswig-Holstein** refers to its comments in section 4.1.1.

4.15.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles

Bavaria

For the Free State of Bavaria: Please refer to the mid-term report following Germany's Seventh Report; there have been no new developments since then.

Berlin

Funding for the Berlin association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Landesverband Berlin e.V.) and the Association for Preserving the Culture of German Sinti and Roma (Verein zum Erhalt der Kultur deutscher Sinti und Roma) is intended, among other things, to preserve and strengthen the minority language. This support is also based on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Support includes targeted language promotion, public relations work, and community advocacy activities.

Saxony

Saxony's state government shares the principles and objectives of the European Charter, as set out in Article 7 (1) to Article 7 (5). However, it is not possible to provide an opinion on specific policies or legislative measures at this stage. The implementation of measures to protect and promote the Romani minority language is already hindered by the small estimated number of Sinti and Roma national minority members in the Free State of Saxony, as well as by a lack of knowledge regarding their place of residence. In this respect, the state government and the relevant authorities cannot effectively implement the objectives and principles set out in Article 7. The main problem is that the Sinti and Roma communities are reluctant to acknowledge their status as a national minority. This makes the targeted implementation of government measures to promote and protect the Romani minority language extremely difficult.

4.15.2.1 Article 7 (1) (a)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Baden-Württemberg

- The preamble to the treaty between the state government and the Baden-Württemberg association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e.V.) stated that, “in recognition of the linguistic and

cultural identity of the minority, the treaty will be translated into Romani by the Baden-Württemberg association of German Sinti and Roma”. The first sentence of Article 1 states that “German Sinti and Roma have the right to have their culture and language recognised, preserved and promoted (...)”. With regard to the minority language Romani, the state of Baden-Württemberg refers to its comments under 3.7.

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Aware that the Romani language used by the German Sinti and Roma is recognised as a minority language within the meaning of Part II of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate also confirms its commitment to the undertakings accepted under this Charter. For this reason, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate supports and promotes the preservation of the Romani language.
- The state of Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in sections 3.7 and 3.1.6.

Saarland

- The protection and preservation of the Romani language and the recognition of Romani as an expression of identity and cultural heritage is enshrined in Article 4 (“Language, Education and Culture”) of the framework agreement signed on 13 April 2022 between the state government of Saarland and Saarland’s association of German Sinti and Roma (Deutscher Sinti und Roma Saarland e. V.). In this context, the state government of Saarland is committed to improving education for young and adult Sinti and Roma in order to ensure equal opportunities for them at all levels of education (nurseries, schools and universities).

Schleswig-Holstein

- The constitution of the state of Schleswig-Holstein guarantees the cultural independence and political participation of the national minority of German Sinti and Roma and other national minorities and ethnic groups protected in Schleswig-Holstein. This is explicitly defined as a task for the state and its municipalities and associations.
- The Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e.V. is headquartered in Neumünster. It is a member of the Federal Union of German Sinti and Roma (Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma e.V., BVSR), a nationwide organisation founded in 2021 as the third umbrella organisation for German Sinti and Roma, alongside the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Sinti Alliance of Germany. In 2024, the association was accepted onto the committee for German Sinti and Roma affairs in Schleswig-Holstein’s state parliament. Also in the same year, DialogForumNorden – a civil society alliance comprising national autochthonous minorities and organisations operating across the German-Danish border

– invited the Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e.V. to become a member. Since then, its representatives have regularly attended the meetings.

ii. Practical measures

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Through the newly concluded agreement between the state of Rhineland-Palatinate and the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.), the state of Rhineland-Palatinate confirms its intention, in accordance with the Council of Europe’s Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, to take appropriate measures to ensure and promote the conditions for the active participation of the Sinti and Roma national minority living in Rhineland-Palatinate in all areas of cultural, social, economic and political life.
- As part of institutional support, Rhineland-Palatinate provides the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma with the necessary funding to employ a full-time Sinti and Roma cultural officer.
- The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in section 3.1.6.

Saarland

- The Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland) is funded by Saarland’s Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health (Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Frauen und Gesundheit; MASFG) and its Ministry for Education and Culture (Ministerium für Bildung und Kultur; MBK). Funding from the federal state makes it possible for the association to provide educational opportunities for young and adult Sinti and Roma, as well as for its remembrance work. Romani is used as part of the cultural heritage of Sinti and Roma, and is thus promoted to a wider audience. Additional measures and projects developed by the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma are also funded within the limits of financial resources.
- The “Nachhall” memorial for the persecuted Sinti and Roma in Saarbrücken was inaugurated on 24 November 2024. This is the first time a central memorial site has been dedicated to this minority in Saarland. In addition to reminding us of the persecution and oppression of minorities, the memorial also acknowledges the value of the culture, language and traditions of the Sinti and Roma communities to society.

Schleswig-Holstein

- For the first time, the Sinti Union Schleswig Holstein e.V. received institutional funding of 60,000 euros under the 2023 budget for setting up and maintaining an office. The establishment of an office in Neumünster and the recruitment of a CEO were intended to professionalise the work of the Sinti Union. The office is intended to act as a meeting place and an information point for the history and culture of Sinti and Roma. Following the adoption of the 2024 budget, the budget allocation increased to 80,000 euros, primarily to allow for additional office staff, and this level of allocation was maintained throughout the year.
- Between 2022 and 2024, Schleswig-Holstein's Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth, Family, Senior Citizens, Integration and Equality (MSJFSIG) funded a total of four projects by Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e.V., in accordance with the Participation and Cohesion Measures Guidelines (MaTZ). The MaTZ projects were voluntary initiatives undertaken by the federal state with the aim of increasing the participation of adult migrants in society, and fostering coexistence and cohesion. In total, the projects received 132,178.78 euros in funding. The projects focused on bringing together immigrant Sinti and Roma with German society and reducing prejudices within German society towards Sinti and Roma. To this end, projects included workshops on historical backgrounds, cooking events, art exhibitions and reading circles. The Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e.V. has played a key role in these projects, acting as a link between the Roma community and other parts of German society.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma continues to seek full, legally binding recognition of the minority language (with a quorum) in accordance with Part III of the Language Charter.

Saarland

- To raise awareness of the contributions of Romani speakers to German society, the first central memorial site for persecuted Sinti and Roma was opened in Saarland's Echelmeyer Park, Saarbrücken.
- For teachers in training, a module on group-focused enmity, which has been mandatory since 2024, is co-designed by the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland). In addition to issues related to group-focused enmity, the importance and contribution of Sinti and Roma to German

society are also made clear to prospective teachers. Teachers share this knowledge with pupils in their classrooms.

4.15.2.2 Article 7 (1) (b)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Members of the German Sinti and Roma minority reside throughout Rhineland-Palatinate, primarily in urban areas such as Mainz, Ludwigshafen, Landau, Speyer, Koblenz, Worms, Kaiserslautern and Trier, as well as in rural municipalities like Westpfalz. Therefore, there is no clearly defined settlement area to consider in a new administrative division.

ii. Practical measures

Schleswig-Holstein

- Schleswig-Holstein's contribution under E.VII.b.1.b. of Germany's Seventh Report still applies.

4.15.2.3 Article 7 (1) (c)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments in section 3.1.6.

ii. Practical measures

Berlin

- As part of a pilot project introducing a B1 language assessment test for school pupils in Berlin, an exam in Romani was offered alongside other languages. A set of exam materials was developed for this purpose.

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Funding for several projects under the directive to promote the culture and language of the German Sinti and Roma has helped strengthen the identity of this minority group and raise awareness of antigypsyism. In 2024, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate supported the non-commercial "Neco Loritz Project" (Projekt Neco Loritz) for which a professional

songwriter collaborated with participants to write songs in Romani and German. These songs were then recorded and published in a music studio.

- The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in section 3.1.6.

Saarland

- The Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland) is funded by Saarland's Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Women and Health (Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Frauen und Gesundheit; MASFG) and its Ministry for Education and Culture (Ministerium für Bildung und Kultur; MBK). Thanks to funding from the federal state, the association is able to provide educational opportunities for young and adult Sinti and Roma people, as well as language learning opportunities in Romani. This implies teaching the Romani language in line with the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Additional measures and projects developed by the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma are also funded within the limits of financial resources.

Schleswig-Holstein

- The Schleswig-Holstein association of German Sinti and Roma receives project funding of 17,900 euros to promote cultural and linguistic work. The association receives 375,000 euros per year for educational advice to schools in the state.
- In the 2024/25 school year, eight educational advisors and a mediator from an older, similar project belonging to the minority were deployed in ten primary and community schools in Kiel and Lübeck to support around 120 minority pupils in the classroom and improve their educational opportunities. The association oversees the project and has appointed a coordinator to act as the project's primary point of contact. This coordinator is also linked to the lower supervisory authorities (education offices).

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Saarland

- The recommendation to promote language learning opportunities in cooperation with Romani speakers is considered to have been implemented through the provision of funding to the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma. The association has implemented learning opportunities for Romani speakers independently.

4.15.2.4 Article 7 (1) (d)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments in section 3.1.6.

Saarland

- As regards the usage and teaching of the Romani language outside the minority community, Saarland refers to the position of the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma, which is neither to teach nor use the Romani language outside the minority community.

Schleswig-Holstein

- Regarding public use of the Romani language, Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in D.I.4 of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.), sponsored by the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, organises the cultural festival AVEN in Landau every year. The term “aven” means “come” in Romani. The aim of this cultural festival is to counter prejudice and resentment through encounters and exchanges. It gives visitors the chance to get to know each other and chat in an informal setting. In this context, the cultural achievements of the Sinti and Roma communities are brought to the attention of the public, thereby strengthening their cultural identity.
- Another event serving the Language Charter organised by the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma is “Parmissi – Aven ketne Basch i Jahn!” (Come together in a good place). The storytelling culture of Sinti and Roma has a long tradition. For generations, the campfire was a central meeting place. This particular atmosphere created space for exchange, language, memories and cultural knowledge. In times of exclusion and persecution, this form of community provided protection, belonging and identity. With this story evening format, the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma builds on this tradition. All interested parties are invited to share their stories or poems in either Romani or German.

- The state of Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in section 3.1.6.

Saarland

- As regards the usage and teaching of the Romani language outside the minority community, Saarland refers to the position of the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma, which is neither to teach nor use the Romani language outside the minority community.

Schleswig-Holstein

- The Sinti and Roma minority is encouraged by the state of Schleswig-Holstein to maintain and use their language. For example, music classes and choirs run by minority group members for minority group children have been funded for many years. Songs are rehearsed in Romani, and the language is passed on to the next generation. Saarland has also repeatedly emphasised the importance of documenting minority languages in order to preserve and disseminate them. Although this is discussed within the minority group, the majority has so far rejected it.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Schleswig-Holstein

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to the Committee of Ministers' recommendation that immediate measures be taken, in cooperation with Romani speakers, to strengthen educational offerings for the Roma community. This is in line with the position it has expressed on several occasions in recent years. It is expressly not the wish of the Schleswig-Holstein association of German Sinti and Roma that the Romani language be taught to outsiders or that it be spoken in public spaces. The regional associations of the German Sinti and Roma minority and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma have for some years been discussing the fact that the Romani language is imparted only orally within the minority group and considering the issue of codifying the German version of Romani. At this stage, the regional associations and the Central Council have not yet adopted a uniform position on this issue.

4.15.2.5 Article 7 (1) (e)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments in section 3.1.6.

ii. Practical measures

Rhineland-Palatinate

- On 8 September 2024, the event “Meeting and exchange to Sinti jazz and klezmer tunes” took place in the garden of the synagogue in Trier. On a Sunday afternoon, the Jewish congregation of Trier and the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma co-hosted the event in the synagogue garden to promote peaceful and social coexistence. The guests were treated to a very special musical programme in which two musical cultures came together: the traditional klezmer music of Eastern European Jews, which encompasses a wide range of emotions, and Sinti jazz, which combines traditional elements with modern jazz in the style of the “Hot Club de France”.
- Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments under 4.15.2.1, Article 7 (1) (a), Article 7 (1) (c) and Article 7 (1) (d).

Saarland

- The funding of the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma from state funds enables the association to organise commemorative and cultural events which, in addition to members of its own minority, explicitly target the majority population. Remembrance and cultural events teach people about the language, culture and history of minority groups, and provide opportunities for members of minority and majority populations to meet and exchange ideas.
- In addition, the Saarland state government, in cooperation with the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Saarland), organises its own occasional cultural and commemorative events, which provide space for encounters and exchanges.

Schleswig-Holstein

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein provides funding of 17,900 euros per year for cultural work by the Schleswig-Holstein association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma e. V. – Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein), and the Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e. V. This funding is intended to support commemorative work, music, tailoring courses and alternating events, such as lectures and readings. In addition, the association receives annual funding from the lottery duty. This funding amounts to around 300,000 euros per year. This supports the association’s social and public relations work. This includes projects such as social and legal counselling, low-threshold social counselling in cooperation with the German Employees Academy (Deutsche Angestellten Akademie), press and public relations work, holiday trips for children from minority backgrounds, operating the cultural centre, organising a regular district breakfast and

educational trips to memorial sites. The focus of these projects is on promoting contacts between members of the minority and fostering their culture. In addition, commemorative work in particular targets the majority population too.

4.15.2.6 Article 7 (1) (f)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Berlin

- The funding measures referred to under 4.15.2 create spaces in which cultural preservation and targeted language support can be provided. There is a particular focus on the younger generation.
- One concrete example is the funding of a caravan parking site for German Sinti and Roma travellers. This measure supports the continuation and maintenance of the traditional way of life, while providing a framework in which language-promoting and language-strengthening services are implemented.

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate promotes multilingualism and is aware of the importance of the language of origin for the educational and personal development of learners. In 2025, the number of languages of origin offered in classroom instruction was increased to 20. However, Romani is not one of them. Such instruction is currently not desired by the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma, as Romani is not to be taught and learned at state schools.

Saarland

- As regards the usage and teaching of the Romani language outside the minority community, Saarland refers to the position of the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma, which is neither to teach nor use the Romani language outside the minority community.

Schleswig-Holstein

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to 4.15.2.4. The minority does not yet desire written preservation of the language, translations or bilingual publications. It is preferred that members of the minority continue to pass on their knowledge to the next generation through oral transmission. Consequently, it is currently impossible to provide the necessary forms and resources for teaching and learning Romani.

ii. Practical measures

- Since 2018, the **Federal Foreign Office** has been supporting the European Roma Institute for Art and Culture (ERIAC) through project funding. In 2020, the Roma Cultural History Initiative received funding from the Federal Foreign Office to promote a Roma language forum and education council, focusing on themes such as international Romani language reform, language promotion and protection. The Federal Foreign Office has supported the ERIAC outreach programme, developed from previous projects, since 2022. This consists of several core components. One of these is the Romani Language Initiative, which produces educational materials for teaching Romani in collaboration with the International Language Council. These materials are in line with the standards of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The Initiative has recently published a textbook for teaching Romani at B1 level (teaching at A1 and A2 levels has already been completed), and it also organised the 5th “Safeguarding Romani Language” conference, in cooperation with the Council of Europe. The 2025 outreach programme is now developing the B2-level course.
- Regarding the funding provided by the **office of the Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany** for a pilot project by the Federal Union of German Sinti and Roma (Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma, BVSR) for developing a concept for a nationwide Romani Academy, please refer to the comments under 3.7.

North Rhine-Westphalia

- Promoting and valuing vibrant multilingualism is particularly important for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. For this reason, North Rhine-Westphalia offers state-organised native language instruction for pupils who grow up multilingually speaking German and one or more other languages. In 2020, native language instruction was offered in 26 languages. Romani is among the languages offered in native language instruction in North Rhine-Westphalia. As native language instruction is a demand-driven, voluntary state offering, the federal state actively encourages migrant organisations, associations and families to take part in native language instruction and to expand its range of languages and learning groups. The same applies to the Romani language.
- Independently of this, a 6 November 2003 circular on encounters with languages issued by the state Education Ministry establishes encounters with languages at primary schools in North Rhine-Westphalia as an integral part of classroom instruction. Encounters with other languages, including minority languages, should be incorporated into lessons in a playful way, especially when these are the languages of origin of pupils at primary school. Such encounters are to be made possible for all primary school pupils in North Rhine-Westphalia. The individual schools themselves decide how to include encounters with languages in their school’s own curriculum.

North Rhine-Westphalia organises native language instruction in Romani. The following provisions apply equally to all the languages offered in the framework of native language instruction: Native language instruction is provided by teachers who are qualified under German law to teach the respective language. Teachers qualified under German law who have not studied the respective native language can still teach that language if they can demonstrate proficiency at level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and agree in writing to participate in an advanced training course for native language teachers at primary and lower secondary schools. Exceptions are possible if there are no teachers available fulfilling these criteria. In that case, instruction may be given by teachers who hold a foreign teachers' degree for the native language; teachers who hold a German or foreign university degree in the native language; or teachers who hold a foreign teachers' or university degree in a recognised subject from a country in which the native language is spoken. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency at CEFR level C1 and, as outlined in the curriculum, in addition to functional and communicative skills must also possess the necessary intercultural and methodological skills as well as the language skills and awareness.

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Rhineland-Palatinate declares that Romani is a language which, at the request of the community, is used only within the community and is maintained and transmitted exclusively within families and family associations.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Saarland

- As regards the usage and teaching of the Romani language outside the minority community, Saarland refers to the position of the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma, which is neither to teach nor use the Romani language outside the minority community.

4.15.2.7 Article 7 (1) (g)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments under 4.15.2.1 et seq., Article 7 (1) (f).

Schleswig-Holstein

- The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.15.2.6.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Saarland

- As regards the usage and teaching of the Romani language outside the minority community, Saarland refers to the position of the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma, which is neither to teach nor use the Romani language outside the minority community.

4.15.2.8 Article 7 (1) (h)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The state of Rhineland-Palatinate welcomes and supports the intensification of academic research into the history, culture and way of life of the Sinti and Roma communities.
- Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in sections 3.1.6 and 4.15.2.1 et seq. of Article 7 (1) (f), which also apply to the university sector.

Schleswig-Holstein

- Please refer to 4.15.2.6 of this report.

ii. Practical measures

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The state of Rhineland-Palatinate is funding an innovative teaching and learning research project on the history of the Sinti and Roma at the Faculty of History and Cultural Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, with 100,000 euros in funding for 2025 and 2026. Thanks to its broad range of historical topics and its connections with the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma, the department is ideally suited to successfully carrying out such a project. The Research Centre on Antigypsyism of the University of Heidelberg is also involved in the project. Under the guidance of a project officer, students explore different eras in the history of Sinti and Roma, as well as social antigypsyism under various political regimes, as part of a network of archive research and teaching-learning projects. On 20 January 2026, the exhibition “Sinti and Roma in Rhineland-Palatinate: Murdered. Marginalised. Stigmatised” (Sinti und Roma in Rheinland-Pfalz: Ermordet. Ausgegrenzt. Stigmatisiert) was opened in the presence of Minister-President Alexander Schweitzer as the main outcome of the funded project.

- Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in section 4.15.2.1 et seq. of Article 7 (1) (f), which also apply to the university sector.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Saarland

- As regards the usage and teaching of the Romani language outside the minority community, Saarland refers to the position of the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma, which is neither to teach nor use the Romani language outside the minority community.

4.15.2.9 Article 7 (1) (i)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments under 3.1.6 and 4.15.2.1 et seq., Article 7 (1) (f).

Schleswig-Holstein

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein has confirmed that the Schleswig-Holstein association of German Sinti and Roma continues to receive institutional support.
- Additionally, Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e.V. has received institutional support from the federal state budget since 2024 (see 4.15.2.1).

ii. Practical measures

Federal Foreign Office

- The Federal Foreign Office refers to its comments under 4.15.2.6. Article 7 (1) (f)

Saarland

- As a member of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, the Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma takes part in some international exchange programmes.

Schleswig-Holstein

- Regarding the national and international involvement of the Schleswig-Holstein association of German Sinti and Roma, the state of Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments under E.VII.b.i in Germany's Seventh Report.
- As the second minority association in Schleswig-Holstein, Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e.V. is linked to various nationwide cooperation partners, including the Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation, the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW) in Berlin and the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency. It is also a member of the Federal Union of German Sinti and Roma.

4.15.2.10 Article 7 (2)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments under 3.1.6 and 4.15.2.1 et seq., Article 7 (1) (f).

Saarland

- **Saarland** refers to its comments under 4.15.2.1 i.

Schleswig-Holstein

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in section E.VII.b.1.a. of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments under 3.1.6 and 4.15.2.1 et seq., Article 7 (1) (f).

Saarland

- Saarland refers to its comments under 4.15.2.1 ii.

Schleswig-Holstein

- Specific forms of assistance by the state of Schleswig-Holstein for the Schleswig-Holstein association of German Sinti and Roma and the Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e. V. are developed jointly with the association. The differences between the regional and minority languages protected in Schleswig-Holstein arise from the different needs of the respective speaker groups, as articulated by them now and in the past.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

- Saarland refers to its comments under 4.15.2.1 iii.

4.15.2.11 Article 7 (3)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Brandenburg

- The multilingualism strategy of the Brandenburg Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport (multilingualism strategy: an assessment and strategic development of linguistic diversity in the education system in the state of Brandenburg) presents Romani as part of the state's cultural heritage and linguistic diversity. However, contrary to the Brandenburg state parliament's call for measures to be formulated in the multilingualism strategy for Romani, no comments have been made on Romani communication as part of this strategy. This is because the German Sinti and Roma want Romani to be treated as an internal matter, outside the remit of government action.
- Following the amendment to the RBB Treaty on 1 January 2024, the statutory programme mandate was made more specific, particularly with regard to the interests of people with a migration background and ethnic minorities, specifically the Sinti and Roma culture (section 3 (4) of the RBB Treaty). This provision promotes the representation of social diversity, a factor also considered in the composition of public broadcasting supervisory bodies (in this case, provisions on appointment to the Broadcasting Council, section 19 (1) of the RBB Treaty, are particularly relevant). While these legal requirements are not specifically intended for the use of the Romani language, they can be interpreted as part of a broader initiative to promote linguistic and cultural diversity. However, there is currently no information from the broadcaster rbb on a specific programme focus on Romani.

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments in section 3.1.6.

Schleswig-Holstein

- Please refer to E.I.7.h of Germany's Seventh Report.

ii. Practical measures

Rhineland-Palatinate

Education

- To encourage equal participation by members of the Sinti and Roma national minority living in the Rhineland-Palatinate region, the state government is encouraging local authorities to actively promote educational measures for these groups on a case-by-case basis.
- The state of Rhineland-Palatinate is committed to ensuring that the history of the Sinti and Roma, as well as the social treatment of this minority group, are included in the state school curriculum. To this end, the state is promoting the development of educational and teaching materials of a high standard for the various school levels.
- As part of institutional support, Rhineland-Palatinate provides the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma with the necessary funding to employ a full-time Sinti and Roma educational officer.
- The state of Rhineland-Palatinate is running a qualification programme for educational advisers working with members of the Sinti and Roma national minority living in the region. They support Sinti and Roma children at school and serve as a point of contact for teachers and parents.

Media

- With regard to the call to encourage the mass media to promote mutual understanding between all linguistic groups, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate points out that, as a result of freedom of broadcasting, the media are independent and have programme autonomy.
- The state of Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in sections 3.7 and 3.1.6.

Saarland

- The Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma is involved in designing and delivering training modules for police officers and teachers. These modules aim to enhance knowledge and understanding of the Romani-speaking population, fostering mutual respect and recognition.

Schleswig-Holstein

- The traveling exhibition “The long road: learning from the past—shaping the future” (“Der lange Weg. Aus Vergangenheit lernen – Zukunft gestalten”), developed in 2019 by the Schleswig-Holstein association of German Sinti and Roma, with funding from the federal state, has since been on display in schools, churches and town halls throughout the state. The state of Schleswig-Holstein is committed to promoting the ongoing development and presentation of the exhibition, providing logistics and pedagogical support. In 2024, the funding amounted to around 14,000 euros and in 2025 it will amount to 9,400 euros.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Education: Rhineland-Palatinate refers to its comments under 4.15.2.1 et seq., Article 7 (1) (f).
- Media
- With the amended State Treaty for SWR Treaty of the federal states of Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate, which entered into force on 1 September 2025, the broadcaster SWR is obliged to provide programming for all population groups. To this end, it should make full use of its freedom to broadcast, funded by public contributions, to contribute to media diversity by providing its own programme content. This will allow everyone to participate in the information society.
 - In accordance with the Interstate Agreement on Media (*Medienstaatsvertrag*, MStV), private broadcasters are required to provide an appropriate amount of information, culture and education, and to reflect linguistic and cultural diversity in the German-speaking and European areas.
 - Regarding the independence of the media and programme autonomy resulting from freedom of broadcasting, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate has not initiated any specific projects involving the Romani language.
 - In this regard, please also refer to the comments under 4.15.2.1 of l.) Article 7 (4).

Schleswig-Holstein

- The state of Schleswig-Holstein will not be commenting on the committee of experts’ view, as expressed in the evaluation report of the mid-term report, that the authorities should collaborate with Romani speakers to explore the potential use of the language in the media, including public service broadcasting.

4.15.2.12 Article 7 (4)

i. Measures in the field of policy and/or legislation

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The agreement between the Rhineland-Palatinate state government and the Rhineland-Palatinate association of German Sinti and Roma established a body composed of three representatives of each contracting party in Rhineland-Palatinate. Guests and experts may be invited as required. The main tasks are to regularly evaluate the implementation of the agreement's objectives, discuss current minority issues, and respect the rights and obligations set out in the Language Charter.
- The state of Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in section 3.1.8.

Schleswig-Holstein

- Schleswig-Holstein refers here to its comments in 4.15.2.1.

ii. Practical measures

Berlin

- The Advisory Board for Roma and Sinti Affairs in the state of Berlin, enshrined in section 18 of the Berlin Act on Participation (*Partizipationsgesetz*, PartMigG), has become operational. It acts as an advisory body to the Berlin Senate on matters relating to the participation of these communities, and their equal participation. To carry out its tasks effectively, the advisory board must be involved from the outset in Senate projects, policies, strategies, concepts and programmes relating to this area. More information can be found on the website <https://www.berlin.de/sen/lads/schwerpunkte/rechtsextremismus-rassismus-antisemitismus/beirat-fuer-angelegenheiten-von-rom-nja-und-sinti-zze/>.

Hamburg

- In May 2024, the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg approved an overall strategy to fight antigypsyism and to promote equal participation of Sinti and Roma in Hamburg ("Gesamtstrategie zur Bekämpfung des Antiziganismus und zur Förderung der gleichberechtigten Teilhabe der Sinti und Roma in Hamburg"; parliamentary document 22/15436). The overall strategy aims to achieve the objectives set out in the title in all key areas of life, including approaches to the Romani language. In implementing the overall strategy, the Senate works with organisations of the Hamburg Sinti and Roma via a

participatory body coordinated by the office for integration of Hamburg's Department for Health, Social Affairs and Integration.

Rhineland-Palatinate

- The body described in "Chapter 4.15.2 Article 7 – Objectives and principles I. Article 7 (4)" meets at least once a year.
- The state of Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments in section 3.1.8.

Saarland

- The Saarland association of German Sinti and Roma has many links with the Saarland state government at leadership and working level. This means that issues relating to regional and minority language policy can be discussed in a trusting manner.

Schleswig-Holstein

- Schleswig-Holstein refers to its comments in 4.15.2.11.
- The state parliament of Schleswig-Holstein has a body for German Sinti and Roma minority issues, chaired by the parliament's president. Here, the Schleswig-Holstein association of German Sinti and Roma and the Sinti Union Schleswig-Holstein e. V., as the principal bodies representing the minority in the state, can make their wishes and initiatives known directly to politicians, administrators and local authorities.
- The DialogForumNorden (DFN), chaired by the minister-president's minorities commissioner, is also a platform where the minority can enlist support for its concerns in dialogue with other minorities and speakers' groups. One of the key aims of this civil society alliance is to develop a common position on minority policy issues and to speak with one voice.
- The state government of Schleswig-Holstein involves the minorities' associations in all its reports to the state parliament that have relevance for minorities. Under the heading "Forum", they can present their views on the state's policy in this area and formulate expectations and suggestions for its future policy on minorities.

iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Rhineland-Palatinate

- Media: In Rhineland-Palatinate, public service broadcasting takes account of the interests of Sinti and Roma. Following the amendment to the SWR Treaty, which came into effect

on 1 September 2025, the seven members of the Broadcasting Council will be appointed jointly by Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate, one of whom will be a member of the Sinti and Roma community. Thus, Sinti and Roma continue to have a seat on the Broadcasting Council of the SWR. However, in future, the member will be appointed jointly by Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate. In other words, the Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate associations of German Sinti and Roma will have to agree on one member to represent them. Until now, the representative of the Sinti and Roma associations has only been seconded by the Rhineland-Palatinate association.

- Rhineland-Palatinate also refers to its comments under 4.15.2.1 et seq. l.) Article 7 (4), measure 2.

5 Comments by the associations

5.1 Comments by the Danish minority



26. November 2025

Dansk Generalsekretariat / LR

Contact information: Generalsekretär Lasse Rodewald

lasse@syfo.de

0461 14408-110

Comments by the Danish minority on the recommendations for immediate action made by the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe

The South Schleswigian Association (Sydslesvigsk Forening; SSF) expresses thanks on behalf of the Danish minority for the opportunity to comment on the 2024 Report of the Committee of Experts on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Schleswig-Holstein.

The Danish minority supports the recommendations for immediate action:

- Take further steps to develop the offer of radio and television programmes in Danish in particular with respect to the duration and frequency.

The Danish minority refers to its previous comments.

- Provide a clear legal basis for the use of Danish in civil and administrative court proceedings, in accordance with the undertakings ratified.

The Federal Ministry of Justice is extremely slow in dealing with the request for an extension of section 184. The matter has been delayed for several years, including with reference to limited human resources. This approach is unacceptable and shows that the Federal Ministry of Justice does not adequately assume its responsibility towards regional and minority languages. For the Danish minority, the extension of §184 remains a key minority policy objective.

The Danish minority also refers to previous comments in this context.

5.2 Comments by the North Frisians



Comments on the Evaluation Report of the Committee of Experts on the Seventh Report of the Federal Republic of Germany presented by the Frisian Council (Frasche Rädj)/Section North e.V.

Comments by the Frisian Council (Frasche Rädj)/Section North e.V. on the evaluation report referred to above

The report was drawn up by the Frisian Council (Frasche Rädj)/Section North as an umbrella organisation in consultation with the relevant North Frisian associations and institutions in North Frisia/Schleswig-Holstein.

P. 42– 8.1.h: provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) North Frisian

Due to the characteristics of the German school system, the training of Frisian teachers is separated by type of school: training for primary and comprehensive school teachers is provided in Flensburg, while grammar school teachers are trained in Kiel. While this work is coordinated, the effort required to ensure such coordination is neither paid nor systematically defined as a task. Frisian can be studied as a complementary subject in Flensburg, alongside two major subjects. However, this means an additional burden on students of around 4 semester hours per week. In Kiel, it can also be studied as a major subject (as part of the two-subject BA programme). However, studies in Frisian will not be taken into account when teacher students are assigned a place for their practical training, which means that a place in a school in the area where Frisian is spoken cannot be guaranteed. Since, despite the express obligation contained in the Charter, no Frisian language classes are offered outside the area where Frisian is spoken, part of the training is devalued.

If Frisian is to be revitalised, there is no alternative to offering Frisian as a foreign language. Although language learning courses are not a genuine task for universities, and although they are already offered as part of the Frisian studies at Flensburg University, it would be desirable for the Ministry for Education and the universities to find a joint solution to offer additional

language courses at the university. So far, language courses are mainly provided only by the associations. Offering language courses at the university would also be a quality feature.

P. 42– 8.1.biv: make available all or a substantial part of primary education in North Frisian, provide North Frisian classes as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and provided that their number is considered sufficient

Frisian language classes are only offered at a few schools in North Frisia, with the number of schools, teachers and students declining over recent years. This situation is made more difficult by the fact that, with two exceptions, Frisian is only offered as an optional activity group, i.e. not as a recognised school subject, with the result that its attractiveness is diminished. In addition, it is the responsibility of the teachers to raise awareness among parents so that they enrol their children for Frisian classes. Thus, both the quality and intensity of the information provided to parents depend on the commitment of the teacher.

The Liirskap in Bredstedt (a department of the North Frisian Institute) and Alkersum (Ferring Foundation) is currently producing materials for primary education.

The position of state-level expert adviser for Frisian has been vacant for years. The state government has been unable to fill the post. It has also not yet been possible to provide the school curricula for Frisian.

For years, Heligoland Frisian has been neither part of pre-school nor of school education. Efforts to promote Heligoland Frisian are therefore made exclusively within families and on a voluntary basis.

P. 41 - 8.1 a iii: make available all or a substantial part of pre-school education in North Frisian at least to those pupils whose families so request and provided that their number is considered sufficient

P. 41 - 8.1.a iv: favour and/or encourage the provision of all or a substantial part of pre-school education in North Frisian

There is no certified training for pre-school teachers, nor are there any certified further training programmes. Some teachers do valuable work on their own initiative, but overall the situation regarding pre-school teaching of Frisian language and culture is unsatisfactory and deficient.

Frisian adult education for beginners, advanced students and those taking up Frisian again is the responsibility of the associations. It would be desirable to have a stable offering of classes throughout the whole area where Frisian is spoken.

P. 42 - 11.1.b iv: encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in North Frisian on a regular basis

The inclusion of the Frisian language and culture in the programmes of the public broadcasting services remains stagnant; regular broadcasting is limited to a three-minute radio programme once a week (Frasch vor en arken). Recently, there have been occasional TV documentaries in the Frisian language (Unerwäis), each lasting between 10 and 30 minutes, approximately every 3 months. This is a welcome innovation, but the programmes are too irregular and insufficient in terms of quantity to make the North Frisian language really visible and audible. Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) does not fulfil its obligations under the interstate treaty, nor does it train Frisian-speaking journalists.

Apart from the daily newspaper of the Danish minority 'Flensburg Avis', there is no newspaper with regular articles published in Frisian.

The Ferring Foundation has developed a translation tool for Fering Frisian and a tool for Heligoland Frisian. To date, there are no results indicating how and to what extent these tools are used by the speakers. A similar tool for mainland Frisian is not to be expected.

P. 42 – 12.1.a. encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in North Frisian

The promotion of the Frisian language and culture is largely in the hands of volunteers. Supporting professional structures are mostly not funded in a way that provides a living wage; instead, the jobs in this area are mostly part-time jobs below the threshold for social-security contributions or temporary project posts. The federal budget for 2026 will not include funding for the professionalisation of public relations and committee work. There is a lack of consistent funding for youth work from kindergarten to teenage level. There is also a lack of sustainable funding for long-term support for cultural projects such as films, theatre productions, podcasts, etc.

The obligations enshrined in the Charter do not result in institutional support from government organisations. Clubs and associations largely depend on project funding, which is accessible only to clubs and associations that have the necessary resources for submitting applications and settling accounts. There is no funding for cross-project tasks such as coordination and (language) planning.

P. 43– 12.1.e. ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of North Frisian

The clubs offer extracurricular Frisian cultural work for young people, but only to a very limited extent, e.g. once-weekly leisure activities for children (Friisk Foriining). Other clubs, such as sports clubs, cannot be involved due to a lack of staff.

P. 43– 13.1.d: facilitate and/or encourage the use of North Frisian in economic and social life

The visibility of the Frisian language is a key concern of the Frashe Rädj/Frisian Council, Section North. While the Schleswig-Holstein state government provides for the possibility to set up bilingual signposts in the German and Frisian languages on cycle paths in North Frisia, this option has been rejected by the district council because of the expected additional costs.

There is a lack of language courses for employees of offices and public authorities, so that Frisians can use the Frisian language in interaction with public authorities only in individual cases. There are no Frisian forms or templates! Frisian speakers are not transferred on a priority basis to authorities in the Frisian-speaking area.

There is also a lack of language courses for members of professions in the personal services sector. There are no Frisian courses for doctors or nurses in nursing homes and hospitals.

Yours sincerely,

Ingwer Nommensen

Chair

Bräist/Bredstedt, 27 November 2025

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the

Frasche Rädj/Frisian Council, Section North

Friisk Hüs

Süderstraße 6

D - 25821 Bräist/Bredstedt, NF

04671 6024150

info@friesenrat.de

5.3 Comments by the North Frisian Institute (Nordfriisk Instituut)



North Frisian Institute:

Süderstraße 30

D – 25821 Bräist/Bredstedt, NF

Comments on the Eighth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages

Bräist/Bredstedt, di 28. önj e mistmoune 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for inviting me to comment on the above-mentioned eighth report on the implementation of the European Language Charter. In what follows, I refer to the evaluation presented in June 2024 by the Committee of Experts, which takes up the recommendations for immediate action made in 2022 in the Seventh Implementation Report. In this interim report, the Committee of Experts assesses the state of implementation of two recommended immediate actions regarding the Frisian Language in Schleswig-Holstein/North Frisia.

One of them concerns school education. As correctly described in the report, positive steps have been taken in recent years. The establishment of the Nordfriisk Liirskap as a new, permanent institution for language work and the production of teaching materials has started to yield results; for the first time ever, approaches have been developed, using the CEFR, for teaching materials specifically tailored to the situation of the Frisian language in North Frisia, on the basis of modern language teaching approaches. A revision of the current guidelines for Frisian teaching, which may in due course form the basis for the primary school curriculum, is planned for 2026. In parallel, in cooperation with the ECMI in Flensburg, scientific research on language transmission in families is ongoing, and initial materials have been published to persuade parents to enrol their children in Frisian lessons. As the newly established and at the same time novel institution Nordfriisk Liirskap is permanent and works closely with the active Frisian teachers, we expect it to provide a sustainable impetus.

However, as noted in the interim report, the number of schools offering Frisian continues to decrease. There are no discernible strategies, let alone specific plans, on the part of the school authorities or the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein to change this. On the contrary, in comparison with the last three 'Language Policy Action Plans' submitted, even the objective, which was still explicitly mentioned in 2015, of bringing Frisian to secondary schools also on the mainland and, in particular, of anchoring Frisian as a regular subject at an upper secondary school on the mainland, thus emulating the example of the Eilun Feer Skuul (School in the Island of Föhr), is gradually being eroded and has apparently been implicitly dropped.

The 2015 Language Policy Action Plan for the 18th parliamentary term was still very specific: "With a view to strengthening the Frisian language at secondary school level, two centres will be established: one on the island of Föhr for the North Frisian islands and one in Niebüll for the Frisian-speaking region on the mainland. This is a crucial element of the action plan for the Frisian language. At these two centres, resources are to be made available in several steps for continuous Frisian lessons from the orientation stage to the upper secondary level. The aim is to achieve and ensure reliable Frisian classes throughout the orientation stage and the secondary level."

The 2020 Language Policy Action Plan for the 19th parliamentary term still states: 'For schools in North Frisia, a project similar to the Low German model school project and the Danish model school project is to be created which, by analogy, enables the teaching of North Frisian throughout a pupil's entire school education from kindergarten to university entrance.' The reference to the other model school projects leaves room for interpretation compared to the clearer 2015 requirements, but nevertheless defines a benchmark to be applied.

Finally, the 2024 Language Policy Action Plan for the 20th parliamentary period merely contains the lapidary and quite unspecific statement that "The aim remains to enable the teaching also of the Frisian language throughout a pupil's entire school education from day care centre to university entrance."

We regret this development and expect a renewed commitment on the part of the state government to the 2015 targets and the aim announced in 2020 to create model schools for Frisian similar to the model schools for Danish and Low German, as well as a concrete strategy on how this target is to be achieved in the medium term, in particular with regard to secondary schools.

The lack of Frisian teachers and, in particular, of young academics in this field has been repeatedly referred to as being a particular obstacle in this context. Nevertheless, Frisian studies are still an additional burden in teacher training, and schools are still generally not allowed to search for Frisian teachers in an official, targeted and urgent manner, or to award

teacher trainee placements primarily on the basis of this criterion, as Frisian is almost always a voluntary additional offer outside the regular curriculum. Changing this status of Frisian teaching and studies is left to the discretion of state policy and could prove key to gradually increasing the number of students to the necessary level: if Frisian could be chosen as a full second major at universities and if there were reliable post-graduate positions available, the attractiveness of Frisian studies would be likely to increase significantly, especially for speakers who have Frisian as their first language and would like to stay and work in North Frisia after graduation. For this reason alone, Frisian should be defined as a mandatory offering for model schools, which enables continuous language learning as part of the morning classes throughout a pupil's entire school career, from primary school to lower secondary school and, in the medium term, also to upper secondary school, both on the islands and in the northern mainland. With regard to model schools for Danish, such minimum obligations are already in place, as are plans to take Danish language teaching beyond primary education, continuing it at secondary schools. This model should also be adopted without restriction for Frisian, as a self-commitment by the model schools and not as a purely reactive offering, which can be called into question at any time in the event of changing demand or changes in staff, and thus does not provide any reliability for sound language acquisition. Since potential Frisian students can naturally be recruited primarily from grammar schools, it would be very important to make sure that the Frisian language is offered as soon as possible as a subject of instruction and examination at upper secondary level, also outside the island of Föhr.

The reminder in paragraph 53 of the interim report that 'further steps are needed to ensure continuity from pre-school to secondary education, to increase teaching time for North Frisian and to teach the language as an integral part of the curriculum' correctly describes the situation. Developing sustainable strategies and prospects for this, including in the northern mainland, is probably the most pressing issue for the coming years in terms of Frisian teaching at schools.

It should be noted that we consider the stronger regional focus of history and geography teaching proposed in paragraph 50, not only in North Frisia, but throughout Schleswig, at least at the model schools for Frisian and Danish, to be very useful in order to raise awareness of the specificity of this region, which is reflected not least in traditional multilingualism with the minority languages of Frisian and Danish. To put it bluntly, this region was never ruled by Charlemagne, nor by any of the medieval emperors; instead, it was ruled by Harald Bluetooth and Queen Margaret I, and this is still evident to this day.

As a second topic, the Council of Experts focuses on the presence of the Frisian language in the media, in particular in broadcasting and, in particular, in the services offered by the public-law, fee-financed channels. There is nothing to add to the finding that virtually nothing has been done to that end by the authorities and the political side.

The Frisian language must be given relevant space in the linear programme so that awareness of the Frisian language as an integral part of regional culture also manifests itself in the context of society as a whole. The newly created but irregular podcasts of NDR, which are only available online, do very little to change the overall picture. Such niche on-demand offers are of little help as they actually reach only an insider audience. The fact that it is possible for public service broadcasting to establish a relevant, clearly visible and audible range of programmes in minority languages in linear broadcasting is demonstrated in a relatively exemplary manner both by MDR and rbb with their Lower and Upper Sorbian radio and TV broadcasts. As we have seen during a personal visit to the studio of rbb, there are even professionally funded budgets to commission, for example, the production of Sorbian-language music, which in turn can be used for broadcasting. Creating something similar also for the Frisian language would be a very desirable goal.

The Council of Experts notes, however, in paragraphs 34 and 35 that even this comparatively wide range of programmes in the Sorbian language does not meet the legal requirements of the Language Charter. This means that the situation with regard to the Frisian language is to be viewed all the more critically and that it is all the more urgent to take political action. It should be stressed once again that, according to general legal opinion, political requirements to give minority languages adequate space in the linear programme are not contrary to the statutory freedom of broadcasting, but are permissible, as they do not influence the content. For a long time, we have wanted the federal states to take a more effective position.

The interim report also criticises the lacking presence in public broadcasting of the Low German and Sater Frisian languages (paragraphs 64 and 81). Against this background, it would at least be worthwhile considering whether it would not be possible under the umbrella of NDR to establish a terrestrial special-interest channel that would include a network of local editorial offices and broadcast programmes that are stylistically diverse but linguistically consistent, i.e. exclusively in Low German and in Frisian.

In addition to these points, we welcome and fully support the comments presented by Fräsche Rädj/Frisian Council, Section North.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Christoph G. Schmidt, Director

5.4 Comments by the Sater Frisians



Heimatverein Saterland – Seelter Buund

(Saterland Frisian association)

General remarks

In general, our experience is that all levels of government in Germany legislatively enable the use of Sater Frisian in an appropriate manner and have significantly helped to boost the vitality of the language in recent years. Institutional support for the Seeltersk-Kontoor and project-related funding for the municipality of Saterland have contributed significantly to this.

What is still lacking, however, is policy aimed at encouraging and facilitating the Sater Frisians' use of their language, as formulated in the Charter. Such fostering of language use would require both a more comprehensive linguistic infrastructure and a more targeted emancipation policy, including public information campaigns and good practice examples. Linguistic minorities in Germany and other European countries, as well as other groups to be emancipated, can serve as role models in this regard.

Article 7.1.c requires the Federal Republic of Germany to take resolute action to promote Sater Frisian. The term “promote” implies continuous improvement of the vitality of the language, which is not evident in the current efforts.

Education

The situation in the education sector has become better in some ways and worse in others.

Thanks to good cooperation with the municipality of Saterland, the Saterland Frisian association and the Seeltersk-Kontoor, three of the six day-care centres in Saterland offer Sater Frisian. The other three day-care centres have shown no interest in doing so and there is no way of obliging them to do so. This situation demonstrates the problem that policy regarding Sater Frisian (as well as policy regarding Low German) is disconnected from other policy areas. The Lower Saxony Ministry of Education's orientation plan for elementary education has no requirement for early childhood education to include autochthonous regional and minority languages in children's language development. We believe that greater

integration of different policy areas is necessary for the implementation of the obligations under the Charter.

One persistent problem is the lack of a Frisian-language degree course in Lower Saxony. There is an urgent need for teaching training in Sater Frisian to ensure a sufficient number of teachers for primary and secondary education.

On a positive note, after years with little research on Sater Frisian, a vibrant research community has now emerged, including experienced researchers as well as students. Good contacts among numerous institutions, including between the Seeltersk-Kontoor and the University of Oldenburg, have contributed to this development. However, given the threatened status of Sater Frisian, there is an increased need for researchers to document and describe the language while there are still fluent speakers. Structural support for a cross-border inter-university Frisian programme would both contribute to successful education policy for Sater Frisian and enable lasting international exchange between Frisians in Germany and the Netherlands (Article 7.1.i).

The lack of a supervisory body could be remedied through the provision of funds to the Seeltersk-Kontoor for a regular evaluation.

The position of Sater Frisian in schools is of great importance to the Sater Frisian community. Sater Frisian organisations have repeatedly expressed concern both publicly and to government authorities regarding the shortage of teachers, the problems with immersive teaching in Scharrel and the difficulties that students training to become Sater Frisian teachers have in completing their traineeship in Saterland. In the context of Article 7.4, it would therefore be logical for Germany to assume obligations regarding Sater Frisian in primary and secondary education (Articles 8.b and 8.c) as well.

Judiciary

It is true that currently no evidence is presented in Sater Frisian to judicial authorities. There is also no effort under way to implement the use of evidence in Sater Frisian. As there are no judicial bodies in the Sater Frisian language area, we consider it justified to refrain from implementation for the time being and to allocate scarce resources elsewhere.

Public administration

The use of Sater Frisian in public administration is very limited. Even recognised proponents of the language are reluctant to use it in this context. This is linked to sociologically explainable patterns of behaviour by linguistic minorities, which can only be changed through long-term campaigns to alter attitudes and behaviour, with the authorities themselves having to lead by example. The “LISTEN” project carried out by the Seeltersk-

Kontoor in 2023 was an initial approach, but a policy of encouragement and facilitation would need to encompass far more such campaigns. The emancipation of the Frisians in the Netherlands could serve as a model in this regard.

The visibility of Sater Frisian at the town hall of the municipality of Saterland has improved; many more Sater Frisian texts can now be read there. On the other hand, for practical reasons, the previously bilingual municipal website is now available only in German.

The municipality of Saterland always promotes its own language in its external cultural policy, both nationally and internationally. Together with the Seeltersk-Kontoor, the municipality has invested significantly in making Sater Frisian more seen and heard in recent years.

The Commission has so far referred in its evaluations to the municipality of Saterland, which does in fact cover most of the Sater Frisian language area. However, the localities of Idafehn (municipality of Ostrhauderfehn), Schwaneburg (Friesoythe), Neuscharrel (municipality of Friesoythe) and Elisabethfehn (municipality of Barßel) are also part of this language area. The relevant municipalities should therefore also be involved in Sater Frisian language policy.

Media/Culture

There has been little change in the small amount of media that is available in Sater Frisian. There is no active policy of encouraging such media. However, the Seeltersk-Kontoor has, with the support of the federal state of Lower Saxony, produced a series of video reports in Sater Frisian, which are available free of charge online.

A production company that wanted to produce a feature film in Sater Frisian faced considerable difficulties in raising funds for this purpose. A fund for Frisian-language films would effectively help to stimulate minority languages in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Saterland, 15 December 2025

Henk Wolf (Commissioner for Sater Frisian, Seeltersk-Kontoor)

Johanna Evers (representative of the Seelter Buund at the implementation conference)

Karl-Peter Schramm (for the board of the Seelter Buund)

5.5 Comments by the Federal Council for Low German (Bunnsraat för Nedderdüütsch)



Comments by the Low German Speakers' Group

1. Current developments in protection of the Low German regional language

In the years since the Seventh Report of the Federal Republic of Germany (2023), the existing structures for the protection of the Low German language at federal level and in the eight federal states which signed the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in respect of Low German have largely stabilised. Language groups in the federal states can rely on tried and tested structures such as Low German centres, regional councils and homeland associations, which many years ago set about the task of nurturing the Low German language, and can also rely on representation in language policy by the Bunnsraat för Nedderdüütsch. The Bunnsrat för Nedderdüütsch works with the other cross-regional institutions State Centre for Low German (LzN) and Institute for Low German on a project basis; the institutions are currently cooperating on planning and designing a nationwide survey on the situation of the Low German language, which is to be carried out in 2026. The support of the Hamburg-based Low German Secretariat for the language policy activities of the stakeholders, most of whom are volunteers, remains essential. Since 2024, there has been a focus on language planning work for Low German. The "Spraakplan Nedderdüütsch 2050" project, initiated by the Bunnsraat för Nedderdüütsch and the Low German Secretariat, is working on drafting a language plan for Low German, with the involvement of the Low German Speakers' Group. A number of projects will be carried out to boost the language's public visibility and its prestige, among other things. The Bunnsraat för Nedderdüütsch and the Low German Secretariat also have a podcast, called klookluustert, which covers current scientific, social and political issues in Low German. The podcast is intended to help raise the language's profile and expand Low German speakers' vocabulary.

Structurally, cooperation between the Low German Speakers' Group and the autochthonous minorities in Germany takes place mainly through intensive working contacts between the Low German Secretariat and the Minority Secretariat. Networking meetings for young adults from all five autochthonous groups have been organised together for several years. The interactive travelling exhibition "What do you mean – 'minority'?" also attests to this cooperation. The exhibition presents the linguistic and cultural diversity of Germany, the history and role of national minorities and the role of the Low German Speakers' Group. The exhibition has already visited almost all of Germany's federal states. A number of forums have been established for discussion and exchange between the language group and

government and administration at federal and state levels: annual meetings of the Consultative Committee on Issues concerning the Low German Speakers' Group, chaired by Dr. Bernd Fabritius (the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities), and the meetings, also annual, of federal and state policy officials, which the BfN attends as a guest.

The political conditions for language protection have evolved differently across federal states since 2023, as the following examples illustrate.

In the Part II state of **Brandenburg**, an amended constitution entered into force in July 2022. This amendment also concerns the Low German language. In Article 34(4) of the amended constitution, Brandenburg undertakes to protect and promote the Low German language. Furthermore, in July 2024 Brandenburg became the first federal state to adopt a law on Low German, at the initiative of the Low German Speakers' Group and with the aim of protecting and promoting the regional language. On this legal basis, the Brandenburg association for Low German (Verein für Niederdeutsch im Land Brandenburg e.V.) has been operating since October 2024 as a recognised umbrella organisation for the Low German Speakers' Group in Brandenburg. Also, on the basis of the law, a permanent advisory council for Low German within the Brandenburg government was established in November 2025. This council is devoted to exchange between the federal state of Brandenburg, the Association of Towns and Municipalities and the Landkreistag, as well as the Low German Speakers' Group, for the purpose of promoting the language's use, especially in public spaces and in education and administration. The Bunnnsraat för Nedderdüütsch urges all federal states with Low German communities to consider establishing a law on Low German.

For the Free Hanseatic City of **Bremen**, the Low German Speakers' Group notes that, even in the current parliamentary term, the political parties and their representatives still have not taken any active role in the Low German Advisory Council of the Bremen parliament. The speakers of Low German once again criticise the passivity of senatorial departments with regard to the Low German speakers' initiatives and projects. Merely referring to the existence and activities of the State Centre for Low German (LzN) is not an adequate substitute for needed action on the part of the state government and administration.

In the **Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg**, the Low German Speakers' Group welcomes the fact that a position for Low German was established at the Authority for Science, Research and Equality and a person has been hired for this position. The authorities responsible for Low German regularly invite representatives of the Low German Speakers' Group to networking meetings.

In **Lower Saxony**, the interministerial cross-party working group has proved in recent years to be an important forum for developing and implementing a plan of action to strengthen, promote and expand the regional language Low German and the minority language

Sater Frisian, in a joint debate between politicians, administration, ministries and the speakers' group. The motion for a resolution adopted by all political groups in 2017 has, among other things, made it possible to establish Low German as a regular subject of study at the University of Oldenburg. A new enhanced motion for a resolution seeks to consolidate and expand the results achieved so far. The interministerial cross-party working group is also seeking to commit to further education-related obligations under Article 8 of the Language Charter.

In **Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania**, the Low German Speakers' Group considers visible progress to have been made in recent years in the promotion of the Low German language, particularly in the areas of research and cultural visibility. Many projects were able to be implemented with the support of various funding programmes. The Low German Speakers' Group criticises the fact that funding for Low German remains highly project-specific and is not permanently secured. There are still significant shortcomings, as existing education services in established structures are increasingly dwindling and there still are no binding implementation structures in the public administration.

In the Part II state of **North Rhine-Westphalia**, the Advisory Council on the Low German Language and Regional Identity was established as part of the state government in 2019. The body operated under the Ministry of Regional Identity, Communities and Local Government, Building and Gender Equality. However, it was not reconstituted after the state elections in May 2022. In response to questions about this matter, the Bunnnsraat för Nedderdüütsch was informed that all political groups were informed of the situation and would have to submit a request in order to reconstitute the council. It seems that none of them have done so. The Low German Speakers' Group sees the failure to reconstitute the council as showing a massive lack of interest in language protection on the part of the state government and administration, and calls on the state to reconstitute the Advisory Council as soon as possible.

In the Part II state of **Saxony-Anhalt**, the political framework for protecting the Low German regional language has, in the opinion of the Low German Speakers' Group, further stabilised. The annual reporting obligation of the responsible ministries (state Ministry of Culture as lead agency/State Chancellery) to the European affairs committee of the state parliament continues to be an effective tool for monitoring the implementation of the 2019 state parliament decision on the promotion of Low German as well as the Charter obligations that have been assumed. The Low German Speakers' Group sees the continuation of the existing cooperation between the Landesheimatbund Sachsen-Anhalt e. V. and the Otto von Guericke University of Magdeburg at the Office for Low German (Arbeitsstelle Niederdeutsch) as essential for the protection of the Low German language and therefore call on the two competent ministries, in particular the Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection and the Environment, to establish the appropriate framework in the near future. In addition, the Low German Speakers' Group considers the multi-annual project 'Low German in Saxony-Anhalt' to be conducting necessary research and would like the project to continue. This

project, funded by the Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection and the Environment, is carrying out studies at the Otto von Guericke University in Magdeburg until mid-2026 on language levels and skills in view of changing demographics.

In **Schleswig-Holstein**, the government of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein adopted a new language policy action plan in 2024; this plan aims to make linguistic diversity visible and to impart knowledge of regional and minority languages. Through this plan, the state government will continue to set the framework for the further strengthening of regional and minority languages in Schleswig-Holstein.

However, the Low German Speakers' Group does not see any forward-looking activities in the action plan; rather, many parts of the plan look back at the past or identify the status quo. The establishment of a Low German Act for Schleswig-Holstein, along the lines of the Frisian Act and – adapted to the situation in Schleswig-Holstein – the Low German Act in Brandenburg is therefore essential for the legally binding promotion of the Low German language in Schleswig-Holstein.

2. On the implementation by Germany of Recommendation CM/RecChL(2022)5 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of 23 November 2022 and the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' seventh evaluation report on GERMANY of 27 June 2024

The recommendations concern the education sector (1. to strengthen the provision of education for Low German; 2. to ensure that a sufficient number of adequately trained teachers are available for the teaching of Low German); the media (3. to take further measures to strengthen the provision of media in Low German); and the administrative sector (4. to strengthen the use of Low German in practice in the administration). These recommendations have been specified and updated through the recommendations for immediate action issued by the Committee of Experts for the individual federal states. Because the situation of Low German differs among the different federal states, the opinions of the Low German Speakers' Groups are cited on a state-specific basis.

First of all, however, it should be noted that the Low German Speakers' Groups of all federal states regard the 13 December 2024 joint recommendation of the KMK, the Federal Council for Low German and the Minority Council – on teaching about the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the Low-German Speakers' Group – as a very positive signal in the field of education. The aim of the decision is for pupils in all 16 federal states to acquire basic knowledge of these groups and languages as part of their general education. The technical implementation meeting on 24 September 2025 discussed the implementation options for curricula, training courses, new teaching materials and learning sites outside of school. The Low German Speakers' Group would like to see the

recommendation implemented soon in all federal states, including through the development of new teaching materials. The Low German Speakers' Group also proposes an evaluation of the implementation within a reasonable timeframe.

In the federal state of **Brandenburg**, the Low German Act supports educational offerings at all levels of education – although Section 7(1) on education contains only a discretionary provision in this regard. The Low German Speakers' Group criticises the fact that there is currently no prospect of a framework curriculum for Low German as a school subject. There is also a lack of teachers who can teach the subject of Low German. All offerings for the preservation and promotion of the Low German language in nurseries, schools and adult education institutions are provided by volunteers. The exception to this is instruction in the city of Prenzlau and other places in the Uckermark region. This instruction is funded by the city of Prenzlau, which should serve as an example for other Low German-speaking regions in Brandenburg. The Low German Speakers' Group also continues to criticise the fact that universities and other institutions of higher education in Brandenburg show little interest in Low German in their research and teaching. Cooperation partnerships initiated by the Brandenburg association for Low German (Verein für Niederdeutsch im Land Brandenburg e.V.) for the training of teachers at the University of Greifswald have not made any progress since 2021. For example, the university does not offer any option for students to train to become teachers of Low German. For the period until the end of 2026, the Ministry of Education has discontinued funding for training and continuing education of teachers. The subject of language is also missing from the curriculum of vocational training for nurses. The council for multilingualism, which was established in 2023, meets regularly at the state Ministry of Education. However, there is a lack of budgetary resources for the implementation of Low German offerings for teachers, which is one of the medium-term goals of the council for multilingualism. Further training for volunteer nursery teachers and school teachers is organised and provided solely by the Brandenburg association for Low German (Verein für Niederdeutsch im Land Brandenburg e.V.).

With regard to the Committee of Experts' recommendations, no progress is evident in the media offerings in Low German in Brandenburg.

In **Bremen**, the Low German Speakers' Group does not see any improvement in educational offerings for Low German. In the opinion of the Low German Speakers' Group, state authorities have not provided any dedicated offerings in recent years. Universities and other institutions of higher education in the federal state of Bremen do not regularly offer training for students to become teachers of Low German. The courses offered by the University of Bremen do not include any cooperation between the University of Bremen and the University of Oldenburg in the field of teacher training courses. The State Centre for Low German (LzN) provides further training for teachers. In all of Bremen, Low German is only taught in one school in primary and secondary education. The Low German Speakers' Group likewise sees no progress in government policies or initiatives to teach at least part of pre-

school education in Low German. Thus, the situation in the education sector has remained unsatisfactory, also in light of the recommendations for immediate action.

The Low German Speakers' Group cannot identify any state initiatives to strengthen media offerings or to encourage the use of the Low German language in (administrative) practice.

In the opinion of the Low German Speakers' Group, Low German education in the federal state of **Hamburg** should be strengthened. Despite multiple enquiries, the Low German Speakers' Group has not been able to obtain any information on which schools teach Low German. Nor is it known to what extent teachers of Low German are available to provide instruction. Compared to other active federal states, there does not seem to be any teaching material for language learning. In terms of regionally specific instruction, Low German is to be treated as a regional language. Again, the Low German Speakers' Group does not know to what extent this is implemented in practice.

In **Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania**, education has gained significant impetus in recent years, including the LeNie Low German teaching network, the DINA digital language atlas, digital dictionaries and the 'Platt mit Beo' learning app. New ways of teaching language were tested through a Low German ambassador and the model project 'Niederdeutsch-Kitas M-V'. A Low German seal of approval (PlattSiegel) for nurseries and schools was launched in late 2025. At the same time, the lack of a state commissioner led to a significant standstill from 2024 to 2025 and the number of profile schools was cut by half, noticeably reducing the presence of Low German in the school sector. Language and language learning remain poorly represented in vocational and adult education; higher education offerings are only sporadic and have so far lacked long-term structural support outside Greifswald. There also are no systematic evaluations of the quality or effectiveness of the measures.

Low German remains weakly anchored in public administration and the judiciary, despite scattered forms of visibility such as additional names on local signs. In the view of the Low German Speakers' Group, the Language Charter is not applied enough at public agencies and Low German is not used in practice as an administrative or judicial language.

In the field of media, the monthly NDR television feature 'De Noorden op Platt' represents a positive development, as do the events known as 'Plattdeutsche Wochen' (Low German Weeks). Nevertheless, the overall media presence remains very limited, especially in the digital space and among younger target groups.

The Low German Speakers' Group calls for reliable structural support instead of project-based approaches; for a stronger institutional anchoring of Low German at all levels of education; for the expansion of training, courses of study and skills training; and for greater visibility of the language in the public administration, the judiciary and the media.

In **Lower Saxony**, the Low German Speakers' Group expressly welcomes the extension of the decree 'The Region and its Languages in the Classroom', which initially expired in 2025. The decree is intended in particular to strengthen and expand the teaching of Low German in schools. Lower Saxony has not yet signed on to several relevant commitments in Article 8 (Education) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. In order to strengthen educational offerings, the Low German Speakers' Group would like to see further commitments, such as commitments to Article 8 (1a)(i); Article 8 (1b)(i); Article 8 (1c)(i); Article 8 (1d)(ii); Article 8 (1e)(ii); and Article 8 (1f)(i). The Low German Speakers' Group hopes that the newly introduced subject of Low German at the University of Oldenburg will have a positive impact on the teaching situation in the medium term.

The Low German Speakers' Group considers the media presence of Low German to be much too weak. Thus, while there are some daily formats in radio, such as Low German prayers, the series "Dat kannst mi glöven" and "Hör maal 'n beten to", and the weekly programme "Düt un dat op Platt", there is no daily news in Low German and there are no broadcasts of current Low German music. Establishing more formats (e.g. regular podcasts) in Low German would foster acceptance of the language and boost its image. It is also to be noted with concern that Norddeutscher Rundfunk will discontinue the special radio channel NDR Schlager (which includes Low German programming) on 1 January 2027.

To the knowledge of the Low German Speakers' Group in **North Rhine-Westphalia**, Low German still does not exist as a school subject in their federal states, which is why, for example, the Münster regional government does not provide any teacher training in Low German. Furthermore, there is no centralised recording of any information about language offerings in activity groups or at open all-day schools. The University of Münster's project "Low German in schools in Münster and the Münster region" (Niederdeutsch in den Schulen in Münster und im Münsterland) ended in March 2023. The project was evaluated after its conclusion. However, as far as the Low German Speakers' Group is aware, the results of this evaluation have not been published. Therefore, the experience gained through the project cannot be applied to the teaching of Low German in schools. Occasional events on Low German are offered, e.g. by the adult education centre (Volkshochschule) in Detmold and by the University of Paderborn, but these appear rather haphazard. The Low German Speakers' Group considers that the preservation and promotion of Low German cannot be ensured under these circumstances.

In **Saxony-Anhalt**, the multi-year project "Low German at School" (Niederdeutsch in der Schule) is being implemented until 2026 with state funding from the State Chancellery / Ministry of Culture. The Low German Speakers' Group assesses that this project, which now has 11 activity groups at 9 schools, has indeed successfully led to the revitalisation of Low German activity groups, especially at primary schools, and stress the importance of the project's perpetuation after 2026. However, the Low German Speakers' Group sees a lack of implementation of the Charter measures by the Ministry of Education,

which is actually responsible for implementation, as stated in the previous comments. For example, the lack of institutional connection to secondary schools and the lack of teachers with Low German skills at all types of schools persist at present. The urgently needed language learning courses for teachers, already called for in the previous comments by the Low German Speakers' Group, have not yet been implemented. To date, the teaching materials used in the above-mentioned project have been made available free of charge by the Office for Low German through state funding. However, this is only possible if the cooperation between Otto von Guericke University in Magdeburg and the Union for Local and Regional Traditions in Saxony-Anhalt (Landesheimatbund Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.) in the form of the Office for Low German is continued in the long term.

Media in the regional language of Low German are rather the exception in Saxony-Anhalt. However, the Low German Speakers' Group acknowledges the efforts of the institutionally funded Union for Local and Regional Traditions in Saxony-Anhalt (Landesheimatbund Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.) to regularly publish articles in Low German in its series of publications. The Office for Low German uses, for example, social media to promote the language. The state government has so far not taken any measures to strengthen media offerings in Low German.

In the federal state of **Schleswig-Holstein**, the Low German Speakers' Group welcomes the further expansion of the teaching of Low German at the model schools in Schleswig-Holstein. Low German is now also taught at multiple secondary schools. However, continuity cannot be ensured, given that many primary school pupils do not have any access to offerings in Low German when they advance to secondary education. There is an urgent need to expand a continuous programme of Low German teaching and thus to recruit model secondary schools for such offerings. There is still no supervisory body to evaluate Low German offerings at the (model) schools. In this context, it should be noted that the position of coordinator for Low German at the Institute for Quality Development at Schools in Schleswig-Holstein (Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung an Schulen Schleswig-Holstein; IQSH) has been vacant for a long time and that there are therefore fewer opportunities for further training in Low German. There is an urgent need to produce more teaching materials for secondary education, in particular audiovisual media. Furthermore, it is still not ensured that after completion of teacher training in Low German, teachers have the opportunity to teach at a model school.

In the field of media, the Low German Speakers' Group notes that Norddeutscher Rundfunk has expanded its offerings in the Low German language. The pooling of broadcast content among the federal states in northern Germany is also noted as a positive development. The Low German media platform, which was initiated by the Low German Speakers' Group, is receiving project funding from the state and is currently being launched in a second phase. There is a clear need for this project to be consolidated through institutional support.

With regard to administrative matters, the Low German Speakers' Group finds that opportunities for using Low German at government offices and public authorities are currently random and dependent on individual employees. There is no clear communication to the public on where members of the public can use the Low German language.

3. Concluding remarks

From the point of view of the Speakers' Group, education continues to be the main field of action for protecting Low German. In all eight federal states, the Speakers' Group considers it necessary to expand and secure the provision of Low German education. In the field of media, the Low German Speakers' Group would regard the consolidation of the Low German media platform from Schleswig-Holstein as a significant improvement in Low German media offerings. Such projects would also be desirable in the other federal states. In Part II federal states, in particular, there is an urgent need to develop reliable media offerings in Low German in order to preserve the language.

Contact information:

Bunnsraat för Nedderdüütsch: Heinrich Siefer, heinsiefer@icloud.com

Low German Secretariat: Christiane Ehlers, info@niederdeutschsekretariat.de

5.6 Comments by the Domowina Federation of Lusatian Sorbs (Domowina – Bund Lausitzer Sorben e.V.)



DOMOWINA

ZWJAZK ŁUŽISKICH SERBOW
ZWĚŽK ŁUŽYSKICH SERBOW
BUND LAUSITZER SORBEN

Domowina, Póštowe naměsto 2, 02625 Budyšin/Postplatz 2, 02625 Bautzen

Contribution of the Domowina Federation to the Eighth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

1. Introduction

The Domowina Federation of Lusatian Sorbs (Domowina – Zwězk Łužyskich Serbow/Zwjazk Łužiskich Serbow/Bund Lausitzer Sorben e.V.) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the eighth report of the Federal Republic of Germany on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. As a recognised representative of the interests of the Sorbian people and an institutionalised partner of the Council of Europe, the Federal Government, and state and local governments, the Domowina Federation regularly provides expertise on language promotion, education, culture and minority rights.

Despite noticeable progress, the effective implementation of the Charter at state and local level falls short of existing commitments. In particular, in the traditional settlement area of the Lusatian Sorbs in Saxony and Brandenburg, considerable action is still needed to achieve the promised objectives in the long term.

2. Implementation of the Charter in Saxony and Brandenburg

The Domowina Federation acknowledges that in recent years the two federal states have developed different strategies intended to strengthen the protection and promotion of the two Sorbian languages. In Brandenburg, these include, in particular, the 2022 second state plan to strengthen the Lower Sorbian language (Zweite Landesplan zur Förderung der niedersorbischen Sprache) and the 2023 multilingualism strategy (Mehrsprachigkeitskonzept). In Saxony, strategies include the continuation of teaching in accordance with the “2plus” educational model and other complementary programmes, such as ZARI and ZORJA, aimed at adults learning the Sorbian language.

However, it has become clear that many measures have so far been **project-based** and have not been translated into permanent structures. In education, the **shortage of teachers** remains the main structural barrier, which also limits the effectiveness of other measures. In addition, there is a lack of bilingual services across the board in administration, and there is no strong, up-to-date, digital and visible presence of Sorbian in the media.

3. Domowina's requirements and recommendations

3.1. Education and training of educational professionals / teachers

The long-term success of language preservation crucially depends on **early and continuous language teaching**. Language promotion must start in nurseries and continue through all levels of education. This requires consistently attractive, reliable and accessible structures, well-trained Sorbian educational staff and effective networking between educational institutions. Domowina is aware that building a sustainable education system is a **development goal for at least one generation**. At present, there are insufficient training capacities and teaching structures to meet a sharp increase in demand, for example, several hundred new learners each year.

Domowina therefore calls for a **coordinated education strategy** by the Federal Government, the federal states and the training institutions aimed at attracting teachers, securing (out-of-school) education opportunities and school structures in the long term and strengthening existing extracurricular projects and initiatives such as **ZORJA** and **ZARI**. A key component of this must be the strengthening of the **Institute for Sorbian Studies at the University of Leipzig** as a training and research institution. **In addition to Sorbian qualifications and the teacher training course for the subject of the Sorbian language in all types of schools at the University of Leipzig**, additional courses should be set up at other universities in Saxony and Brandenburg.

A **positive achievement** is that programmes such as **ZORJA** in Brandenburg and **ZARI** in Saxony provide important impetus for **low-threshold and practical language teaching**. Both programmes complement the existing education programmes and courses and help to **establish and maintain regular contact with the Sorbian language**. This creates a stable foundation for future educational initiatives. At the same time, it **encourages children and young people** to actively engage with the Sorbian language and culture in their daily lives and to experience it as something positive.

3.2. Administration and public visibility

- Binding rules on the use of the Sorbian language in public authorities, municipalities and public institutions
- Continued expansion of bilingual signage and digital administrative services

In practice, bilingual communication often fails due to limited time and human resources. There is often a lack of sufficiently qualified staff to ensure services can consistently be offered in the Sorbian language. We need mandatory strategies for human resources and training, so that bilingual administrative processes become firmly established.

Shortcomings are particularly evident in the following areas:

- consistent use of bilingual signs by public institutions
- provision of forms and online services in the Sorbian language
- option of fully bilingual administrative procedures

These shortcomings hinder real equality between the two languages in everyday life and should be prioritised in the context of implementing the Charter.

3.3. Media and culture

- Increased support for Sorbian media, in particular digital formats (e.g. streaming, podcasts, online services)
- **Barrier-free integration of Sorbian culture** into the cultural life of the cities of **Budyšin/Bautzen** and **Chóšebuz/Cottbus** and the whole of rural Lusatia: Sorbian should be a natural part of cultural events, institutions and collaborations – not a special theme, but an expression of the region's identity.

Examples from public service broadcasting and cultural institutions in the region show that digital audio and video formats are increasingly used to teach the Sorbian language and culture in a modern way and to maintain the availability of cultural content across the region. This includes streaming services and podcasts, social media formats and online media that are targeted at younger audiences in particular.

However, due to budget cuts and programme reforms of the regional broadcasters MDR and rbb there is a risk that Sorbian-language formats could be reduced or limited in their reach. This concerns in particular digital projects, which are key for younger target groups. For this reason, Sorbian media services urgently require reliable financial and organisational security.

In addition, the Sorbian and bilingual media offer should be gradually expanded to strengthen linguistic presence on TV, radio, digital platforms and especially in child-friendly formats such as radio plays.

In the long term, targeted support programmes for digital media productions as well as training opportunities for young media professionals are needed to sustainably strengthen the presence of the Sorbian language online.

Domowina also points out that, due to the naturally small number of speakers, minority media should not be evaluated according to traditional viewing or quota criteria. Their significance does not stem from a wide reach but from the legal mandate to safeguard language identity and cultural diversity.

In addition, key cultural institutions such as the **Sorbian National Ensemble (Sorbisches Nationalensemble, SNE)** and the **German-Sorbian Folk Theatre Bautzen (Deutsch-Sorbisches Volkstheater Bautzen)** with their bilingual programmes and performances, play an important role in making Sorbian language and culture visible in everyday life. Collaborations between regional cultural institutions – such as the Cottbus State Theatre (Staatstheater Cottbus) and Sorbian artists – demonstrate how joint productions can enhance cultural participation.

3.4. Structural change and sustainability

The Domowina Federation welcomes the fact that substantial funding is made available in structural change regions through the Coal Regions Investment Act (*Investitionsgesetz Kohleregionen*, InvKG). At the same time, it should be noted that while funding programmes cover a limited period of time only, the structures they support must be maintained permanently. The Lusatia region will be able to leverage its cultural diversity as an important factor for its attractiveness as a business location only if the Sorbian language and culture are anchored in structural change in the long term.

In Brandenburg, for example, the project of the **Lausitz Medical University Campus – Carl Thiem (MUL-CT)** offers the opportunity to systematically integrate multilingualism and regional cultural competences into research, teaching and medical care. In this context, it could be analysed how the Sorbian language and culture can be strengthened (for example, in the field of patient communication, health research or the training of medical professionals) as a regional and inclusive contribution to the cultural diversity of a modern location for research and healthcare.

In Saxony, the planned new construction project by the **Sorbian Institute together with the Sorbian Museum in Bautzen** can become a beacon for research, exchange and encounters and thus have a lasting impact on structural change.

3.5. Involvement of Domowina

Domowina expects to be involved on a regular and binding basis in all processes concerning Sorbian language, culture and identity – at federal, state and local level. This is also in line with the spirit of the European Charter, which provides for formal consultation of minority representatives.

In addition, the **undertakings of the Free State of Saxony under the European Charter should be expanded in close consultation with Domowina**. While Brandenburg has ratified a broader set of undertakings, there is still room for improvement in Saxony in relation to the implementation of individual articles. Domowina stands ready to provide constructive support in order to safeguard and promote the Sorbian language and culture at a similar level in the Saxon part of Lusatia.

4. Wider perspective

Domowina welcomes the current discussion on the strengthening of national minorities in Germany and stresses that a clear and sustainable legal anchoring of their rights contributes significantly to the effectiveness of the European Charter. In order to sustainably implement the Charter, close coordination is needed between the Federal Government, the federal states and minority groups.

In the spirit of national responsibility, Domowina also supports the initiative to include **autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in the Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*, GG) of the Federal Republic of Germany**. Such a constitutional amendment would permanently enshrine the protection and promotion obligations and strengthen the political importance of minority rights at federal level.

By regarding cultural diversity as the foundation of democratic stability and exercising minority rights as part of its European responsibility, Germany acts as a role model in Europe.

5. Concluding remarks

Domowina would like to thank the Federal Government, the state governments involved and the respective local governments for their cooperation in the spirit of the European Charter and the Sorbian people. It renews its willingness to be a constructive partner in the further development of minority policy in Germany, aiming to keep the linguistic and cultural diversity of our country alive and to permanently anchor our responsibility towards minorities in the European context. The relationship between the implementation of the European Charter and the pending inclusion of national minorities in the Basic Law underlines the importance of a holistic approach: Only if legal, structural and cultural measures reinforce each other can minority rights in Germany be safeguarded effectively and sustainably.

Contact information:

Domowina – Zwězk Łužyskich Serbow | – Zwjazk Łužiskich Serbow | – Bund Lausitzer Sorben
Póstowe naměsto / Postplatz 2
02625 Budyšin / Bautzen
GERMANY

www.domowina.de

5.7 Comments by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma e.V.)



Heidelberg, 28. November 2025

Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma

Bremeneckgasse 2

69117 Heidelberg

Telephone: +49 (0)06221-981101

zentralrat@sintiundroma.de

www.sintiundroma.de

COMMENTS

in the context of the Eighth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Part II of the Charter - Romani in the entire territory of the Federal Republic of Germany

The urgent recommendations of the Committee of Experts in the context of the evaluation of the Seventh State Report concern Romani language teaching and the use of the Romani language in the media¹. We would like to refer to our comments on the Sixth Report, section E. I. 4. c., which concern language teaching and the public use of the Romani language. Our findings remain valid. For historical reasons, Sinti-Romani requires a careful and sensitive approach. The majority of Sinti, but above all survivors of the Nazi genocide, are very reserved in this regard and refuse to share their language with those outside their community. This is a stance the Central Council and its associated members cannot and will not disrespect.

Nevertheless, the teaching and preservation of the Romani language are important to German Sinti and should be practised and promoted within the minority community.

¹ Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages: SEVENTH EVALUATION REPORT ON GERMANY, adopted on 15 June 2022, page 73.

The Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg and its educational unit is dedicated to preserving and teaching the language, culture and history of this minority.

The educational unit explicitly notes that the diversity of the Romani language of the different Sinti and Roma groups must be taken into account and opposes any attempt to homogenise the different language groups. It is not possible to construct a uniform Romani language of the Sinti.

The documentation centre has translated 20 episodes of the children's TV programme "Kikaninchen" into Sinti-Romani in order to preserve and maintain the Romani language of the Sinti. It was also actively involved in dubbing the episodes. Together with other Sinti speakers and a Sinti director, it was possible to translate the well-known children's programme (by the broadcaster KIKA) into the Sinti's Romani language.

In order to reflect the different dialects, Sinti from different federal states were involved in the translation and dubbing of the episodes.

The publication of the 20 episodes contributes to the visibility, acceptance and appreciation of the Sinti's language and culture. It helps strengthen the identity and language skills of Sinti children and fosters society's respect for their minority language, which has been deeply rooted in Germany for centuries.

Romani is therefore an important cultural resource of the minority within the meaning of Article 7 (1) (a) of the Language Charter. Language is part of a speaker's identity, also within the meaning of the Bundesrat's recommendation of 26 September 2025 to include in Germany's Basic Law a paragraph on the protection of recognised national minorities².

The Central Council therefore calls on the Federal Government to implement the Bundesrat's decision and to adopt the legislative initiative.

In this regard, the Central Council welcomes the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to strengthen the provision of education in Romani for German Sinti and Roma³, insofar as this continues to be done by means of support structures and initiatives of the minority itself or in close cooperation with them. The Central Council refers to the requirement laid down in Article 7.4 of the Language Charter for the signatory

² https://www.bundesrat.de/SharedDocs/drucksachen/2025/0501-0600/519-25.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1

³ Recommendation CM/RecChL(2022)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Germany
(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 23 November 2022 at the 1449th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

states to take into account the wishes and needs of the minority when defining their policy on regional or minority languages.

Some regional associations of the Central Council have set out language policy goals in the treaties with their respective federal states. Organisations of German Sinti and Roma provide content in Romani for young people in particular. Educational support programmes, such as homework assistance and networking meetings with young people, are also often bilingual. These activities often rely on unpaid volunteers.

Article 7 (3) of the Language Charter requires the parties to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries. The Central Council therefore welcomes the recommendation of the Committee of Experts in the evaluation report on Germany's Seventh Report to raise awareness among the general public of the contributions by Romani speakers to German society as a whole. Reference is also made to the recommendation of the Committee of Experts on the Language Charter in the factsheet of 5 November 2025, to incorporate the history and culture related to Romani in educational programmes and to promote respect, understanding and awareness of Romani language and culture as an integral part of a country's cultural heritage and of the contribution of the Romani speakers to the respective society as a whole.⁴

We welcome the fact that significant progress has been made in the implementation of Article 7 (3) since the last reporting period.

On 12 December 2022, a joint recommendation of the Central Council, the Alliance for Solidarity with the Sinti and Roma of Europe and the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) on teaching about the history of Sinti and Roma and their present-day lives was adopted, with the aim of intensifying work on the topic in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. Special attention is to be given to raising awareness about antigypsyism, but also the contribution of Sinti and Roma to Germany's social and cultural heritage. Subjects relating to history, politics, religion and ethics lend themselves well to this purpose, as well as linguistic, literary and artistic subjects.

The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs have continued their cooperation and prepared a joint recommendation for dealing with antigypsyism in schools, which was adopted in March 2025. This recommendation describes the causes, forms and effects of antigypsyism. It is directed at classroom teachers at schools of all kinds and levels, who teach any subject, and at

⁴ <https://rm.coe.int/factsheet-romani-and-the-ecrml-english/4880292c5a>

school directors and other staff employed by the schools, teacher training institutions and the responsible public institutions. It provides orientation for dealing with different forms of antigypsyism and highlights prevention and intervention measures. The second meeting between the Federal Government and the federal states on 5 December 2025 explicitly dealt with questions of implementing the recommendation.

In this context, the Central Council also welcomes the establishment by the Federal Government of a permanent Joint Federal and State Commission for the Fight Against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life (BLK). The Commission's inaugural meeting took place on 7 October 2024 and was chaired by the Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight Against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany. The commission aims to achieve a more effective and coordinated policy that protects Roma and Sinti and reduces barriers to their equal participation in society. It is to make recommendations on the prevention and combating of antigypsyism, the protection of Sinti and Roma, their visibility in the economy, culture and society, as well as on preserving and maintaining their cultural life and ensuring their equal participation. This is in response to a request from the independent Expert Commission on Antigypsyism.

To date, the Central Council and its regional associations are not aware of any additional measures taken by the federal states to implement the recommendation of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs on the history of Sinti and Roma and their present-day lives beyond what is already available. The Central Council expects the federal states to make significant progress in the implementation of the recommendation.

This can be supported through cooperation between the minority's own organisations, for example in the case of outreach and educational offerings provided by the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma. The project "Antigypsyism Education Ambassadors" (Bildungsbotschafter gegen Antiziganismus) of the regional representation of German Sinti and Roma in Baden-Württemberg and the Protestant Academy of Berlin (Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin) in cooperation with the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma can provide authentic knowledge about Sinti and Roma in a peer-to-peer situation in schools. Several regional associations carry out historical-political education aimed at the majority society.

In its motion for a resolution *Bericht der Unabhängigen Kommission Antiziganismus Perspektivwechsel – Nachholende Gerechtigkeit – Partizipation* (Report of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism: Change of perspective – catching up on justice and participation) of 13 December 2023, the German Bundestag explicitly called on the Federal

Government to raise social awareness of our history in relation to the lives of Sinti and Roma, to acknowledge their cultural achievements and their belonging to German society.⁵

The Central Council expects that the requirements of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism and the resolution of the German Bundestag printed paper 20/9779 of 13 December 2023 will continue to be implemented in the 21st legislative period. Cuts in public funding, in particular for the cultural and historical-political education work of member associations, must be reversed.

On 13 December 2024, the conference of education ministers adopted a joint recommendation on teaching about the four autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups in Germany and the Low German Speakers' Group.

The aim of the recommendation is to provide teaching at schools to promote and deepen public knowledge about the relevant groups and their cultural and linguistic characteristics.

Since 2022, the history, present-day lives, culture and language of Sinti and Roma have been presented to the German public in the interactive travelling exhibition titled “What do you mean – ‘minority’?” (Was heißt hier Minderheit?) as part of the four recognised national minorities in Germany.⁶ The Central Council, in cooperation with the Minority Council (Minderheitenrat) of the four autochthonous national minorities in Germany, actively contributed to the development of the module, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The exhibition also features the presentation of the bilingual poetry anthology “Djiparmissa. Klassische deutsche Gedichte auf Romanes” (Classical German poems in Romani) by Reinhold Lagrene. Lagrene’s work introduces an interested audience to the Romani language, demonstrating that it is a language which, by virtue of its lively diversity, is just as capable of conveying lyrical expression as the language of the works translated.

Since 2022, the exhibition has been in high demand and represents an important audio-visual educational format in the context of teaching about the history and present-day lives of Sinti and Roma in Germany.

The Central Council therefore considers it important that the exhibition period is extended beyond 2027 and that the necessary funding continues to be made available for this purpose.

⁵ [Bundestag printed paper 20/9779 --- Recommendation for a decision and report of the Committee on Internal Affairs and Community \(4th Committee\) on the communication of the Federal Government – printed paper 19/30310, 20/1207 No 4 – Report of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism titled “Perspektivwechsel – Nachholende Gerechtigkeit – Partizipation”](#)

⁶ <https://washeissthierminderheit.de/begegnungsvideos>

5.8 Comments by the Sinti Alliance of Germany (Sinti Allianz Deutschland e.V.)



Comments by the Sinti Alliance of Germany on the Eighth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The Sinti Alliance of Germany is grateful for the opportunity to submit its own comments on the situation of Romani in the context of the Eighth Report of the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Article 15 (1) of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

In the Sinti Alliance's view, the situation of Sinti and Roma in Germany continues to be characterised by deep social inequalities, structural discrimination and insufficient consideration of our language and culture in education and public perception.

Romani remains largely a family language throughout the Federal Republic. It is passed on and communicated almost exclusively thanks to the Community's commitment, with only occasional support from public structures.

Situation in Germany since 2023

Since 2023, important structural steps have been taken at federal level concerning the reality of the lives of Sinti and Roma and, indirectly, the situation of the Romani language. These include, in particular, the strategic framework "Tackling Antigypsyism, Ensuring Participation" (Antiziganismus bekämpfen, Teilhabe sichern!) in the context of the EU Roma Strategic Framework 2030, the work of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism, the appointment of the Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism, and the establishment of a coordination mechanism between the Federal Government and the federal states to prevent antigypsyism. In addition, there are funding programmes run by the Federal Government, the federal states and foundations that support organisations, educational projects and empowerment initiatives of Sinti and Roma, such as programmes to strengthen Sinti and Roma, improve educational participation and combat discrimination.

At the same time, recent monitoring reports and studies, e.g. from the Antigypsyism Reporting Unit (MIA) (Meldestelle Antiziganismus, MIA) as well as local discrimination reports, show that Sinti and Roma children continue to be affected by institutional

antigypsyism, segregation and low expectations in schools, nurseries and training institutions.

Structural inequalities in education, already identified in previous Council of Europe monitoring cycles and in the Sinti Alliance's comments on Germany's Sixth Report, have so far hardly been reduced, despite new policy documents and symbolic measures. Against this background, the Sinti Alliance of Germany still sees insufficient implementation of undertakings under the Charter to recognise Romani as an expression of cultural wealth and to facilitate its use in education and the public.

Romani as a threatened family language throughout the entire Federal Republic of Germany

In most parts of Germany, Romani is used primarily within families and the narrower Sinti community, often so as to protect children from stigmatisation, exclusion and racist attacks. The language is disappearing from the public sphere as a direct consequence of a historically grown fear of identification, persecution and day-to-day antigypsyism, the presence of which has been reconfirmed by recent studies on the education sector and by the work of the Reporting Unit. At the same time, communities in various federal states, including Baden-Württemberg, Hesse and Berlin, are organising Romani courses, cultural events, literary projects and online formats that make Romani visible. However, they are mostly project-based, run for a limited period of time only and have no stable funding bases.

These individual initiatives demonstrate the potential of language as a resource that can help define identity and as a medium of cultural creativity, but they cannot, in the opinion of the Sinti Alliance of Germany, replace systematic state responsibility.

If Romani does not become firmly established in education, is not clearly recognised in politics as a minority language in need of protection, and does not have reliable funding lines, the burden of language preservation will remain with families and a few dedicated organisations, who often face poverty, precariousness and multiple discrimination themselves.

Education and participation: Situation in North Rhine-Westphalia and other federal states

In North Rhine-Westphalia, but also in other federal states with larger Sinti communities, such as Rhineland-Palatinate, Hesse, Berlin and Baden-Württemberg, Romani is virtually invisible in the formal education system. In early childhood education there is a lack of comprehensive approaches that recognise Romani as a positive resource and integrate it into multilingual education approaches; educators typically do not receive specific training on minority languages or antigypsyism-awareness.

Romani is not systematically promoted in schools as an optional subject or as a regular complementary offer. At most, it is addressed in individual projects or by civil society collaborations, which are highly dependent on dedicated individuals.

At the same time, reports of antigypsyism in education highlight that prejudices prevail and that Sinti and Roma children still experience pathologising attributions, unjustified referrals to special needs schools, segregation in underperforming classes, and that the focus is often on deficits.

These structural experiences of discrimination contribute to the fact that many families do not communicate to schools that they speak Romani and that children themselves experience their own language as a burden rather than a strength. While further training, models of school development processes and mentoring approaches have been developed throughout Germany to strengthen antigypsyism-awareness, these services are neither universal nor mandatory and have so far scarcely resulted in Romani being recognised as a legitimate language of education.

Participation, representation and community organisations

The participation of the Sinti community in policies on education and minorities remains fragmented, despite some progress made. Framework agreements and treaties have been concluded or updated with various regional associations of German Sinti and Roma, and Germany's Sixth Report documents an increased involvement of associations in consultation processes. Nevertheless, the participation of Sinti organisations – including the Sinti Alliance of Germany – in key decision-making processes on education, anti-discrimination, youth welfare and language policy is often non-binding, project-related or is purely symbolic.

Since 2023, nationwide networks and structures have been emerging, for example, federal youth meetings, empowerment formats, academic programmes, and cultural platforms. These strengthen the education and engagement of young Sinti and Roma in particular. These initiatives contribute to strengthening the voice of the minority and provide opportunities to make Romani visible as part of a modern, self-confident minority life. However, they can only have a sustainable impact if the Federal Government and the federal states provide them with reliable structures and embed them in a coherent minority and language policy.

Evaluation of the implementation of the Charter in relation to Romani

In the view of the Sinti Alliance of Germany, the objectives and principles of the Charter (Article 7), i.e. the recognition of Romani as an expression of cultural wealth, the facilitation of its use in public life and the provision of appropriate forms of teaching and learning at all appropriate levels have so far been achieved only to a very limited extent in Germany.

Responsibility for language-related activities is largely shifted to the community, with public authorities often referring to the “speakers’ reluctance” without sufficiently addressing the historical and current reasons for this reluctance or developing active confidence-building and protective measures.

In the education sector in particular, the existing positive projects (language courses, cultural programmes, online-based offers, individual cooperation with schools) remain individual measures that are not supported by the federal states in the form of binding strategies on Romani or by nationwide coordination of education policies.

The Sinti Alliance of Germany notes that despite strategy papers, national frameworks and increased attention to antigypsyism, initiatives in the field of language and education are often not implemented or fall significantly short of the recommendations formulated by the Committee of Experts.

Any measures to promote Romani must respect the self-determination of the Sinti community and must not lead to opening up the language to outsiders or using it against the will of the speakers.

Demands of the Sinti Alliance of Germany (Sinti Allianz Deutschland e.V.)

Against this background, the Sinti Alliance of Germany addresses the following key demands to the Federal Government and the federal states for the Eighth Report on the European Language Charter:

Development and implementation of binding strategies of the federal states for the recognition and promotion of Romani in early childhood education, schools and adult education, in line with the strategic framework “Tackling Antigypsyism, Ensuring Participation” (Antiziganismus bekämpfen, Teilhabe sichern!) and the EU Roma Strategic Framework.

Development of comprehensive, permanently funded support for Romani in the education system (e.g. working groups, project courses, compulsory elective subjects, out-of-school learning places), especially in regions with larger Sinti communities, with the direct involvement of minority organisations in the development of concepts and their implementation.

Mandatory antigypsyism-awareness training for teachers, school leaders, school administrations and early childhood education professionals, combined with monitoring tools that record experiences of discrimination and measure their reduction. These measures must explicitly include the protection and appreciation of the Romani language.

Structural support and long-term funding for organisations of Sinti and Roma, including the Sinti Alliance of Germany, as equal partners in the planning, implementation and evaluation of language and education programmes, rather than solely project-related short-term funding.

Expansion of nationwide and transnational programmes to strengthen young Sinti and Roma (mentoring, scholarships, youth meetings, academic support programmes) and making Romani visible as a resource in these contexts, for example through bilingual content, cultural formats and the involvement of community role models.

The Sinti Alliance of Germany is prepared to play a constructive role in devising these measures and expects the Eighth Report not only to identify general anti-discrimination measures, but also to set out explicit, verifiable steps to strengthen Romani, educational justice and the equal participation of Sinti throughout the Federal Republic of Germany.

SintiALLIANZ Deutschland e.V. | Handstrasse 33 | 51469 Bergisch Gladbach, Germany | sinti-allianz@web.de

5.9 Comments by the Federal Union of Sinti and Roma (Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma e.V.)



Comments on language promotion in Germany in the context of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

As at: 14 January 2026

With the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Germany has taken on a clear responsibility to protect and promote Romani, the language of the Sinti and Roma people.

Compared to the promotion of other minority languages, such as Sorbian or Frisian, the minority language Romani has two unique characteristics. On the one hand, speakers can be found all over Germany and not only in a specific region, which is why nationwide support with certain regional focus areas would be needed. On the other hand, a large number of speakers are of the opinion that their language should only be passed on and preserved within the Community. For historical reasons, formal regulations or government involvement are usually viewed critically or are not desired at all. For this reason, a need for Romani support in formal education, e.g. language learning in schools, has so far not been openly declared. There is still no universal provision of language classes. Standardised teaching materials do not exist, and Romani has not been embedded in administration, the judicial system or public service media.

Attitudes among the group of Romani speakers are changing

There is an increasing need for support and a desire to actively and confidently use the language and make it known. This is shown by the growing number of minority members who have little or no knowledge of Romani and who are seeking language training, as well as by initiatives of various associations – and younger Sinti and Roma in particular – to speak the language in public, for example by offering podcasts in Romani. The Romani language is the cultural element that connects the different groups within the minority, providing them with a sense of identity. The associations within the community take this into account.

Individual federal states have specified the protection of language and culture in treaties and framework agreements with the respective regional associations. They respond to the

demand and provide language training (online, but often also in person) in safe environments and upon prior registration. Some community organisations, e.g. the Baden-Württemberg association of German Sinti and Roma (Verband Deutscher Sinti und Roma – Landesverband Baden-Württemberg e.V.), have successfully started to standardise their language teaching and to align the teaching material with the European Framework of Reference for Languages. However, there are still no universally binding quality standards for teaching material or teacher training, or the exchange or pooling of initiatives to create synergies.

Responsibility for the implementation of the Language Charter in the federal states

It is difficult for the federal states to implement the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in relation to the Romani language because Romani speakers can be found all over Germany and not only in a specific region. Unlike the other recognised minority and regional languages, the promotion of Romani requires a nationwide institution that takes on overarching tasks, such as the definition of quality standards, etc., and supports the individual community organisations in carrying out language classes in person or online. This is because smaller regional associations or community organisations, in particular, quickly reach their financial and human resources limits when it comes to language support. The permanent Joint Federal and State Commission for the Fight Against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life could become involved here.

Romani Academy at federal level

The Federal Union of Sinti and Roma has initiated the establishment of a Romani Academy with funding from the Federal Government Commissioner for the Fight against Antigypsyism and for Sinti and Roma Life in Germany (at the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth). The academy builds on the framework plan “Romani as an identity language” (Romanes als Identitätssprache), as a standard variety for teaching and teaching materials 2024 and 2025 developed by the Baden-Württemberg association of German Sinti and Roma.

This involved the development of teaching materials for levels A 1.1 and A 1.2 of the CEFR, as well as the training of teachers for level A.1 and the structural set-up of an academy dedicated not only to the teaching of the Romani language to members of the minority community, but also to the teaching about the culture and history of the Sinti and Roma in Germany.

The establishment of the Romani Academy marks the first time that the minority of German Sinti and Roma have taken language promotion into their own hands, supported by federal funding. During the project some structural challenges became clear that will need to be addressed outside the set timeframe, but also opportunities that would allow the structural realisation of the legal entitlement to funding for the promotion of the Romani language.

A digital-decentralised structure that best suits the nationwide distribution of the target group and the sensitivity of the content (e.g. nationwide online courses (LMS-based) with targeted offers on site where there is local demand and suitable teachers can be found – from the community for the community), the qualification of teachers who are native speakers, low-threshold access without fees (shortfall financing) and the systematic development of teaching materials could go hand in hand with the teaching and promotion of the minority's own culture. A needs analysis indicates that there are several thousand potential learners nationwide and justifies why Romani is taught as an identity language in protected spaces, and why long-term institutionalisation is necessary.

In the end, the project was discontinued after 15 months due to legal problems. For legal reasons, the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth was unable to respond to the speakers' request to keep the developed teaching materials within the minority and not to make them available to the general public. In the future, a clear solution is needed which takes into account the special historical responsibility of the government in the context of the equal participation of the German Sinti and Roma minority, including with regard to language promotion: The control over language promotion must lie entirely with the speakers.

Romani content required in public service media

(Broadcasting mandate / collaborations)

In this area, too, we see individual community organisations or individuals taking the initiative (podcasts, social media channels in Romani, etc.).

More and more minority members would like to hear Romani in public. This can be seen as a sign of a growing awareness of their own identity and self-confidence. Due to the precarious financial situation of most organisations and the very limited opportunities for funding, including for technical equipment and professional qualifications of the active community members, it is difficult to provide these offerings on a more permanent basis. The number of times that existing podcasts, videos, etc. are viewed shows that there is a demand.

Collaborations with public service broadcasters are usually not possible because the audience is too small.

Looking ahead

In a community-based approach, the Federal Union of Sinti and Roma and its partners have carried out substantial preparatory work in relation to teaching methods and organisation. The establishment of a Romani Academy in the long term would fill the funding gap identified by the Charter and follow the immediate recommendations of the Council of Europe (expanding teaching, securing teachers, strengthening media presence). For the first

time, this offers the prospect of reliable, nationwide structures for Romani with low-threshold access and quality standards, strengthening the identity of members of the minority. For this to be sustainable, the following is now needed:

1. Reliable multi-annual funding (Federal Government/federal states/institutions) for teaching, curriculum development and qualification
2. Collaborations with public service broadcasters for regular Romani presence (community-involved formats)
3. Legal and administrative practices that allow restrictions on access to identity language courses and that are sensitive to data protection
4. Monitoring & Evaluation (participation, levels, teacher pipeline), compatible with Charter reporting

These steps are consistent with the requirements of the Federal Union of Sinti and Roma (2023) and the Council of Europe's recommendations and can sustainably strengthen the linguistic-cultural continuity of the German Sinti.

Bundesvereinigung der Sinti und Roma e.V.

Novalisstr. 12 – D-10115 Berlin, Germany Email: info@bv-sr.de Website: www.bv-sr.de

IBAN: DE51 4306 0967 1303 4568 00 GLS Bank (BIC: GENODEM1GLS)

6 Concluding remarks

The responsible federal and state authorities will address and analyse the comments made by the representatives of the national minorities and the Low German Speakers' Group and will describe further progress in the next reports.

Publisher

Federal Government

Website: www.bmi.bund.de

Date

February 2026

This report is issued by the Federal Government as part of the monitoring of an international treaty. It is available free of charge and is not for sale. The report may not be used by political parties, election campaigners or campaign workers during an election campaign for the purpose of campaign advertising. This applies to elections to the Bundestag, Landtag and local elections, and elections to the European Parliament.