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NINTH EVALUATION REPORT ON NORWAY

Committee of Experts of
the European Charter
for Regional or
Minority Languages

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Adopted on 26 March 2026

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages provides for a control mechanism to evaluate how the Charter is applied in a state party with a view to, where necessary, making recommendations for improving its legislation, policy and practices. The central element of this procedure is the Committee of Experts, set up under Article 17 of the Charter. Its principal purpose is to report to the Committee of Ministers on its evaluation of compliance by a party with its undertakings, to examine the real situation of regional or minority languages in the state and, where appropriate, to encourage the party to gradually reach a higher level of commitment.

To facilitate this task, the Committee of Ministers adopted, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, an outline for periodical reports that a party is required to submit to the Secretary General. This outline requires the state to give an account of the concrete application of the Charter, the general policy for the languages protected under Part II and, in more precise terms, all measures that have been taken in application of the provisions chosen for each language protected under Part III of the Charter. The Committee of Experts' first task is therefore to examine the information contained in the periodical report for all the relevant regional or minority languages on the territory of the state concerned. The periodical report shall be made public by the state in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2.

The Committee of Experts' role is to evaluate the existing legal acts, regulations and real practice applied in each state for its regional or minority languages. It has established its working methods accordingly. The Committee of Experts gathers information from the respective authorities and from independent sources within the state, in order to obtain a fair and just overview of the real language situation. After a preliminary examination of a periodical report, the Committee of Experts submits, if necessary, a number of questions to each party to obtain supplementary information from the authorities on matters it considers insufficiently developed in the report itself. This written procedure is usually followed up by an on-the-spot visit by a delegation of the Committee of Experts to the state in question. During this visit the delegation meets bodies and associations whose work is closely related to the use of the relevant languages and consults the authorities on matters that have been brought to its attention. This information-gathering process is designed to enable the Committee of Experts to evaluate more effectively the application of the Charter in the state concerned.

Having concluded this process, the Committee of Experts adopts its own report. Once adopted by the Committee of Experts, this evaluation report is submitted to the authorities of the respective state party for possible comments within a given deadline. A confidential dialogue may, at this stage, be requested by this state party. The final evaluation report is made public, together with the comments, if any, which the authorities of the state party may have made. This document is then transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for the adoption of its recommendations to the state party, on the basis of the proposals for recommendations contained in the evaluation report.

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Executive Summary

Norway was the first state to ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in 1993 and it entered into force in Norway in 1998. The Charter applies to the following languages: Kven, Lule Sami, North Sami, Romanes, Romani, and South Sami.

Norway extended the protection of Lule Sami and South Sami under Part III in 2021, and ratified new undertakings for North Sami in 2025, which were commendable steps. Other noteworthy practices were noted in the current monitoring cycle and include Norway's participation in the International Decade for Indigenous Languages (IDIL) with a national plan supporting the promotion of all Sami languages throughout the decade. In November 2024, the Norwegian Parliament (*Storting*) discussed the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and adopted a decision containing 17 petition resolutions. Other commendable initiatives concerning Lule Sami and South Sami were also noted at the municipal level.

North Sami is the most widely used Sami language. The legal framework protects this language and there is practical implementation in most fields of the Charter. Nevertheless, North Sami is still in a vulnerable position. Lule Sami and South Sami have fewer users and therefore face more serious challenges. The Sami Parliament is entrusted with the protection and promotion of all Sami languages.

While positive developments have been noticed during the current monitoring cycle and despite favourable legal provisions, urgent measures are needed to address the severe shortage of educational materials in Lule Sami and South Sami and to strengthen teacher training for all Sami languages.

Lule Sami and South Sami are not used before courts and are rarely used in relations with administrative authorities. Further measures are needed to reinforce the use of these languages before judicial and administrative authorities as well as in the media.

Measures have been taken to strengthen the presence of Kven in public life, cultural activities and education. However, the presence of Kven in the media is very limited, and there is a need for further actions to increase the teaching of Kven at all levels of education, particularly at pre-school and upper secondary levels.

Romanes and Romani are almost invisible in public life and media and are not taught in formal education. There is a need for proactive measures to protect these languages and to develop sustainable teaching models, in co-operation with representatives of speakers.

This 9th evaluation report is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts' on-the-spot visit to Norway in October 2025.

Chapter 1 The situation of the regional or minority languages in Norway – Recent developments and trends

1. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereafter referred to as “the Charter”) is a treaty of the Council of Europe putting obligations on its states parties to protect and promote the country's traditional minority languages in all fields of public life: education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and transfrontier exchanges. The Charter entered into force in respect of Norway on 1 March 1998 and applies to the following languages: Kven, Romanes, Romani, North Sami, Lule Sami and South Sami. The Kven, Romanes and Romani languages are covered by Part II (Article 7) only, whereas the other languages receive protection under both Part II and Part III (Articles 8-14).

2. States parties are required to submit reports every five years¹ on the implementation of the Charter. The authorities of Norway submitted their ninth periodical report on 1 July 2025.² This ninth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts is based on the information contained in the periodical report, additional information received from the authorities and statements made by representatives of the speakers of the minority languages during the on-the-spot visit (27-31 October 2025). In the conduct of the on-the-spot visit and the present reporting cycle the gender equality aspect was taken into account.

3. While welcoming the timely submission of the ninth periodical report, the Committee of Experts notes that the authorities mainly report on the legal framework and the rights provided for, offering limited concrete data on the practical implementation of numerous provisions of the Charter, particularly with regard to the use of Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami before the judicial authorities, in administration and economic and social life. With regard to Lule Sami and South Sami, the authorities report on them mostly in relation to the North Sami, which has made it difficult to identify concrete measures concerning these languages individually during the current monitoring cycle.

4. The Committee of Experts underlines that, in order to examine the compliance of states parties with their individual undertakings, it needs to receive comprehensive and precise information, including about the implementation in practice. The Committee of Experts requests the authorities to include in the next periodical report concrete data on the practical use of minority languages, as well as separate data for each of the Sami languages, allowing for the identification of measures taken for each language, depending on its specific situation.

5. Chapter 1 of this evaluation report focuses on the general developments and trends regarding the regional or minority languages in Norway and the situation of these languages. It examines in particular the measures taken by the Norwegian authorities to respond to the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers at the end of the eighth monitoring cycle and also highlights new issues. Chapter 2 provides a detailed overview of the state of implementation of each undertaking of Norway in respect of the given language as well as the recommendations addressed to the Norwegian authorities. On the basis of its evaluation, the Committee of Experts proposes, in Chapter 3, recommendations to the Committee of Ministers to be addressed to the Government of Norway, as provided for in Article 16 (4) of the Charter. The Committee of Experts encourages the Norwegian authorities to translate this report into Norwegian and the regional or minority languages with a view to supporting the authorities, organisations, advisory bodies and persons concerned in the process of fully implementing the Charter, in accordance with Articles 6 and 7.4.

6. This report is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts' on-the-spot visit to Norway in October 2025. This evaluation report was adopted by the Committee of Experts on 26 March 2026.

¹ Article 15.1 of the Charter provides that states parties submit periodical reports every three years. However, following the entry into force of the reform of the monitoring mechanism of the ECRML on 1 July 2019, states parties are now to submit their reports every five years instead of every three years. See Committee of Ministers Decisions “Strengthening the monitoring mechanism of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages” ([CM/Del/Dec\(2018\)1330/10.4e, para. 1.a.](#)).

² [MIN-LANG\(2025\)PR2](#).

1.1 General developments in policies, legislation and practice concerning the regional or minority languages in Norway

General framework of the protection and promotion of regional or minority languages in Norway/ Legislative developments

7. On 1 October 2021, the Government of Norway formally deposited a declaration to accept additional undertakings for Lule Sami and South Sami under Part III of the Charter.³ On 10 September 2025, Norway notified the Council of Europe of further commitments under Part III for the North Sami language, covering areas such as administrative authorities, public services, media, and economic and social life.⁴ The Committee of Experts commends Norway for these steps to protect Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami and for reviewing their commitments under the Charter to reflect improvements in the situation of their minority languages.

8. In the previous monitoring cycles, the Committee of Experts requested comprehensive information from the authorities about whether Skolt Sami has a traditional presence in Norway and if so, its current number of speakers, and whether any measures were taken or envisaged to safeguard the Skolt Sami language and culture.⁵ In the current monitoring cycle, the Committee of Experts received written statements from Skolt Sami speakers stressing that Skolt Sami is a distinct language in Norway. In addition, they expressed interest in measures promoting Skolt Sami in accordance with the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts reiterates its request to the authorities to provide information on the current situation of this language in Norway.

9. The Committee of Experts notes that different names are used to designate the language of the national minority of Kvens/Norwegian Finns. While the authorities and the majority of the linguistic group use the name Kven, the authorities acknowledge that some users refer to the language as Old Finnish, Our Finnish, Kven Finnish or Finnish.⁶ Taking into account that some speakers continue to consider Finnish as their language and want to have it protected under the Charter, the Committee of Experts understands the denomination *Kven*, as employed in this evaluation report, to mean all variants of the Finno-Ugric language used by Kven/Norwegian Finns.

10. The Committee of Experts welcomes the entry into force on 1 January 2022 of the Language Act, which marks an important step in the formal recognition of minority languages protected under the Charter (Article 7.1.a).⁷ The Language Act confirms the Sami languages as indigenous languages in Norway, and legally equal to Norwegian in accordance with Chapter III of the Sami Act.⁸ It also recognises Kven, Romanes and Romani as national minority languages in Norway and as linguistic and cultural expressions. The Language Act sets out the responsibility of public bodies to protect and promote Kven, Romani and Romanes and to use, develop and promote Sami languages in line with the Sami Act. The authorities clarified that the Language Act does not confer any new rights to Sami language users beyond those set out in the Sami Act.

11. The Sami Act has undergone several amendments which entered into force on 1 January 2024. Following the amendments, the administrative area for the Sami languages was divided into three categories of municipalities: language development municipalities, language revitalisation municipalities, and language stimulation municipalities.⁹ Regulations on the administrative area for

³ See [website](#) of the Council of Europe Treaty Office.

⁴ See [website](#) of the Council of Europe Treaty Office.

⁵ See for instance: Third evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Norway, [ECRML\(2007\)3](#), para. 23; Fourth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Norway, [ECRML\(2010\)3](#), paras.20 and 22; Seventh evaluation report of the Committee of Experts report on Norway, [CM\(2018\)88-final](#), para.18.

⁶ [...] Kven is now the official name of the traditional minority language formerly named Kven/Finnish. - see point 1.2. in the Norwegian comments on the Seventh evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Norway, [CM\(2018\)88final](#), and Introduction to the Eighth periodical report by Norway, [MIN-LANG\(2020\)PR3](#).

⁷ [Act relating to Language \(Language Act\)](#).

⁸ [The Sami Act](#) - regjeringen.no.

⁹ See Sami Act, Chapter 3, Section 3-1. Currently, the administrative area for Sami languages consists as follows: Karasjok/Karášjohka, Kautokeino/Guovdageaidnu, Nesseby/Unjárga and Tana/Deatnu are language development municipalities; Porsanger/Porsángu, Kåfjord/Gáivuotna, Lavangen/Loabák, Tjeldsund/Dielddanuorri, Hattfjelldal/Aarborte, Hamarøy/Hábmer, Røyrvik/Raarvihke, Røros/Rosse and Snåsa/Snåase are language revitalisation municipalities; Saltdal/Sálat I municipality has been officially incorporated into the administrative area as a language stimulation municipality with legal effect from January 1, 2026. The administrative area for Sami languages also consists of the following county municipalities:

Sami languages allow municipalities to decide which category they want to belong to. The linguistic rights that individuals in a municipality have in dealing with public authorities differ depending on which category the municipality belongs to. The authorities have informed the Committee of Experts that municipalities which were already part of the administrative area for Sami languages prior to the 2024 amendments of the Sami Act, have been placed in the first two categories (language development municipalities or language revitalisation municipalities). The last category (language stimulation municipality) was conceived for municipalities where the Sami population has immigrated and does not have the same connection to the Sami language, or where the area has been heavily *Norwegianised*.¹⁰ Public bodies within the administrative area have a number of obligations towards the Sami population, both through the language rules of the Sami Act and the Education Act, the Kindergarten Act and the Place Names Act.¹¹ Public bodies can be the municipality, the county municipality or state bodies. The Sami Parliament¹² provides bilingualism grants to municipalities and county municipalities in the administrative area for Sami languages.

12. The Committee of Experts notes that this new categorisation of municipalities in the Sami administrative area significantly affects the implementation of linguistic rights for the Sami people, with most rights secured in the first two categories, while the third category provides only limited rights.¹³ The Committee of Experts notes that Hamarøy/Hábmer (revitalisation municipality) is currently the only Lule Sami municipality included in the administrative area for Sami languages, although Lule Sami is also spoken in other municipalities, such as Narvik, for instance. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Experts expressed concern that, contrary to Article 7.1.b of the Charter, the administrative division of Divtasvuodna/Tysfjord and its division into two separate municipalities had a detrimental effect on Lule Sami teaching in Narvik, where the language has been traditionally used.¹⁴ It is not clear to the Committee of Experts in the ninth monitoring cycle if teaching of Lule Sami in Narvik has improved and/or whether there is a demand in this regard.

13. The Committee of Experts also takes note of the position of the Sami Parliament according to which the administrative area for Sami languages is increasingly experienced as a limitation of Sami language rights in territories falling outside this administrative area. The Health and Care Services Act and the Education Act are provided as examples of how the rights of Sami patients and Sami children are stronger in the administrative area for Sami languages. The Sami Parliament believes that municipalities outside this area should also have a responsibility to facilitate the development of the Sami languages, particularly in education, before judicial authorities as well as in health care services, to better reflect the situation of many speakers of Sami languages, who have relocated to live in cities outside of their traditional areas. The Committee of Experts reiterates that undertakings entered into under Article 10 apply in all areas where minority language users are traditionally present in sufficient numbers, which may extend beyond the current composition of the administrative area for Sami languages.¹⁵

14. The Committee of Experts observes the challenges in implementing linguistic rights linked to the administrative area for Sami languages, as reported by representatives of Sami speakers, and urges the authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the Charter's undertakings concerning Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami in all areas where users of these languages are traditionally present in sufficient numbers. Among other things, this could be done

Finnmark/Finnmárkku, Troms/Romsa, Nordland/Nordlándna, and Trøndelag/Tröndelage. See more information on the Administrative area for Sami languages on the Government's website available [here](#).

¹⁰ It can be understood from the [report](#) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that, up until the end of the 20th century, Norwegian authorities pursued a policy towards the Sami, Kven/Norwegian Finns and Forest Finns "*that had serious negative consequences for their culture, language, identity, and living conditions*". This policy is often referred to as the Norwegianisation policy. See also: [Recommendation](#) from the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs on Truth and Reconciliation – a basis for a settlement with Norwegianization policies and injustice against the Sami, Kven/Norwegian Finns and Forest Finns (hereinafter: Innst. 30 S (2024–2025)).

¹¹ The [Sami Act](#) entered into force on 24 February 1989, last modified on 1 August 2024; the [Education Act](#) entered into force on 1 August 2024, last modified from 1 January 2026; the [Kindergarten Act](#) entered into force on 1 January 2006, last modified from 1 January 2026; the [Place Names Act](#) entered into force on 1 July 1991, last modified on 1 June 2021.

¹² In North Sami: *Sámediggi*; in Lule Sami: *Sámedigge*; in South Sami: *Saemiedigkie*; in Norwegian: *Sametinget*.

¹³ Language stimulation municipalities have the lowest level of rights. These municipalities must provide Sami language and cultural services for children, young people and the elderly (Sami Act § 3-10).

¹⁴ The former municipality of Tysfjord/Divtasvuodna was divided and incorporated into two different municipalities on 1 January 2020: Hamarøy and Narvik. See also: Eight evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Norway, [MIN-LANG\(2021\)20](#), para.62.

¹⁵ See, for instance, Seventh evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Croatia, [MIN-LANG \(2024\) 5](#), para.21; Fourth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Poland, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)11](#), para.59.

through implementing a system for encouraging additional municipalities to become a part of the administrative area for Sami languages. Bearing in mind that in the recent past, users of Sami languages have also moved to places outside the areas where the Lule Sami, North Sami and South Sami are traditionally used (e.g. in big cities), the Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to take this aspect into consideration in the provision of teaching in/of these languages and in the provision of cultural facilities, in accordance with Articles 8.2 and 12.2.¹⁶

15. In the current monitoring cycle, there have been additional legislative developments that are relevant under the Charter. These include the Education Act that came into force on 1 August 2024 and the entry into force of the Interpreting Act on 1 January 2022. Further details are provided in the relevant sections below.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

16. In November 2024, the Norwegian Parliament (*Storting*) discussed the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and adopted a decision containing 17 petition resolutions.¹⁷ The first petition resolution expresses the *Storting's* deepest regrets for the abuses caused under the *Norwegianisation* policy toward the Sami, Kvens/Norwegian Finns, and Forest Finns. The other 16 resolutions have been forwarded to the government for follow-up. These petition resolutions address matters including strengthening language and culture and involve several ministries. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development co-ordinates the follow-up with the relevant ministries.¹⁸

17. The Committee of Experts commends the authorities for supporting the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, welcomes the petition resolutions adopted by the *Storting* and the government's commitment to their follow-up. The Committee of Experts looks forward to further information on follow-up measures and results of their implementation concerning Lule Sami, North Sami, South Sami and Kven in the next periodical report.

Practical implementation of the Charter

18. During recent years, the legal framework has been improved with regards to the promotion and protection of minority languages. However, despite the linguistic rights provided for in the legal framework, implementation in practice presents shortcomings as noted by the Committee of Experts during the on-the-spot visit. The lack of implementation of laws, regulations and policies relevant to the use of minority languages, with a significant negative impact on the effectiveness and quality of language education, was also highlighted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as the *Storting's* Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs (*Kontroll-og konstitusjonskomiteen*) in its Recommendation (*Innstilling*) to the *Storting*.¹⁹ The *Storting* then asked the government "to assess the effects of the current policy apparatus and to formulate binding action plans to strengthen the languages that were subjected to Norwegianization, with an adapted level of ambition, for living and extinct languages respectively."²⁰

19. The Committee of Experts notes that the competence of municipalities concerning language use and their local autonomy on structuring services, in particular to the provision of public services in Lule Sami, North Sami and South Sami, encourages delegating initiatives of implementation of the Charter from the national level to the local authorities and/or the Sami Parliament. Furthermore, the authorities indicated to the Committee of Experts that they do not register the languages used in courts or in relations with administrative authorities. While this could be related to the fact that Norway does not collect statistical data on the use of minority languages, this also results in a lack of oversight at the national level regarding measures on the use of minority languages at the local level, which in turn influences periodical reporting on the implementation of the Charter. While noting the principles of local self-government in Norway, the Committee of Experts emphasizes that the Lule Sami and South Sami

¹⁶ See also: The Sami Parliament's Supplementary [Report](#) for 2024 to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, page 17.

¹⁷ The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was appointed by the *Storting* in June 2018 to: conduct a historical survey of the Norwegian authorities' policies and activities towards the Sami and Kven/Norwegian Finns and Forest Finns; examine effects of the Norwegianization policy today and propose measures that can contribute to reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission submitted its [report](#) to the *Storting* on 1 June 2023.

¹⁸ The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report - [follow-up](#) to the *Storting's* decision - regjeringen.no.

¹⁹ See more: Truth and Reconciliation report, pages: 636-637; see also [Innst. 30 S \(2024–2025\)](#), pages: 110-113, 165.

²⁰ This is one of the 17 resolutions adopted by the *Storting* on 12 November 2024, following the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs.

municipalities visited during the on-the-spot visit mentioned the need for additional support from the national authorities, both financial and in terms of guidance. This support would allow them to fulfil their linguistic obligations and ensure the use of these languages within not only administration, but also in other areas that fall under their domain such as education and health services. The Committee of Experts reminds national authorities that, although legal provisions on the protection and promotion of minority languages specifically impose obligations on local authorities which have local autonomy on how they implement them, national authorities remain responsible for implementing the provisions of the Charter.²¹

20. The Committee of Experts also notes that the shortage of qualified teachers and personnel is hampering the implementation of the Charter's provisions for minority languages across education, the judiciary, administration, media, and economic and social life. This issue was continually highlighted during the on-the-spot visit by representatives of speakers as well as by the authorities and is particularly acute for Lule Sami and South Sami. There is high demand for the few fluent Lule Sami and South Sami speakers and they are often needed in multiple areas of employment such as education, media, culture, which makes staffing in public institutions difficult. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the *Storting's* Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs also document ongoing challenges in public services and education due to insufficient Sami and Kven language competence among professionals and lack of fluent users that could be hired. They propose concrete measures to increase the number of qualified personnel in minority languages, thereby increasing their use in the public sphere.²²

21. The Committee of Experts welcomes that the national authorities have recognised the need for Sami language competence in various fields and welcomes the government's white paper²³ Meld. St. 13 (2022–2023), which focuses on recruitment to Sami kindergartens, schools, and teacher education as key elements for achieving a positive development spiral for Sami languages, including long-term language competence building.²⁴ It notes that several positive steps, including development of the legislative framework, were taken in the current monitoring cycle in this spirit of improvement, demonstrating a commitment to further progress. The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to continue strengthening measures for building competence in Sami languages and to expand their commitment to all protected minority languages, for example, by developing strategic action plans with representatives of all minority linguistic groups. Recommended measures include expanding higher education programmes in minority languages to more fields, increasing financial incentives and admission quotas, and supporting recruitment and retention in public-sector roles. Increasing the number of qualified translators and interpreters, and offering regular in-service language training, would further improve the availability of minority languages in public services.

Resolute action to promote minority languages

22. The legislation, policy and practice show that the authorities have taken resolute action to promote the Sami languages, in particular North Sami. Funding for the Sami languages, culture and society is consolidated into a single budget chapter and item (Chapter 560, item 50) in the state budget and is allocated as a block grant by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to the Sami Parliament, which then disburses the funds according to its priorities.²⁵ While most Sami funding is provided through this block grant, the state budget also allows for earmarked appropriations under this Chapter for specific temporary and/or permanent initiatives (see below).²⁶ The Sami Parliament also receives additional funding from the Ministry of Culture and Equality and the Ministry of Education and Research for cultural purposes and educational materials.

²¹ See also Second evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Sweden, [ECRML \(2006\) 4](#), para.22.

²² See more in the [Innst. 30 S \(2024–2025\)](#).

²³ The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is assigned with the task of annually reporting on national policy concerning the Sami peoples to the *Storting*. Upon agreement with the Sami Parliament reached in 2018, the annual white paper to the *Storting* discusses trends in Sami languages, culture, way of life and services provided to Sami people.

²⁴ See Government of Norway - [Report](#) to the *Storting*, Meld. St. 13 (2022–2023) Sami language, culture and social life. Competence and recruitment in kindergarten, primary education and higher education, available in Norwegian.

²⁵ Since 2019, most of the appropriations to the Sami Parliament from the state budget has been allocated through one, common item. See [guidelines on the allocation of funds](#) developed by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

²⁶ For instance, in 2024, additional funds were allocated for the creation of a dedicated cultural fund for South Sami. See the [allocation letter](#) from the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to the Sami Parliament for 2024 of 23 January 2024.

23. The Committee of Experts notes the steady increase in the block grant to the Sami Parliament since the last monitoring cycle, amounting to 748 million Norwegian kroner (NOK) i.e. € 64.31 million²⁷ in 2025 (compared to NOK 560 million i.e. € 48.14 million in 2022). It also notes earmarked appropriations to support the Sami University of Applied Sciences (*Sámi allaskuvla*)²⁸ in maintaining the Expert Group for Sami Statistics and increasing the number of participants in the Sami Pathfinders (*Samiske veivisere*)²⁹ programme, which contribute to raising knowledge about the Sami and Sami issues among young people in Norway (Article 7.3). Earmarked appropriations are also allocated to *Divvun* to continue activities related to Sami language technology development.³⁰

24. The Committee of Experts understands that these initiatives encompass all the Sami languages protected under the Charter, however, it is not always clear to what extent funding initiatives and measures cover Lule Sami and South Sami. The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to continue providing sustainable funding for the promotion and protection of all Sami languages, with strengthened measures regarding specifically the critically endangered Lule Sami and South Sami. These efforts could include earmarked allocations for key domains and issues identified as priorities in co-operation with representatives of speakers.

25. Regarding Kven, Romani, and Romanes and their users, funding is allocated through various grant schemes and financial programmes administered by different executive agencies of the government of Norway, as well as through local-level programmes available in the counties where speakers live. Arts and Culture Norway (*Kulturdirektoratet*)³¹ manages grant schemes on behalf of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. These include operational grants and project grants for national minorities, a separate grant scheme for Kven, and a grant scheme for collective reparations for Romani people/Taters. The grant scheme for literature projects and the purchasing scheme, administered by the Arts Council of Norway (*Kulturrådet*)³², allow applications for Sami literature since 2019 and other minority languages since 2023.

26. The Committee of Experts takes note of the “language practice” adopted in April 2025 by Arts and Culture Norway, which defines, *inter alia*, how the organisation will use, develop, and strengthen the Sami languages, and protect and promote Kven, Romani, and Romanes.³³ According to the authorities, Arts and Culture Norway should use Sami languages when disseminating information about Sami linguistic and cultural matters and should use Kven, Romanes, and Romani in a representative manner to a certain extent, noting that limited translation capacity for these languages affects their use. However, in accordance with the “language practice”, a document that is available in one of the three Sami languages is considered available in “Sami”, without specifically mentioning which Sami language. Similarly, the Committee of Experts observed during the on-the-spot visit and throughout the current monitoring cycle that Lule Sami and South Sami are often subsumed within the general label of “Sami languages.” The Committee of Experts therefore recommends the authorities to revise this practice in all public bodies and to explicitly acknowledge and promote each of the Sami languages protected under the Charter.

27. The authorities also report that the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has allocated project grants to kindergartens in Troms/Tromsø and Finnmark/Finmarkku to promote Kven and that in 2024, 18 kindergartens applied. Representatives of speakers expressed concerns that the grant scheme is restricted to kindergartens in the two northernmost counties, creating a financial obstacle for institutions elsewhere in the country seeking to promote Kven through relevant projects. They also mentioned the need for multi-year, secure funding schemes to ensure the possibility of offering permanent positions for educational work related to the Kven language and culture.

²⁷ See European Central Bank website Norwegian krone (NOK) (europa.eu) – average change at the time of the on-the-spot visit 27-30 October 2025: EUR 1=NOK 11.6230. In this report, values in Norwegian kroner are rounded to the unit as well as in euros.

²⁸ In *North Sami*: *Sámi allaskuvla*; in *Norwegian*: *Samisk høgskole*.

²⁹ Sami pathfinders travel around Norway and give lectures about the Sami, primarily at upper secondary schools. See: [The Sami Pathfinders: Addressing the Knowledge Gap in Norwegian Mainstream Education](#).

³⁰ See appropriations for Sami purposes in the 2025 State budget available [here](#). See also allocation letter from the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to the Sami Parliament in 2025 available [here](#). *Divvun* is a Sami language technology initiative which develops tools to support Sami languages.

³¹ *Arts and Culture Norway* is the directorate tasked with supporting the culture sector at the central government level.

³² *Arts Council Norway* consists of ten members, appointed by the government and is responsible for the management of the Norwegian Cultural Fund. The final decision on the allocation of money from the Fund is made by the Council, following the arm's length principle.

³³ See Ninth periodical report by Norway on the application of the Charter, [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 2](#), page 12.

28. The Committee of Experts notes the availability of various grant schemes for the promotion of minority languages and the possibility to apply for multiple schemes and/or funding sources for the same projects. As this entails substantial annual paperwork, the Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to allow for more multi-year funding schemes to increase predictability, reduce administrative burdens, and enable the hiring of permanent personnel proficient in minority languages. Furthermore, the Committee of Experts is concerned that important services such as language nests and kindergartens continue to rely on project grants, which creates uncertainty about continuity.³⁴ It underlines that language revitalisation requires long-term effective measures and reiterates its recommendation to the authorities to allocate permanent structural funding for the promotion of Kven in kindergartens and language nests, as well as to find other incentives for kindergartens to offer Kven services.³⁵

29. The functions of the Language Council of Norway, the state's consultative body on language issues, are defined in the Language Act and are particularly relevant for Kven, Romani, and Romanes. According to the authorities, the Language Council works to protect these languages by advising public bodies and collaborating with representatives of speakers (Article 7.4). In the current monitoring cycle, the authorities highlight the Language Council's primary co-operation with educational authorities and its involvement with municipalities in developing a brochure on multilingualism, aimed at raising awareness of the promotion and use of minority languages and enhancing support for minority language groups (Article 7.3).³⁶ The Committee of Experts takes note of these initiatives and encourages authorities and other public institutions to more proactively seek advice from and interact with the Language Council for an enhanced implementation of their obligations stemming from the Language Act and the Charter.

30. The Committee of Experts also welcomes further initiatives of the Language Council, such as the introduction of a Master's stipend for a thesis on Kven, Romani, or Romanes in 2025. In that year, the stipend (NOK 40 000 i.e. €3 439) was awarded to a student writing a thesis on Kven. Further activities of the Language Council concerning Kven include responsibility for registering place names in co-operation with the Kven Institute and local authorities (Article 7.1.d) and participation in the working group developing an action plan for the Kven language, as prescribed in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and recommended by *Storting* (see above).

31. With regard to Romanes and Romani, the Language Council organised a conference on these languages with Sweden in 2026 (Article 7.1.i). More generally, the Language Council's primary involvement consists of initiating, facilitating, or supporting initiatives to standardise these languages and developing teaching resources (Article 7.1.f). Romanes is in a more advanced stage of the process: there is already an ABC book in Romanes, the *Billedtema* dictionary has been translated into Romanes, and a grammar book is under development. Progress has been slower for Romani; a grammar book is in development as part of a project that started in 2022, involving Romani speakers and funded by Arts and Culture.³⁷ Furthermore, during the current monitoring cycle, Romani speakers reported funding cuts and a lack of support from state authorities. The Committee of Experts notes that it is not clear from the ninth periodical report if any grants were allocated for the promotion of Romani in 2024. To this end, the Committee of Experts recommends that the national authorities intensify their co-operation with the Language Council on the minority languages for which it is responsible and develop strategic action plans for the promotion of Romanes and Romani in accordance with the Charter, accompanied by sustainable funding with a priority on their inclusion in education.

32. The Committee of Experts notes the existence and functioning of language centres, emphasising their essential role in protecting and promoting minority languages and supporting their revitalisation. It welcomes the establishment of a new Kven language centre in Alta and the pre-project funding awarded to Kåfjord/Kaavuono municipality in 2023 for establishing a Kven language centre. According to representatives of Kven speakers, Kven language centres are key arenas for learning, using, and raising the profile of Kven for all age groups. They emphasise that increased funding is

³⁴ Language nest is a kindergarten model designed to support language revitalisation. This is an immersion model where the minority language is used for all or large parts of teaching and/or interaction in kindergarten, and adult fluent speakers interact with children.

³⁵ See Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' eighth evaluation report on Norway, [MIN-LANG \(2023\) 05](#), paras.16-19.

³⁶ Ninth periodical report by Norway on the application of the Charter, [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 2](#), page 57.

³⁷ The authorities informed that NOK 2,750,000 was awarded to a three-year grammar project for Romani in 2023 and that the project will be completed in the spring of 2027.

needed to expand these centres' workforces, given the wide range of activities for which they are responsible. The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to increase efforts to strengthen the use of Kven, including through sustainable funding to ensure the adequate functioning of language centres.

33. There are currently 20 Sami language centres with varying roles, funded by the Sami Parliament and municipalities. These Sami language centres can differ in their organisation and the activities they engage in. These include support to local authorities in implementing language obligations for the Sami languages, organisation of distance teaching at primary and secondary level as many pupils live outside areas with local Sami teachers, support for pre-school education, organisation of language courses for adults (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fii), and involvement in the development of educational materials. In addition to initiatives targeting education and children, there are also projects such as *Active Home*, implemented by the Árran Lule Sami Centre jointly with the school in Drag/Ájluokta, which involves parents and families aiming at providing language arenas where Lule Sami can be used. Projects like this are especially needed, as representatives of Lule Sami and South Sami speakers have expressed concern about a generation gap and noted that many parents have lost the language and are in the process of reclaiming it. The Committee of Experts welcomes the support provided to the language centres for all Sami languages and it emphasises the importance of further strengthening these centres specifically for Lule Sami and South Sami. Reinforced revitalisation efforts for these languages are urgently needed.

34. The Committee of Experts notes the authorities' efforts within artificial intelligence (AI) to develop Sami language models, with various initiatives involving Divvun at the University of Tromsø, the National Library of Norway, the National Archives of Norway, and the Sami University of Applied Sciences (Articles 7.1.d; 7.1.i; 13.1.d).³⁸ The authorities state that the aim is to develop AI tools that are better adapted to the use in workplaces, including in schools and educational settings. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of speakers highlighted that AI applications are available mainly in North Sami and that inclusion of Lule Sami and South Sami is also needed. They also stressed the importance of including all the Sami languages from the very beginning when developing technologies.

35. The Committee of Experts recalls that the rise of AI marks a new era of technology which can also facilitate the everyday use and promotion of regional or minority languages and hence support states parties in implementing the Charter provisions. The Committee of Experts welcomes the development of AI applications using regional or minority languages and recalls that this requires the gathering of natural language data, which is of particular importance for the documentation of less-widely used languages.³⁹ To this end, the Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to continue their efforts to develop AI applications across all minority languages, alongside efforts to strengthen the workforce in these languages.

Consultation with representatives of speakers

36. The Committee of Experts notes that consultations between the authorities and Kven, Romanes, and Romani users take place mainly through the Contact Forum organised annually by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. The Ministry also holds annual meetings with national minority organisations individually. The Language Council and other ministries and executive agencies of the Government organise separate consultations for specific activities. As regards Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami, there is a legal obligation to conduct consultations, as set out in the new Chapter IV of the Sami Act (which entered into force on 1 July 2021). Consultations are held with the Sami Parliament and, at the municipal level, with the Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami language centres and municipal Sami advisers where they exist (Article 7.4). Due to the low number of Lule Sami registered in the electoral roll relative to the electoral districts, and the proportional voting system, no Lule Sami representatives were elected in the Sami Parliament elections held in October

³⁸ See Ninth periodical report by Norway on the application of the Charter, [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 2](#), page 11.

³⁹ See [Statement](#) of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages on the promotion of regional or minority languages through artificial intelligence; See also: The Council of Europe [Framework Convention](#) on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law – first-of-its-kind global legally binding instrument designed to ensure that AI upholds common standards in human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to minimise the risk of those rights and principles being undermined as a result of the use of AI. The Framework Convention opened for signature on 5 September 2024 and Norway is among the signatories. It is not yet in force (as of early 2026).

2025. Representatives of Lule Sami speakers expressed concern about their underrepresentation in the Sami Parliament which makes it challenging for their concerns to be addressed.⁴⁰

37. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that while there is a formal co-operation agreement between the Language Council and the Kven Institute, there is no such agreement concerning Romanes and Romani (Article 7.4). In practice, concerning Romanes, co-operation exists primarily with *Romano Kher* (Roma Culture and Resource Centre). For Romani, representatives of speakers report very limited consultation. Representatives of Kven speakers report that the authorities rarely consult the Kven Language Council (*Kvensk språkting*)⁴¹, and that such consultations should take place more frequently on issues related to the Kven language. The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to strengthen consultation mechanisms with representatives of Kven, Romanes, and Romani speakers. Furthermore, the Committee of Experts underlines that the purpose of Article 7.4 is to establish bodies, if necessary, to advise the authorities on the development of policies covering all matters related to the promotion of a regional or minority language. This complex task requires that these bodies, comprising representatives of the competent authorities and the linguistic group, be specialised in language policy and meet sufficiently often to develop strategies and action plans for the implementation of the individual Charter provisions and the monitoring recommendations for their respective regional or minority language.⁴²

38. According to the information available, based on its competencies, the Language Council could be considered relevant under Article 7.4. It is a permanent, advisory body and contributes to the promotion of Kven, Romanes and Romani as highlighted above. However, during the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts observed that its role is mainly to facilitate and co-ordinate language promotion initiatives, and that it is not perceived by the general public as being in charge of Kven (except for place names), nor of Romanes and Romani. There is also a public misconception that the Language Council only works on matters pertaining to Norwegian, as it was previously called the Norwegian Language Council. The Committee of Experts considers that the functions of the Language Council and the current institutional framework for consultations with representatives of Kven, Romanes and Romani speakers could be further strengthened to be in full compliance with Article 7.4.

Maintenance and development of links between groups using minority languages

39. The Contact Forum is also reported by the authorities as a space where linguistic groups can meet. They also report that existing grant schemes support the organisation of cultural activities by linguistic groups (Article 7.1.e). Some representatives of Romanes speakers report that their organisation could not participate in the Contact Forum because of lack of eligibility to receive financial support, which is a precondition for participating in the Contact Forum.⁴³ The Committee of Experts underlines that an active role in initiating and supporting cultural activities in all protected languages is expected from states parties. In accordance with Article 7.1.e of the Charter, national authorities have an obligation to develop links between users of the regional or minority languages by establishing cultural activities with various groups using different languages across the country, including non-territorial languages. The Committee of Experts understands the Contact Forum to be a venue for consultation on issues pertaining to national minorities, including minority languages; however, it is not clear whether this fosters cultural activities or whether links with linguistic groups have been effectively established, as required by Article 7.1.e. The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving information in the next periodical report on measures taken at the national level and the results achieved.

Non-discrimination

40. In the previous evaluation report, the Committee of Experts encouraged the authorities to provide information on the work of the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal (created in 2018) regarding the use

⁴⁰ See the Chapter 2 of the [Sami Act](#): Elections to the Sami Parliament of Norway are held every four years for 39 seats across seven electoral districts. Only people on the Sami electoral roll can vote or run, and seats are allocated proportionally by votes, with no reserved seats for specific Sami subgroups.

⁴¹ The [Kven Language Council](#) is a language-norming body appointed by the board of the Kven Institute. It is responsible for standardisation issues related to the Kven language and is composed of Kven-speaking representatives.

⁴² See more on the recommended functions of advisory bodies in the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI): Study on certain aspects of regional or minority language protection and identification of good practices in member states, [CM\(2025\)180-add5final](#), pages 28-38.

⁴³ See § 2 of the [Regulations on operating grants](#).

of minority languages before it, as well as on any complaints lodged on grounds of language discrimination. The Committee of Experts regrets that no such information was provided in the current monitoring cycle. The Committee of Experts also noted during the on-the-spot visit that there is insufficient knowledge about the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal among representatives of speakers of minority languages. Furthermore, the authorities report that there is no data on discrimination based on language, as language is not a standalone ground for discrimination in Norway (Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law) but is included within the category of *ethnicity* (Article 7.2).⁴⁴ The Equality and Discrimination Ombudsman does publish some data on registered requests divided by grounds of discrimination and its annual report for 2024 shows that there were 33 requests based on language in 2023 and 13 in 2024. It also shows that there were 324 requests on the ground of ethnicity in 2023 and 362 in 2024. However, the data published by the Equality and Discrimination Ombudsman does not show which languages are concerned in the requests registered.⁴⁵ No cases of discrimination based on language concerning Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami were brought to the attention of the Committee of Experts in the current monitoring cycle. However, the Equality and Discrimination Ombudsman highlights that Sami people remain subject to harassment and discrimination and welcomes the decision of the government to establish a separate office of the Ombudsman in 2025 in Northern Norway which will work specifically to reach out to the Sami population. The 2024 annual report also calls for the adoption of an action plan against antigypsyism, as this remains an issue.

41. The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to provide information on discrimination based on language, allowing for better monitoring of the situation of minority languages and to consider amending the legislation to include language as a distinct ground of discrimination.

Awareness of the regional or minority languages in society

42. The Committee of Experts welcomes that the National Curriculum from 2020 (LK20; the parallel curriculum for education in Sami is known as LK20S) provides for an enriched content related to the national minorities and includes competence goals on national minorities across multiple subjects.⁴⁶ It also welcomes the measures by the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training to raise awareness about the provisions concerning national minorities through conferences and support materials available on its websites as well as the continuation of the programme *Dembra*.⁴⁷ The Committee of Experts notes that existing educational materials are being adapted in line with the new curriculum to better reflect the presence and culture of national minorities and Sami people in Norway. As regards Romanes and Romani, there are no concrete examples based on which the Committee of Experts could determine to what extent the promotion of inclusion, respect, understanding, and tolerance took place in practice following the strengthened curriculum. The Committee of Experts therefore asks the authorities to provide such information in the next periodical report.

43. The authorities report that the language mandate of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) was strengthened in 2023 to offer content in minority languages. Representatives of speakers of minority languages report that the overall portrayal of national minorities and indigenous people in Norway has improved in the current monitoring cycle. The Committee of Experts notes, however, that as regards Romanes and Romani, there is limited and irregular information about and in these languages in the media to contribute to awareness raising.

44. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report (2023) highlighted the lack of knowledge about the Sami and Kven among the general population and included recommendations for specific measures. The Committee of Experts notes that this report was frequently mentioned during the on-the-spot visit and that the report itself has helped raise awareness about the Sami and the Kven among the general population. The Committee of Experts welcomes the promotion of the report through events, media coverage, and online dissemination and looks forward to seeing the developments as a result of the measures proposed in the said report (see para.17 above).

⁴⁴ See Chapter 2, Section 6 of the Act relating to equality and a prohibition against discrimination ([Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act](#)), entered into force on 1 January 2018, last consolidated on 1 January 2022.

⁴⁵ See the [Annual report for 2024](#) of the Equality and Discrimination Ombudsman: pages 4,7 and 45.

⁴⁶ The National Curriculum is called "Kunnskapsløftet 2020" (known as LK20) – see more at [udir.no](#).

⁴⁷ *Dembra* is a programme for professional development amongst teachers, school leaders and other school staff. Based on the school's own circumstances, *Dembra*'s pedagogical model of prevention recognises that a democratic culture, based on participation and critical thinking, offers the best means of preventing and counteracting attitudes which threaten democracy.

Use of the regional or minority languages in education

45. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Ministers recommended that the Norwegian authorities “monitor the demand for teaching of and/or in Sami languages at each level of education, from kindergarten to higher education and meet the demands of parents for kindergartens” and “take measures to strengthen the recruitment to Kven and Sami teacher training.”

46. At the pre-school level, there is no individual right to be taught in minority languages under the Kindergarten Act, whereas the new Education Act provides this right regarding Sami languages from primary to secondary level (see below) and Kven language (in the counties of Troms/Tromsø and Finnmark/Finmarkku).⁴⁸ Although in practice Lule Sami, North Sami, South Sami, and Kven are used to varying extents at the pre-school level, speakers regret that this is not an established right and is influenced by municipal decisions and available resources. Representatives of North Sami speakers report a lack of strong North Sami immersion models at the pre-school level in some municipalities, and this lack limits later opportunities, as children may then be unable to access education in North Sami as a first language in primary school (Articles 8.1.iii, 8.1.biv). The Committee of Experts regrets that the current legal and institutional framework does not sufficiently support minority languages at the pre-school level, including language nests or strong language models as these can play an important role in language revitalisation.⁴⁹

47. The Committee of Experts notes, however, that measures have been taken to increase the availability of kindergartens in minority languages and welcomes the introduction of free kindergarten in Finnmark/Finmarkku and North Troms/Romsa from 1 August 2023. While representatives of Sami speakers report that this policy has eased the financial burden for families choosing Sami kindergartens, they have not observed a significant increase in the number of available places in only Finnmark/Finmarkku and North Troms/Romsa. The Committee of Experts also notes a general awareness among the authorities and the Sami Parliament of the need to improve kindergarten offerings for Sami languages.⁵⁰ The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to take measures to ensure that minority languages are adequately used at the pre-school level and that parents' demands are met (Articles 7.1.f; 8.1.iii for North Sami).

48. According to the new Education Act, which entered into force on 1 August 2024, Sami pupils have an individual right to be taught Sami across Norway in primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary education. In language development and language revitalisation municipalities, all pupils (both Sami and non-Sami) have the right to receive education in Sami and to be taught Sami as a first or second language (Article 8.1.b.iv; 8.1.c.iv). Sami as a first language is aimed at pupils who speak Sami at home and are already proficient by the time they start school; it involves more teaching hours. Sami as a second language is taught as a subject with a varying number of hours and has three curricula depending on pupils' prior knowledge.⁵¹ Outside development and revitalisation municipalities, all pupils (including non-Sami) can receive education in Sami or be taught Sami as a subject if at least 10 pupils request it, and as long as at least six remain (Article 8.2).⁵² It is not clear to the Committee of Experts if there was sufficient demand for teaching in or of Lule Sami and South Sami in territories other than those in which these languages are traditionally used, at all appropriate stages of education. The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving information on this matter in the next periodical report.

49. In practice, education in and teaching of Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami takes place throughout the administrative area for Sami languages, either through in-person attendance or via distance education.⁵³ The authorities report that over the past two years, more than 2 700 pupils have been registered as receiving education in Sami languages in primary and secondary education, representing the highest proportion recorded in the years for which data are available, reflecting ongoing

⁴⁸ See § 10 of the [Kindergarten Act](#): the municipality is responsible for ensuring that kindergarten provision for Sami children in Sami districts is based on Sami language and culture. In other municipalities, conditions must be created to enable Sami children to safeguard and develop their language and culture.

⁴⁹ See Sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Finland, [MIN-LANG \(2024\) 3](#), para. 98.

⁵⁰ See more: Government of Norway - [Report](#) to the *Storting*, Meld. St. 17 (2024–2025), Sami language, culture and social life. Municipal services for Sami residents, page 58.

⁵¹ See [Curriculum for the subject Sami](#).

⁵² See § 3-2 of the Act on Primary and Secondary Education ([Education Act](#)). See also: The right to education in and through the Sami language – [udir.no](#).

⁵³ If there are no teachers who can teach Sami, the training or parts of the training can be provided as distance learning. This must be safe and pedagogically sound – see [udir.no](#).

efforts to strengthen teaching in and of Sami languages. It is not clear to the Committee of Experts whether this number refers to teaching of Sami as a subject or teaching through the medium of Sami, and for which Sami languages. Furthermore, the Committee of Experts notes that the organisation and delivery of Sami language education vary between municipalities, meaning that the availability of teachers and quality of instruction are not uniform across the administrative area for Sami languages. In addition, representatives of North Sami speakers report that parents' demands for teaching in North Sami are not always met (Articles 8.1.b.iv, 8.1.c.iv).

50. The school in Drag/Ájluokta (*Drag skole/Ájluovta skåvllå*; for school years 1-10), the only institution in Norway offering daily, in-person, full first-language instruction in Lule Sami, has recently been classified as a profile/resource school for Lule Sami.⁵⁴ While representatives of speakers welcome this positive development, concern has been expressed regarding the insufficient funding allocated to the school to fulfil its national role for Lule Sami. The Committee of Experts notes that increased funding is expected from the national authorities in 2026, and the school relies on this promise. The Committee of Experts urges the authorities to ensure that sustainable funding is allocated to the school in Drag/Ájluokta to carry out its national mission as regards teaching in/of Lule Sami (Article 8.1.b.iv; Article 8.1.c.iv).

51. Distance education in Lule Sami is currently provided by Grønnåsen School in Bodø/Bådåddjo. The South Sami Knowledge Park (*Åarjelsaemien Vierhtiesåafoe*) in Hattfjelldal/Aarborte previously served as a temporary hub also for Lule Sami distance education. The Committee of Experts notes that representatives of Lule Sami speakers would welcome a distance learning hub in their core area. They consider the school in Drag/Ájluokta best suited to become the national hub for Lule Sami distance learning if adequately funded.

52. The new Education Act also provides for the individual right to be taught Kven and Finnish at the primary and lower secondary levels (for school years 1-10) in the counties of Troms/Tromsø and Finnmark/Finmarkku, removing the previous requirement of at least three pupils to offer the subject.⁵⁵ Schools offering this instruction may receive grants. Representatives of Kven speakers expressed concern that the right to Kven-language education continues to be restricted to pupils in the two northernmost counties, with grant schemes available only there (Article 7.1.f). They also report that requesting Kven language education is challenging, even in traditional Kven-speaking areas. Parents must submit their request to the headmaster at the start of the school year, and if a teacher is available, language instruction may not begin until one or two months into the school year. Representatives of Kven speakers also regret that primary schools start Kven language instruction at a beginner level, even for children who attended Kven kindergarten. According to them, this approach is demotivating, leading many pupils to choose not to continue studying Kven in school. In light of this, the Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to ensure that parents' demand for the teaching of Kven is met and that provisions in grant schemes or financial constraints do not impede municipalities wishing to offer such education.

53. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Experts identified the discontinuation of minority language education (Kven and Sami) by upper secondary pupils (age 16-19) as a concern and encouraged the authorities to review their language policies, especially in the context of drafting the new Education Act.⁵⁶ The Committee of Experts welcomes that the right to upper secondary education in Sami has been extended to all pupils who have received instruction in Sami or have been taught Sami as a first or second language in primary and lower education (Article 8.1.c.iv). It also welcomes the continued support of the Sami Parliament in maintaining scholarships for upper secondary school pupils choosing Sami, and notes that in 2024/2025, 212 pupils studied a Sami language as a first language (up from 199 in 2021) and 453 as a second language (up from 318 in 2021). No changes have been made regarding extra credits for university admissions as incentives to study these languages at the upper secondary level, although such changes are planned for Sami through the new regulation on admission to higher education.⁵⁷ The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving information on these changes in the next periodical report and encourages the authorities to continue

⁵⁴ In Norway, a resource or profile school is one that has recognised special focus or expertise.

⁵⁵ See § 3-3 of the [Education Act](#).

⁵⁶ Eight evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Norway, [MIN-LANG\(2021\)20](#), para.22.

⁵⁷ See section (§) 5-7 of the 2025 [Regulations on admission to higher education](#), in force from 2027 (some provisions from 2028), which lay down that in the ranking of applicants to higher education, one extra point will be awarded to applicants with Sami as their first language (i.e. mother tongue, the most advanced Sami language course at the Upper Secondary level).

their efforts to ensure that Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami are studied at the upper secondary level, as this forms the basis for the study of these languages at university, especially in light of the acute shortage of teachers and professionals competent in these languages.

54. As regards Kven, the Committee of Experts regrets that the new Education Act does not provide for a right to education of Kven as a second language at the upper secondary level. It notes that in the school year 2024/2025, only one upper secondary school offered Kven language education, and only two pupils received it (Article 7.1.f). Representatives of Kven speakers state that differences in grants for upper secondary pupils studying Kven compared to those studying Sami may contribute to these low numbers. Pupils with both Kven and Sami backgrounds tend to prioritise Sami languages, which receive higher grants. They also highlight the lack of incentives for choosing Kven courses, as these are scheduled late in the evening and do not offer extra credits for university admission. The Committee of Experts is concerned about the low number of pupils studying Kven at upper secondary level and urges the authorities to take effective measures to ensure that Kven is adequately taught at this level, while ensuring continuity between educational levels.

55. Romanes and Romani are not taught in mainstream education (Article 7.1.f), despite demand from speakers. During the on-the-spot visit, speaker representatives stressed the need for early education in Romanes. They believe this would strengthen children's identities, support learning overall, and reduce school dropout rates. The Committee of Experts notes that the authorities continue to focus on the schooling of children with a Roma background to favour social inclusion and proficiency in Norwegian. It also notes that the authorities' main efforts continue to be directed at standardising and developing grammar books for both Romanes and Romani in the current monitoring cycle. While acknowledging these efforts, the Committee of Experts reminds authorities that the lack of standardisation should not impair the teaching of Romanes and Romani, particularly in pre-school or primary education.⁵⁸ It further encourages the authorities to develop sustainable teaching models for these languages in co-operation with representatives of speakers.

56. Adult and continuing education (including non-speakers) in Lule Sami, North Sami and South Sami is offered by Sami language centres relevant to their locations, with funding from the Sami Parliament specifically allocated for this purpose, as it is an area the Sami Parliament has identified as needing additional support. The Sami University of Applied Sciences provides North Sami courses for adults in Kautokeino/Guovdageaidnu and in Kirkenes/Girkonjárga. Nord University also offers beginner courses in Lule Sami and South Sami. The authorities also report that adults in both primary and secondary education and training have the right to education in Sami as a second language, which municipalities and county municipalities are required to organise (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fii).

57. Despite ongoing efforts, educational materials for Lule Sami and South Sami, including textbooks and digital resources, are largely lacking or outdated, with children today using the same textbooks as were used 20 years ago. Educational materials in North Sami exist, but they are also reported to be outdated. As a result, teachers are preparing their own materials, which is particularly burdensome for languages in need of revitalisation, such as Lule Sami and South Sami. In Hamarøy/Hábmer municipality, for instance, teachers have reduced teaching hours in order to be able to develop teaching materials. The Sami Parliament stated its goal to achieve a broad supply of educational materials, including digital teaching materials, in all subjects and at all educational levels. The Sami Parliament also highlighted in 2024 that government funding was not sufficient to achieve these goals and that increased funding is absolutely necessary. They also considered it important that Sami educational materials be more firmly anchored in current legislation.⁵⁹ Strengthened efforts for the development of educational materials adapted to differentiated instruction at all school levels were also suggested by representatives of Kven speakers. The Committee of Experts notes that the shortage of educational materials is acknowledged by the authorities, and that the Ministry of Education and Research has on several occasions supplemented the block grant to the Sami Parliament to address this issue. However, the Committee of Experts highlights that further efforts are urgently needed to develop educational materials in minority languages, as this shortage not only hampers existing

⁵⁸ See Seventh evaluation report on Norway, [CM\(2018\)88](#), para. 11; Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' sixth evaluation report on Montenegro, [MIN-LANG\(2025\)13](#), para.14; See also the Fourth Opinion on Montenegro of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, [ACFC/OP/IV\(2024\)1](#), para. 146.

⁵⁹ See The Sami Parliament's Supplementary [Report](#) for 2024 to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, pages 15-16.

education in these languages but also negatively affects recruitment to teacher training programmes due to challenging working conditions of teachers (Article 7.1.f).

58. Despite support schemes and scholarships provided by the Sami Parliament and municipalities to encourage recruitment for Lule Sami and South Sami teacher education programmes, very few students take up this opportunity. At Nord University, only two candidates graduated from the Lule Sami primary and lower secondary teacher education programme in 2023, and three graduated from the South Sami programme in 2024. Kven representatives of speakers also report an acute shortage of teachers, which could be addressed in the long term if Kven education were extended beyond Troms/Tromsø and Finnmark/Finmarkku, including through digital means. The authorities report that new regulations to the Education Act now allow schools to hire speakers of minority languages, such as Romani and Romanes, even if they do not have teacher qualifications. However, representatives of speakers of these languages were not aware of this possibility. Moreover, Romanes speakers highlighted during the on-the-spot visit that there are currently no qualified Romanes teachers and although Roma school mediators exist, their main role is to assist children in learning Norwegian rather than Romanes.

59. The Committee of Experts notes the authorities' commitment to address the shortage of teachers and welcomes the adoption of the *Strategy for recruitment to teacher education and the teaching profession 2024–2030*, which includes measures for the Sami languages and Kven.⁶⁰ The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving information on further concrete measures affecting the minority languages protected under the Charter in the next periodical report.

60. At the university level, all minority languages except Romanes and Romani can be studied to some extent (Article 7.1.h). The Committee of Experts observed during the on-the-spot visit that the shortage of lecturers is also an issue in higher education. According to representatives of Lule Sami speakers, academic studies in Lule Sami at Nord University were not offered in 2025 due to temporary staff shortages. Furthermore, representatives of speakers describe higher education in Lule Sami and South Sami as fragmented, with gaps in students' educational paths. While North Sami can be studied from beginner to doctoral level (Article 8.1.eii), there are no such continuous educational paths for Lule Sami and South Sami. The Committee of Experts notes that in the 2024 national budget, Nord University received funding to strengthen the academic environments for South Sami and Lule Sami and to develop comprehensive education programmes in these languages (Article 7.1.h). It also notes that a bachelor's programme in Lule Sami is planned for 2026 at Nord University, and that the first master's programme in South Sami language and literature studies began in 2024 at Nord University, in collaboration with the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway, with six students from Norway and Sweden enrolled in the first cohort.

61. The authorities report that the County Governor is the authority responsible for supervising municipalities in providing education in accordance with the Education Act (Article 8.1.i). They further inform that the County Governor reports to the Directorate of Education and Training and collects statistics on participation in school and kindergarten for Kven and Sami. According to representatives of the speakers, the County Governor conducts only a quantitative check of the situation in education, and while it handles complaints, this procedure is not clearly explained. Furthermore, information about the right to education in minority languages is not being provided proactively, even though this duty is enshrined in the Education Act for municipalities and county authorities. For Sami languages, parents tend to address requests or complaints regarding the right to education or non-compliance directly to the Sami Parliament or other Sami institutions. Similarly, complaints or questions concerning the right to education in Kven are primarily addressed to the Kven Institute, associations, or Kven Language Centres.

62. The Committee of Experts notes that the County Governor publishes annual activity reports, which, however, do not usually deal specifically with the minority languages. The Committee of Experts underlines that the regular publication of reports on the quality of minority language education provide the opportunity to assess such education over time, thereby making it possible to adjust methods and measures according to the experiences documented in the reports. Publication of the reports makes the monitoring system transparent and creates opportunities for representatives of minority language

⁶⁰ See also: Government of Norway - [Report](#) to the *Storting*, Meld. St. 13 (2022–2023) Sami language, culture and social life. Competence and recruitment in kindergarten, primary education and higher education, available in Norwegian.

speakers and civil society to take part in a public discussion on the development of minority language education, based on the measures taken and progress achieved (Article 8.1.i).⁶¹

Use of the regional or minority languages by judicial authorities

63. The Sami Act provides for the right to use Sami languages in courts whose jurisdiction comprises all or parts of the administrative area for Sami languages. Outside this area the Interpreting Act (entered into force on 1 January 2022) may apply.⁶² The latter sets out obligations for public bodies including courts to use interpretation if this is necessary to uphold legal safeguards or provide proper assistance and services, particularly when individuals do not speak Norwegian. Furthermore, the Court Fees Act provides that “when the court has deemed it necessary to provide translations to and from Sami, the costs shall be covered by the state”.⁶³ The authorities inform that in assessing necessity, consideration must be given to “how well communication can take place in Norwegian or Sami without translation, and how important the evidence is”. The Committee of Experts notes the information from the authorities that interpretation is free of charge, including in civil cases, within the administrative area for Sami languages. It recalls, however, that Article 9 (as well as Article 10) applies regardless of whether a person speaks the official language.

64. There is currently no option in the courts’ case management to register which language(s) have been used in individual cases. The interpretation booking system contains information on the number of times Sami-speaking interpreters have been requested. According to authorities, 46 completed assignments in North Sami were registered from 2022 to 2024. The Committee of Experts notes that in practice, only North Sami is used before the judicial authorities (Article 9). It also notes the possibility to summon North Sami speaking judges from Indre og Østre Finnmark District Court (North Sami: *Sis-ja Nuorta-Finnmárkku diggegoddí*) to other district courts to handle cases involving Sami users.

65. The right to use Lule Sami and South Sami in judiciary seems impossible to be implemented in practice due to the fact that, according to data provided by the state authorities, there are currently no licensed court interpreters in these languages in Norway. The Committee of Experts notes that, even if the Interpreting Act were to be applied or interpretation were to be requested, it would become irrelevant in the absence of interpreters. The Committee of Experts asks the Norwegian authorities to increase their efforts in accordance with their ratification of the Charter, in order to train and appoint licensed interpreters, especially for Lule Sami and South Sami.

66. The Committee of Experts also encourages the authorities to take measures to improve the Lule Sami and South Sami language competence of judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals, in order to facilitate the use of these languages in practice. Strengthened efforts are also needed to develop legal terminology in Lule Sami and South Sami.

Use of the regional or minority languages by administrative authorities

67. The Sami Act guarantees the right to use Sami languages before administrative authorities, though these rights vary depending on the municipality’s status within the administrative area for Sami. Most rights apply to the first two categories of municipalities (development and revitalisation municipalities), including the right to receive oral and written replies in Sami from local and regional authorities and their public services (Article 10.2.b; 10.3.b). These rights are also guaranteed within local branches of state authorities located in these municipalities. However, public bodies with a nationwide mandate, such as the tax administration, are not automatically required to respond in Sami, even if they have local offices in the Sami area, unless a specific government regulation so requires (Article 10.1.a.iii). Acts and regulations as well as local regulations of particular interest to the whole or parts of the Sami population shall be translated into Sami by the relevant ministry or by municipalities and county municipalities. Public announcements and local forms (paper based and digital) in the Sami administrative area must be provided in both Sami and Norwegian, except for nationwide bodies. (Articles 10.1.b, 10.1.c, 10.2.c, 10.2.d). According to the Sami Act, in language development municipalities, Sami has equal status with Norwegian in the municipal administration and council, and

⁶¹ See also: Sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Germany, [CM\(2018\)142](#), para. 15; Sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the Slovak Republic, [MIN-LANG \(2025\) 12](#), para.22.

⁶² See Act relating to public bodies’ responsibility for the use of interpreters, etc. ([Interpreting Act](#)), entered into force on 1 January 2022, last consolidated on 16 June 2022.

⁶³ See section 2 of the [Court Fees Act](#), entered into force on 1 March 1983, last modified from 1 January 2026.

the municipal council may extend this equality to other elected bodies. In other municipalities, the municipal council can choose to grant Sami equal status in all or part of the administration and elected bodies (Articles 10.2.a; 10.2.e; 10.2.f).⁶⁴

68. There is no data collection on the use of Lule Sami, North Sami and South Sami before the administrative authorities. In practice, the most widely used language in administration among the Sami languages is North Sami. This also coincides with the number of speakers' share within the municipalities as well as the availability of qualified administrative staff, and interpreters and translators.

69. Hamarøy/Hábmer municipality has, until recently, been the only Lule Sami municipality in the administrative area for Sami languages and is currently a revitalisation municipality. As a result, individuals are entitled to written replies in Lule Sami upon request, while oral direct replies are not guaranteed. Nevertheless, the visibility and integration of Lule Sami throughout the municipality's website is commendable and represents a positive effort to promote the language. Some administrative forms are available in Lule Sami, and written replies can be provided, although such requests are rare and overall availability is limited (Article 10.2.a). The current situation reflects the limited competence in Lule Sami within the administration. At present, the Sami adviser (currently the only Lule Sami speaker in the administration) provides essential support in facilitating use of the language. The proportion of employees with some command of South Sami is relatively higher in South Sami municipalities. However, South Sami still has very limited use in relation with administrative authorities. There have been only a few requests in South Sami in recent years. In Snåsa/Snåase, for example, South Sami has been used in requests only two to three times over a five-year period.

70. The Committee of Experts welcomes the establishment of Sami adviser posts within some municipal administrations and commends their close co-operation with local authorities, as observed in Hamarøy/Hábmer during the on-the-spot visit. The Committee of Experts notes, however, that the main reasons for the limited use of Lule Sami and South Sami in administration are the shortage of Sami-speaking personnel and interpreters, insufficient financial resources, and the lack of proactive measures to offer them, all of which contribute to the very low demand for their use. The use of North Sami before administrative authorities is also inconsistent across municipalities. This shortage of Sami language competence persists despite Sami Act provisions for paid language learning leave and local financial schemes and measures (Article 10.4.b). These issues have been acknowledged and addressed with proposed measures in the government's annual white paper to the *Storting*, Meld. St. 17 (2024–2025), on municipal services for Sami residents.⁶⁵

71. The Committee of Experts underlines that further practical organisational measures are needed to ensure that Lule Sami and South Sami can be used more extensively in practice in administration. It also underlines that commitment to Article 10.2.a requires that the respective local and regional authorities use Lule Sami and South Sami as internal working languages, not only in communication with the users. The Committee of Experts also draws the attention to its statement on the promotion of regional or minority languages through artificial intelligence.⁶⁶

Use of the regional or minority languages in the media

72. North Sami remains the only minority language with a satisfactory presence in the media (television and radio). *NRK Sápmi*, the dedicated Sami unit within the National Broadcasting Corporation (NRK), produces television programmes (daily news, children's programmes, documentaries, etc.) for NRK's national television channels and runs the *NRK Sápmi* radio channel, which broadcasts Sami-language content and music 24/7, all year round. The news programme *Ođđasat* is broadcast daily on television and is a Nordic co-production between *NRK Sápmi*, *YLE Sápmi*, and *SVT Sápmi*; it is also broadcast in Sweden and Finland. *Ođđasat* is broadcast mainly in North Sami and includes some content in Lule Sami and South Sami (Article 11.1.a.iii).

73. According to the report of the Norwegian Media Authority (*Medietilsynet*), *NRK Sápmi*'s television offer in 2024 totalled 237 hours and its radio offer 8,760 hours. There is, however, no data on

⁶⁴ Section 3-9 of the [Sami Act](#).

⁶⁵ See Government of Norway - [Report](#) to the *Storting*, Meld. St. 17 (2024–2025), Sami language, culture and social life. Municipal services for Sami residents, available in Norwegian.

⁶⁶ [Statement](#) of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages on the promotion of regional or minority languages through artificial intelligence.

how many of these hours were in Lule Sami and South Sami.⁶⁷ NRK acknowledges that existing television and radio programmes are primarily in North Sami, with Lule Sami and South Sami only occasionally included, mainly as features in other broadcasts, and that the shortage of journalists proficient in these languages remains an issue.

74. There are, however, audio and video podcasts in Lule Sami and South Sami available on NRK's online platforms (NRK Radio and NRK TV), targeting youth. The podcasts *Hævvvi* (South Sami) and *Dálle ja dalloj* (Lule Sami) were launched in 2023. *Dálle ja dalloj* (Lule Sami) was discontinued in 2024 due to staff shortages, and a new Lule Sami podcast, *Juorre*, has been published weekly on NRK online platforms since November 2025. *Hævvvi* (South Sami) was also broadcast linearly on television (NRK1), but the podcast ended in 2025 due to staff shortages. The podcast *Gozuid Alde* in North Sami was relaunched in 2024 and is now broadcast as both audio and video on NRK Radio and NRK TV. During the on-the-spot visit, these podcasts were mentioned by Lule Sami and South Sami speakers, who nevertheless expressed a wish for increased television and radio presence to ensure broader outreach, as podcasts mainly address the young population (Articles 11.1.d, 11.1.ii).⁶⁸

75. As regards private broadcasting, two local radio stations, *Guovdageainnu Lagasradio* (Radio GLR) and Radio DSF, broadcast in North Sami (Article 11.1.b).⁶⁸ The authorities state that they are not aware of any private television broadcasters which offer regular programmes in Sami (Article 11.1.c). Considering the undertakings in this field, it is necessary that the authorities gradually develop and implement a structured policy to encourage private television and radio broadcasters to broadcast programmes in Lule Sami, North Sami and South Sami, for example through increasing the subsidy or through license requirements.

76. There is no regular presence of Kven on traditional television and radio (Article 7.1.d). Available information indicates only a sporadic presence of Kven on television, for instance, on occasions such as Kven People's Day or the Kven New Year's speech. The weekly radio programmes in Kven and Finnish, previously broadcast by NRK and discontinued with the transition to digital broadcasting, were not reinstated during the current monitoring cycle. Today, most Kven media is online through *NRK Kvensk/NRK Kvääni*, the Kven editorial office within NRK that produces online articles and other audiovisual materials in Kven and Norwegian, published on nrk.no/Kvensk as well as on the NRK's online platforms. Representatives of Kven speakers highlight the need for more content for children and youth and recommend co-operation with the Swedish national public broadcaster (SVT), which has produced children's programmes in Meänkieli, as well as dubbing NRK's children's productions into Kven.

77. While there is limited content about Romanes and Romani and the cultures they represent (Article 7.3), there is no content in these languages on television or radio (Article 7.1.d). The authorities nevertheless report on the co-operation between NRK, the Language Council, and *Romano Kher*, which led to the acquisition in 2024 of the short film *Lavina* in Romanes. This film remains available on the NRK TV (online streaming platform). *Romano Kher* also produces the news programme *Nevimos Norvego* which can be viewed on social media.

78. The authorities report that since 2023, NRK's language mission has been strengthened to offer content both in minority languages (Section 19 of NRK's statutes) and about national minorities (Section 16 of NRK's statutes). The Committee of Experts welcomes these developments and notes that the Norwegian Media Authority, through its work and reports, recognises the importance of media content for promoting minority languages. In its 2024 report, the Norwegian Media Authority found that NRK fulfilled the requirement to have programmes for and about national and linguistic minorities, but only partially met the requirement to offer content in minority languages (Kven, Romanes and Romani).⁶⁹

79. The Committee of Experts notes the various efforts to strengthen the media offer in the current monitoring cycle through grant schemes offered by Arts and Culture Norway as well as the Norwegian Media Authority to support local media initiatives. Efforts also continue to address the shortage of

⁶⁷ These figures mainly reflect *NRK Sápmi's* own production and do not include all content in Sami languages shown on NRK's channels. The information available does not indicate the existence of comprehensive statistics for total numbers of hours broadcast in each of the Sami languages on television and radio.

⁶⁸ Both broadcast in North Sami municipalities; see: [Radio GLR](#) and [Radio DSF](#).

⁶⁹ See: Norwegian Media Authority (Medietilsynet), Public Broadcasting [Report](#) 2024. Interim report on NRK- Assessment of program activities and how NRK fulfilled its public broadcasting mission, page. 96.

journalists, which is particularly severe in Kven, Lule Sami and South Sami. The Sami talent programme that NRK established in 2020 is now a permanent measure for recruiting new journalists and programme makers, with 27 graduates since its establishment. NRK is also planning to recruit journalists (including for the Lule Sami podcast in 2025) from its own talent programme. In 2024, NRK also employed Lule Sami and South Sami language advisers to ensure editorial support and mentorship for the talent programme. A fellowship scheme for journalists and content producers with multicultural competence is also regularly organised by NRK. The Committee of Experts also notes that in 2024, NRK developed a tool for machine translation to and from Sami languages using artificial intelligence. According to the information provided by NRK, Nord University is launching a journalism programme specifically adapted to the Lule Sami and South Sami languages, in collaboration with *NRK Sápmi* (Article 11.1.g).

80. Despite the actions taken, the Committee of Experts notes that the media offer in Lule Sami, South Sami, Kven, Romanes, and Romani remain limited and need further support. The Committee of Experts reiterates that television broadcasts in a regional or minority language are of particular importance for the promotion of the language. They not only provide information in the regional or minority language but also increase the level of exposure to the language, in addition to its use in the family and/or in school. This supports the learning or practice of the language and its development. Television broadcasts in a regional or minority language also raise the prestige and functionality of the language, which may encourage people to transmit or learn it. The achievement of these objectives requires an adequate broadcasting duration, regularity and accessibility of the programme, which can be facilitated by the Internet. In order to reach out to the linguistic group as a whole, the broadcasts should cover content from various genres, such as local and national news, entertainment and culture, and address different generations, including children and young people to support language transmission.⁷⁰

81. The Committee of Experts welcomes the authorities' support for various podcasts mentioned above. The Committee of Experts recalls that Article 11.1.d does not concern radio and television programmes, as it would otherwise be redundant in relation to Articles 11.1.a.iii, 11.1.bii and 11.1.cii. Rather, it concerns other audio and audiovisual works such as new media (e.g. podcasts, social media).⁷¹ Nevertheless, in light of changes in the media environment since the entry into force of the Charter, the Committee of Experts has taken a more flexible approach to Articles 11.1.a, b, and c, and now considers digital and online media content under Article 11.1.a.iii of the Charter.⁷² As Internet radio and podcasts in Lule Sami and South Sami are available on NRK's online platforms (NRK TV and NRK Radio), the Committee of Experts takes them into consideration when evaluating Article 11.1.a.iii. However, it considers that efforts must be strengthened in order for this article to be considered fulfilled, as the current offers are still inadequate in terms of duration and reach for the linguistic group as a whole, and do not address different generations.

82. Newspapers within the meaning of the Charter (published at least weekly) exist only in North Sami (*Avvir*). With regards to Lule Sami and South Sami, funding is provided to the local newspapers *Snåsing* (with articles in South Sami), and *NordSalten Avis* and *Meråkerposten* (with articles in Lule Sami). In accordance with their undertaking under Article 11.1.e.i, the authorities should strengthen their efforts to support the creation of newspapers (not just articles) in Lule Sami and South Sami. The Kven magazine *Ruijan Kaiku* is published both online and in print, producing ten print editions a year in addition to daily news stories online. According to representatives of Kven speakers, the magazine is currently run with minimal funds, and increased funding is needed to hire more journalists and translators, as well as to fund travel so that journalists can cover important Kven events in different parts of the country (Article 7.1.d).

83. The authorities inform that there is no body in Norway, with legal responsibility for guaranteeing media freedom and pluralism, as provided for in Article 11.3. However, the Broadcasting Council, which advises NRK, includes the chair and deputy chair of the Sami Programme Council as members.⁷³ The Committee of Experts notes the role of the Norwegian Media Authority, which oversees broadcasting

⁷⁰ See also: Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Czechia, [MIN-LANG\(2024\)4](#), para. 69; Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Serbia, [MIN-LANG \(2023\) 3](#), para. 54.

⁷¹ See also: Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Czechia, [MIN-LANG\(2024\)4](#), para. 79; Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Serbia, [MIN-LANG \(2023\) 3](#), para. 56.

⁷² Third evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Poland, [MIN-LANG \(2021\) 15](#), para. 85.

⁷³ The [Sami Programme Council](#) is a media advisory body within NRK Sápmi.

licences, media ownership, content rules, and support schemes related to pluralism and diversity. It welcomes that the Norwegian Media Authority issues annual reports relating to NRK's fulfilment of public service broadcasting obligations, including information on content in and about minority languages.⁷⁴ Nevertheless, the Committee of Experts reiterates that introducing specific quantitative and qualitative requirements would help ensure NRK's adequate contribution to each language and allow better evaluation of these measures' impact.⁷⁵

⁷⁴ The Broadcasting Council shall discuss and express its opinion on the general programme policy of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) according to the [Broadcasting Act](#) (phased entry into force in 1993 and 1994). The administration and supervision of the Broadcasting Act are mainly delegated to the [Norwegian Media Authority](#).

⁷⁵ Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' eighth evaluation report on Norway, [MINLANG \(2023\) 05](#), para.12.

Use of the regional or minority languages in cultural activities and facilities

84. Minority languages are used in cultural activities, supported by funding from the authorities through grants schemes and funding allocated to the Sami Parliament for the Sami languages. In the current monitoring cycle, a notable development for Kven is the establishment of the Kven Theatre/*Kvääniteatteri* in 2022, which has been receiving ongoing operational funding from the Ministry of Culture and Equality since 2023.⁷⁶ However, representatives of Kven speakers highlight the need for more language arenas and more cultural avenues where Kven can be actively used and developed. They further mention that despite the allocation grants for the organisation of Kven language and cultural projects, the actual organisation and running of festivals, for instance, still rely on volunteering and unpaid work (Article 7.1.d).

85. As regards the grant schemes allocated by the Arts Council Norway for the production and dissemination of literature, namely, the grant scheme for literature projects and the purchasing scheme for translated literature for public libraries, these are reported by the authorities to be available to publishers of literature in minority languages. However, for Sami literature, the grant scheme for literature projects only covers translations from Sami languages into Norwegian, while for Kven, Romanes and Romani, the grant scheme also supports publications in these languages. The purchasing scheme currently applies only to titles translated from minority languages, but from 2026, the scheme will include purchasing and distributing a set number of books in minority languages to libraries. The authorities inform that between 2020 and 2024, 16 grants were awarded for translations from Sami into Norwegian, all from North Sami. Since 2021, three grants have supported Kven-language projects. Representatives of Kven speakers expressed concern that the purchasing scheme only covers books translated from Kven, and not books written in Kven, which negatively affects Kven authors and publishers compared to those working in Norwegian-language literature (Article 7.1.d). The Committee of Experts notes the speakers' concerns and welcomes the plans announced by the authorities to revise the purchasing scheme to include not only translations but also titles in minority languages.

86. Lule Sami and South Sami representatives reported during the on-the-spot visit a continued shortage of literature, especially for children, in these languages. The Committee of Experts underlines that Article 12.1.a requires support for cultural production and dissemination in minority languages. It further notes that revising the criteria of the above-mentioned grants to also support literature in Sami languages, not only translations from these languages into Norwegian, could provide an additional funding path to address the shortage of literature in Lule Sami and South Sami, and further strengthen support for literature production and dissemination in all minority languages. The Committee of Experts notes that support for translations in Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami through these grants remains relevant and encourages the authorities to consider ratifying the relevant Charter undertaking (Article 12.1.b) for all Part III languages.

87. The Committee of Experts welcomes that minority languages are included in the Reading Enthusiasm strategy (*Sammen om lesing – Leselyststrategien 2024–2030*)⁷⁷, launched by the Minister of Education and the Minister of Culture and Equality in May 2024. The strategy includes measures to strengthen Arts Council Norway's support for literature in Sami languages and the other minority languages. The Committee of Experts looks forward to further information in the next periodical report on literature production and dissemination for all minority languages.

88. Lule Sami, North Sami and South Sami are actively used in cultural activities organised by the Sami institutions, as well as through co-operation with local authorities. The Sami Language Week (*Giellavahkku*) and the Sami National Day (6 February)⁷⁸ are notable occasions that promote Sami languages and bring together Sami institutions and local authorities (Articles 12.1.a; 12.1.d; 12.1.f). Public bodies such as Arts and Culture Norway (see language practice above) and *KORO*, the public agency under the Ministry of Culture and Equality responsible for producing and disseminating art in public buildings and other public arenas, incorporate the knowledge and use of minority languages and cultures in the projects they initiate or support (Article 12.1.d).

⁷⁶ Through its activities, *Kvääniteatteri* aims to promote knowledge about the Kvens, and Kven culture and history. It is primarily owned by Troms and Finnmark county municipalities and received funding from the annual state budget in 2025. See more [here](#).

⁷⁷ [Reading Enthusiasm strategy](#) (*Sammen om lesing – Leselyststrategien 2024–2030*).

⁷⁸ The Sami National Day marks the first Sami congress in 1917, held in Trondheim, Norway.

89. The authorities also report on the Cultural Schoolbag (*Den kulturelle skulesekken - DKS*), which is a nationwide programme to ensure that all school pupils in Norway experience professional arts and culture of all kinds every year.⁷⁹ In 2024, one of the DKS forums was dedicated to the topic of national minorities (Article 7.1.d) and Sami (Article 12.1.d).

90. The Committee of Experts welcomes the increased support provided during the current monitoring cycle to Sami institutions for cultural activities, including the Sami National Theatre *Beaivváš* in a new building, *RiddoDuottarMuseat*⁸⁰ and its plans for a new building in Karasjok/Kárášjohka, and the Sami Archives in Kautokeino/Guovdageaidnu (Article 12.1.a). In 2024, the Sami Archives introduced a preservation plan for private Sami archives, aiming to document, digitise, and provide access to these materials, which authorities highlight as essential for language revitalisation. The National Archives of Norway is taking measures to unify the existing Digital Archives into a single platform to ensure the long-term preservation and accessibility of digital archival material across Norway, including Sami records, for use in education, research, and public access (Articles 7.1.h; 12.1.g; 12.1.h). The *Nuohtti* search portal⁸¹, established in 2023 as a collaborative project among archival institutions in Norway, Sweden, and Finland, provides access to Sami archival materials (documents, sound recordings and photographs) found in European preservation institutions related to the Sami people and culture (Articles 7.1.i; 12.1.a; 12.3).

91. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts visited the Árran Lule Sami Centre (*Árran julevsáme guovdásj*) and South Sami Museum and Cultural Centre *Saemien Sijte*, which are central to promoting and protecting Lule Sami and South Sami. The authorities also state that these institutions are important workplaces for representatives of speakers, especially women.⁸² Beyond exhibitions and cultural functions, Árran Lule Sami Centre and *Saemien Sijte* also serve as everyday language arenas in which these languages can be used, and play a key role in researching and disseminating Lule Sami and South Sami culture, history, language, identity, and heritage. The Árran Lule Sami Centre is currently implementing three projects to promote Lule Sami among children, youth, and adults, in co-operation with the school in Drag/Ájluokta and Hamarøy/Hábmer municipality. The Committee of Experts encourages continued support for these institutions and, as some essential language promotion activities remain project-financed, urges co-operation with their representatives to identify activities that can be made permanent with sustainable earmarked funding. Furthermore, the Committee of Experts notes that the authorities highlighted the role of women in key institutions for Sami languages and encourages more gender-sensitive and/or sex-disaggregated data reporting in the future, as this aligns with the Council of Europe's commitment to gender equality and gender mainstreaming.⁸³

92. The Committee of Experts notes that the ninth periodical report does not include information on measures for implementing Article 12.1.e, which requires bodies organising or supporting cultural activities to have staff with full command of minority languages. The authorities informed the Committee of Experts that there are no specific measures for the Sami languages; however, many Sami cultural institutions do have staff who speak Sami. The Committee of Experts recalls that Article 12.1.e requires that public authorities play a role in this field. This is particularly relevant in the context of ongoing shortages of staff competent in Lule Sami and South Sami including at dedicated Sami institutions, as reported to the Committee of Experts during the on-the-spot visit. The Committee of Experts encourages authorities to facilitate the strengthening of Sami language competence in relevant bodies, with a particular focus on Lule Sami and South Sami.

93. As far as Articles 12.2 and 12.3 are concerned, the authorities report on several cultural activities concerning Lule Sami, North Sami and South Sami. These include the Sami National Theatre *Beaivváš* in Kautokeino/Guovdageaidnu, which strives to use all the Sami languages as stage languages across Norway and abroad (Article 12.2). The International Sami Film Institute and the Norwegian Film Institute have contributed to several Sami film projects in Sami languages which are screened throughout the country (Article 12.2.) and abroad (Article 12.3). The authorities also report on

⁷⁹ The [Cultural Schoolbag](#) is a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and Equality and the Ministry of Education and Research, and with all counties and municipalities in Norway. *Kulturtanken* – Arts for Young Audiences Norway was given national responsibility for the programme in 2016.

⁸⁰ [RiddoDuottarMuseat](#) (RDM) is a foundation comprising of four Sami museums in Western Finnmark and a Sami art collection. RDM has North Sami as its main language.

⁸¹ <https://www.nuohtti.com>.

⁸² See Government of Norway - [Report](#) to the *Storting*, Meld. St. 17 (2024–2025), Sami language, culture and social life. Municipal services for Sami residents, page 19.

⁸³ See Council of Europe [Gender Equality Strategy](#) (2024-2029).

the *Dávvirat Duiskkas* (2021-2026), a project aimed at the identification and dissemination of Sami artifacts in heritage institutions in Germany and involves co-operation with Sami museums in Finland and Sweden and stakeholders across *Sápmi/Sábme/Saepmie*⁸⁴ (also Article 12.1.f). *Saemjen Sijte* also informed the Committee of Experts about ongoing projects with the South Sami Museum in Sweden (Articles 14.b, 7.1.i).

Use of the regional or minority languages in economic and social life

94. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Experts recommended that the Norwegian authorities “ensure that health and social care facilities such as hospitals and retirement homes offer services in North Sami.”

95. The Sami Act guarantees the right to receive services in Sami in public health and care institutions, as well as child welfare institutions, located in language development municipalities and language revitalisation municipalities. This right does not apply to nationwide institutions and care or welfare institutions unless otherwise specified by regulation. It is not clear to the Committee of Experts what the latter provision means in practice. The Committee of Experts considers that if there are nationwide health institutions located in areas in which these languages are traditionally used, health services in North Sami should be offered to comply with the undertakings of Article 13.2.c.

96. As regards the above-mentioned recommendation for immediate action from the previous cycle, the authorities report on several developments. These include the *Sami Klinihkka*, established in 2020 under Finnmark Hospital Trust and located in Karasjok/Kárášjohka, which is specifically aimed at Sami patients, with health services offered in North Sami through Sami-speaking staff and interpretation services. The authorities also report on financial support to Sami health teams, which are part of the Sami National Competence Service for Mental Health and Substance Use (SANKS). This outpatient service delivers specialised medical care in Sami languages with offices in Oslo, Røros/Rosse, Trondheim/Tråante, Hamarøy/Hábmer, Tromsø/Romsa, Kautokeino/Guovdageaidnu, and Karasjok/Kárášjohka.

97. The authorities further report that in March 2022, the Sami Parliament and the Northern Norway Regional Health Authority signed a co-operation agreement for joint efforts in ensuring equitable specialist services adapted to the patient's linguistic and cultural background. The Ministry of Health and Care Services has also directed regional health authorities to implement regional action plans in 2025 as a follow-up to the report “Specialist health services for the Sami population – interregional report 2023-2027”. The document contains joint actions across regions and includes the regional action plans specific to each region as a part of the implementation work of the 2020 Sami health strategy aimed at improving specialist health services for Sami people.⁸⁵ In addition, the authorities have taken measures to improve the availability of health staff in North Sami and, in 2021, the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway started a Sami nursing programme in collaboration with the Sami University of Applied Sciences, which is responsible for the courses in North Sami language and culture. The first cohort (five candidates) completed the programme in December 2024, and the second cohort started in January 2025.

98. The Committee of Experts welcomes the measures taken by the authorities to strengthen the use of North Sami in health facilities. It also notes the government's annual white paper to the *Storting*, Meld. St. 12 (2023–2024) on public health and living conditions in the Sami population, which documents access to health services and highlights, *inter alia*, the need to strengthen interpretation services.⁸⁶ While the Committee of Experts acknowledges that access to health services in North Sami

⁸⁴ Sápmi is the homeland of the Sami and covers the Northern part of four countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. See more at [Store Norske Leksikon](#).

⁸⁵ The report “Specialist health services for the Sami population – [interregional report](#) 2023-2027” was prepared in 2022 by an interregional working group with representatives from Norway's four Regional Health Authorities (Helse Nord, Helse Midt-Norge, Helse Vest, and Helse Sør-Øst), in dialogue with the Sami Parliament. The group was established to co-ordinate and compile the development of regional action plans as part of the implementation of the [2020 Sami health strategy](#) (*Spesialisthelsetjenester til den samiske befolkningen*), most of which were finalised in late 2022. See more [here](#).

⁸⁶ See Government of Norway - [Report](#) to the *Storting*, Meld. St. 12 (2023–2024), Sami language, culture and social life. Public health and living conditions in the Sami population, available in Norwegian.

is best developed in and around *Sami Klinihkka*, it observes that challenges remain, and access continues to be uneven across other municipalities and at different levels of the health care system.⁸⁷

99. The Committee of Experts reiterates that Article 13.2.c obliges the authorities to ensure that social care facilities offer the possibility of using the minority languages concerned, which requires a structured policy. In addition to the legal obligations already in place, the national authorities should identify the social care facilities located in the areas where the languages concerned are used, inform them of this obligation, and support them in taking the necessary practical measures to implement it. The regional action plans (see above) are steps towards such a structured policy and encourage the authorities to complement these with local action plans. The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving further information in the next periodical report on the implementation of the concrete measures included in the regional action plans specifically aimed at increasing the use of North Sami in health services.

100. Although Article 13.2.c does not apply to Lule Sami and South Sami, the Committee of Experts observes the challenges reported by representatives of speakers during the on-the-spot visit. There is limited health service provision in these languages despite existing legal obligation enshrined in the Sami Act, the right to interpretation is not well-known, and there is a dire need for such services, especially for the elderly in hospitals and retirement homes. The Committee of Experts commends local initiatives of employing Sami health contacts and the close co-operation with municipalities to increase the use of Lule Sami and South Sami in health services. The Committee of Experts also commends initiatives such as that of the municipality of Hamarøy/Hábmer, which organises professional training sessions for employees in the health sector to support staff in developing Lule Sami language and cultural competence.

101. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts noted several local initiatives concerning Article 13.1.d for Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami: the presence of Sami flags across Hamarøy/Hábmer municipality raising awareness of the presence of Lule Sami; intensive language promotion activities using visual means such as banners advertising language courses during the Sami Language Week; the possibility to use Lule Sami at the local shop in Drag/Ájluokta; the local café in Snåsa/Snåase also using South Sami signage and offering a menu in South Sami. The Committee of Experts also observes that the efforts of the authorities to develop Sami language technology and artificial intelligence can further enhance the use of Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami in economic and social life.

Use of the regional or minority languages in transfrontier exchanges

102. The authorities report on the use of Lule Sami, North Sami, and South Sami in transfrontier exchanges through a range of activities, funding measures, projects, and other forms of co-operation. For instance, co-operation in art and culture contributing to the promotion of the Sami languages is ensured, including through the Sami Artists' Council.⁸⁸ The Ministry of Culture and Equality also provides funding for the *Riddu Riddu* international festival and the Sami Artist Network *Dàiddádallu*. During Norway's 2022 presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers, the promotion of Sami culture was among the priorities, including a conference on Sami intangible cultural heritage in collaboration with partners from Sweden and Finland (Articles 7.1.i, 12.3).⁸⁹

103. The Committee of Experts welcomes the continued support for *Sámi Giellagáldu* (Nordic Resource Centre for Sami Languages), which is the expert professional body in matters relating to the standardisation of the Sami written languages (Articles 7.1.h, 7.1.i, 12.1.h, 14.b).⁹⁰ *Sámi Giellagáldu* is funded by the Sami Parliaments of Finland, Norway, and Sweden. The Sami Parliament in Norway has allocated NOK 52 258 000 i.e. € 4 493 118 to *Sámi Giellagáldu* in 2024. The Committee of Experts was informed during the on-the-spot visit that the initiative is at a crossroads, as its financing is at risk. In this context, funding from Norway is particularly important and the Committee of Experts reiterates its

⁸⁷ Also documented in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and [Innst. 30 S \(2024–2025\)](#) of the *Storting's* Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs.

⁸⁸ The [Sami Artist Council](#) (SDR) is an organisation founded by Sami artist member organisations in 1987. The purpose is to promote good and versatile Sami art. SDR receives financial support from the Sami Parliaments in Norway, Finland and Sweden and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

⁸⁹ See Ninth periodical report by Norway on the application of the Charter, [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 2](#), pages 16-17.

⁹⁰ See more about *Sámi Giellagáldu* [here](#).

call for sustainable funding for this commendable initiative from all concerned states parties to the Charter.⁹¹

104. The Committee of Experts also welcomes Norway's participation in the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL), a global initiative proclaimed by the United Nations' General Assembly for the period 2022-2032. The Sami Parliament and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development have jointly established a national collaboration forum for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032, which includes various Sami and other relevant institutions and focuses, *inter alia*, on Sami language technology and artificial intelligence. A network for Sami artificial intelligence, including representatives from technology communities, Sami language speakers, and government authorities, is under development. Norway has also developed an action plan to serve as a strategic framework for work during the decade.⁹² The Committee of Experts welcomes the action plan and its goals "See, Hear, Learn, Use" the Sami languages, and considers it a commendable initiative contributing to the revitalisation and use of these languages (Articles 7.1.d, 7.1.i, 14.b). The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving information on concrete implementation measures for each of the three Sami languages.

105. No governmental information was provided on transfrontier exchanges with regard to Romanes and Romani. Still, such exchanges take place mainly with Sweden concerning Romani, and co-operation projects are organised by the speakers. As regards Kven, the authorities report that existing funding schemes support cross-border co-operation and mention the activities of the theatre *Kvääniteatteri*, as well as other co-operation initiatives organised by the speakers (Article 7.1.i).

1.2 The situation of the individual regional or minority languages in Norway

Kven – Part II language

106. The Language Act establishes the responsibility of public bodies to protect and promote Kven as a national minority language (Articles 7.1.a, 7.1.c). The authorities report that the Targeted Plan for the Kven Language (2017-2021) was positively evaluated in 2022/2023, and that an Action Plan for the Kven Language is being developed in co-operation with the Language Council (Article 7.1.c). Since 2023, Arts and Culture Norway has administered the grant schemes for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture, and annual grants have been allocated to the operation of Kven language centres as well as to the Kven newspaper *Ruijan Kaiku*, with a steady increase since 2020. In 2025, the grant from the Ministry of Culture and Equality to the Kven Institute increased to NOK 8 700 000 i.e. € 747 894, up from NOK 6 855 000 i.e. € 589 265 in 2020 (Article 7.1.c). The Language Council of Norway has awarded the *Kväänin kielipalkinto* – Kven Language Prize twice since 2020 to individuals carrying out Kven language promotion work. A new building for the Vadsø Museum – Ruija Kven Museum, which also houses the Kven Language Centre (*Vesisaaren kväänin kielisentteri*), was opened in 2022. *Kvääniteatteri* (founded in September 2022) plays an important role in promoting Kven culture and language. It presents performances in both Norwegian and Kven on major stages and festivals across the country, in collaboration with Kven language centres, municipalities and other partners, including *Riksteatret* (National Norwegian Touring Theatre).

107. *NRK Kvensk/Kvääni* offers content about the Kven language, culture, and Kven-related news through articles and audiovisual materials. It has expanded its editorial team in 2024 and has now two journalists. The podcast *Kaffiprati* was launched in 2025 and is available on NRK's online platforms. The *Ruijan Kaiku* newspaper is running with minimal funds according to representatives of speakers, publishing only ten issues per year. There is currently no ongoing live radio broadcast in Kven, however, *Ruijan Radio* (run by *Ruijan Kaiku*) regularly produces podcasts available online in Norwegian with some content in Kven.

108. Kven is used at the pre-school level, with project funding allocated to kindergartens in Troms/Tromsø and Finnmark/Finmarkku to promote Kven. The authorities inform that for the 2024/2025 school year, 60 pupils studied Kven as a second language at primary and lower secondary

⁹¹ See also Eight evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Norway, [MIN-LANG\(2021\)20](#), para. 53; Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' sixth evaluation report on Finland, [MIN-LANG \(2025\) 24](#), paras. 18-20; Eight evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Sweden, [MIN-LANG \(2022\) 16](#), para.102.

⁹² See Norway's National [Action Plan](#) for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032.

levels, while only two pupils studied Kven at the upper secondary level (Article 7.1.f). Representatives of speakers report that the offer of Kven education does not meet parents' demand, and that the path of requesting Kven education can be challenging. They also report a shortage of teachers and a continued shortage of educational materials, despite grant schemes and support from the Directorate for Education and Training. The authorities inform that in 2024, a pilot project was launched to test distance learning in Kven for schools without qualified local teachers. The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has established a working group to develop and evaluate how the digital learning platform *Digilær* can be used for online Kven instruction. The platform is not widely used yet, but speakers believe it could contribute to and improve Kven language education.

109. The University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway offers various programmes in Kven and Finnish, including teacher training and research (Article 7.1.h). As regards adult education, Kven language courses are provided by the Kven language centres. Adapted textbooks for adult education continue to be an issue, as reported by representatives of speakers. In addition, representatives of Kven speakers regret that the one-year Kven study programmes (also for adults) are offered only every other year (Article 7.1.g).

Lule Sami – Part II and Part III language

110. While the legal basis for the promotion and protection of Lule Sami across the domains covered by the Charter is overall satisfactory, there is a severe lack of Lule Sami-speaking interpreters and professionals in many fields, and a structured approach is specifically needed to address this issue. Norway's national action plan for Sami languages in the framework of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022–2032), as well as ongoing measures for the development of digital and artificial intelligence-based solutions for use in all the domains covered by the Charter, are understood to also include Lule Sami (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d, 12.1.h, 14.b).

111. As far as education is concerned, Lule Sami is available at the pre-school level in two kindergartens (one private and one public), both located in Hamarøy/Hábmer municipality. Lule Sami is taught as a first and second language at the primary and lower secondary levels (grades 1-10) at Drag School/ *Ájluovta skåvllå*, the only school in Norway where pupils receive daily, on-site instruction in Lule Sami (Article 8.1.biv). Nord Salten upper secondary school/ *Nuortta-Sálto joarkkaskåvllå* is a resource school for Lule Sami in Nordland at the upper secondary level (Article 8.1.civ). Teaching of Lule Sami is organised through distance education for other pupils who cannot attend these schools in person, and currently, Grønnåsen School in Bodø is the main provider of Lule Sami distance education.⁹³ As regards educational materials, the situation is critical for Lule Sami: there is a severe lack of textbooks, and teachers are producing their own, significantly increasing the workload for the few existing Lule Sami teachers. Recruitment to existing Lule Sami teacher training programmes at Nord University remains low and there is persisting shortage of teachers. At the university level, Lule Sami can be studied at Nord University (although no intake in 2025) as well as at Sami University of Applied Sciences and at the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway (Article 7.1.h). The history and culture reflected by Lule Sami are addressed in mainstream education and have been enhanced following the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Article 8.1.g).

112. The authorities report that within the Sami administrative area for Sami languages, the use of Lule Sami interpreters and translators does not involve extra expense for the person concerned (Article 9.1.d). The information available indicates that Lule Sami has not been used before judicial authorities and currently there are no Lule Sami interpreters registered in the National Interpretation Register.⁹⁴ Documents in Lule Sami may be validly submitted (Article 9.2.a). National statutory texts and relevant legislation are not available in Lule Sami (Article 9.3).

113. Lule Sami has limited use before administrative authorities (Article 10) and is not used within the framework of regional or local authorities although bilingual names of institutions exist (Article 10.2.a). Individuals may submit oral or written applications in Lule Sami, and forms in Lule Sami can be

⁹³ The authorities inform that in the 2024/2025 school year, at the primary and lower secondary levels (grades 1-10), 30 pupils studied Lule Sami as a first language, 82 as a second language, and 6 as a third language. At the upper secondary level (ages 16-19), 212 pupils studied one of the Sami languages as a first language and 453 as a second language (Articles 8.1.biv, 8.1.civ). The data provided by the authorities also indicate that 982 pupils received remote instruction in Sami during the same school year. However, at the upper secondary level and in distance learning, the data combine all three Sami languages.

⁹⁴ Articles 9.1.ai, 9.1.a.ii, 9.1.a.iii, 9.1.a.iv, 9.1.bi, 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii.

made available upon request, but this rarely occurs (Article 10.2.b). Official documents are not available in Lule Sami (Article 10.2.d). Place names, including road signs, are available in Lule Sami (Article 10.2.g), and the use of family names in Lule Sami is possible (Article 10.5). According to the Sami Act, public bodies may require Sami language skills for relevant positions, and employees are entitled to paid leave to learn Sami if needed for their work. Hamarøy/Hábmer municipality is making efforts to increase Sami-speaking personnel, and it is commendable that a Sami adviser position has been established within the administration. However, more staff are still needed, as Sami-speaking personnel remain scarce, which hampers the use of Lule Sami in administration in accordance with the ratified undertakings under the Charter (Article 10.4.b).

114. Lule Sami has a very limited presence in public radio and television (NRK). *Juorre*, a weekly podcast in Lule Sami, is available on NRK's online platforms and its target group is mainly younger audiences according to representatives of speakers (Articles 11.1.iii and 11.1.d). The available information does not indicate that any private radio or television broadcasters offer regular programmes in Lule Sami (Articles 11.1.bi, 11.1.cii). There are no newspapers published in Lule Sami (Article 11.1.ei). Grants for local audio and video media include operational funding for local radio stations broadcasting in Lule Sami (Article 11.1.fii). There are no restrictions on access to radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries (Article 11.2).

115. Lule Sami is used in cultural activities and facilities, and support is provided including by local authorities (Article 12). The Árran Lule Sami Centre plays a central role in promoting Lule Sami not only in the cultural field but also in other areas. The Nordland Museum and the Árran Lule Sami Centre have collaborated on a Sami exhibition, which opened in 2024 at the Bodø City Museum (Article 12.1.d). Lule Sami is used in the field of cross-border co-operation through various activities, institutions, and projects (Article 7.1.i, 14.b).

North Sami – Part II and Part III language

116. North Sami is the most widely spoken Sami language in Norway and most of the undertakings under the Charter are fulfilled for this language. The Committee of Experts welcomes the Norwegian authorities' efforts to promote and protect North Sami, while underscoring that North Sami is still in a vulnerable position, particularly outside the Sami administrative area.

117. As far as education is concerned, North Sami is taught at pre-school level and kindergarten have been free of charge in Finnmark/Finnmárku and North Troms/Romsa as of 1 August 2023. However, it is not clear if, despite these measures, the offer meets parents' demand. Representatives of speakers expressed concern that the existing Kindergarten Act does not provide for a right to education in Sami and that there is a lack of strong immersion models in North Sami at this level (Article 8.1.iii). North Sami is taught as a first, second, and third language, and teaching in North Sami is organised across municipalities within the administrative area for Sami languages.⁹⁵ This is delivered through both in-person participation and distance learning for pupils living outside areas with local teachers (Articles 8.1.biv, 8.1.civ). However, there is a need for more educational materials and for updates to existing ones. North Sami is also taught at technical and vocational levels and at university level, from beginner to doctoral levels (Articles 8.1.div, 8.1.eii). In the national budget for 2024, the Sami University of Applied Science received funding to establish a Sami interpreter programme. The history and culture expressed through North Sami are included in mainstream education (Article 8.1.g).

118. The authorities report that within the Sami administrative area for Sami languages, the use of North Sami interpreters and translators does not involve extra expenses for the persons concerned (Article 9.1.d). The information available indicates that North Sami has been used before judicial authorities and there are currently nine North Sami interpreters registered in the National Interpretation Register.⁹⁶ Documents in North Sami may be validly submitted (Article 9.2.a). National statutory texts and relevant legislation are available in North Sami (Article 9.3).

119. The information available also indicates that North Sami has been used before administrative authorities (Article 10), including in relation with local branches of state authorities such as the

⁹⁵ In the 2024/2025 school year, at the primary and lower secondary levels (grades 1-10), 985 pupils studied North Sami as a first language, 891 as a second language, and 634 as a third language.

⁹⁶ Articles 9.1.ai, 9.1.a.ii, 9.1.a.iii, 9.1.a.iv, 9.1.bi, 9.1.b.ii, 9.1.b.iii.

Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration and the police (Article 10.1.iii). Documents, forms, rules and local regulations, tax returns, including new passports are available in North Sami and no issues regarding their access were reported during the current monitoring cycle (Article 10.1.b as well as Articles 10.1.c, 10.2.b, 10.2.c, 10.2.d). Place names including road signs are available in North Sami (Article 10.2.g) and the use of family names in North Sami is possible (Article 10.5). According to the Sami Act, public bodies may require Sami language skills for relevant positions and employees are entitled to paid leave to learn Sami if needed for their work (Article 10.4.b).

120. North Sami is present in public radio and television (NRK), and broadcasting in North Sami covers a variety of thematic genres (e.g. music, news, politics, culture) and addresses different target groups (Article 11.1.iii). *Ávvir* is a daily newspaper in North Sami, published both in print and online (Article 11.1.ei). Grants for local audio and video media include operational funding for local radio stations broadcasting in North Sami (Article 11.1.fii). There are no restrictions on access to radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries (Article 11.2).

121. The authorities have ensured continued support for cultural activities and facilities in North Sami (Article 12), including the promotion and financing of terminological research services by various institutions, such as *Sámi Giellagáldu* and the Research Council of Norway. In the national budget for 2024, the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway received a grant to establish a centre for Sami lexicography (Articles 7.1.h, 12.1.h).

122. The authorities report several measures to increase the use of North Sami in social care facilities, including through the functioning of key facilities such as *Sami Klinihkka*, which offers specialist health services in North Sami. However, access to services in North Sami varies across municipalities within the Sami administrative area, particularly with regard to primary health care at the local level (Article 13.2.c).

123. North Sami is used in the field of cross-border co-operation through a wide range of activities, institutions, and projects. Funding is also allocated by the Sami Parliament for local cross-border projects. For example, in 2025, the Sami Parliament allocated funds to the municipal language centre in Tana to organise a language camp for North Sami children in Tana/Deanu, as well as in Finland.

Romanes – Part II language

124. Romanes is protected as a non-territorial language, and the Language Act establishes the responsibility of public bodies to protect and promote Romanes as a national minority language (Article 7.1.a). At present, there is no strategy or action plan for promoting the use of Romanes in public and private life or for implementing the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d). The measures taken by the authorities have mainly focused on standardising the language and developing teaching resources (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.f) with support from the Language Council and Arts Council Norway. Existing funding schemes may support cultural events promoting Romanes by organisations of speakers and cultural institutions, such as the *Romano Kher*, which has also produced books and fairy tales in Romanes (Articles 7.1.d, 7.1.f). There are no television or radio programmes in Romanes. The short film *Lavina* in Romanes, remains available on the NRK TV (online streaming platform). The *Romano Kher* is running the Romanes-language news programme *Nevimos Norvego* on social media and produces audio-visual materials in Romanes (Article 7.1.d). Romanes is not included in formal education. However, the School Guidance Service in Oslo has a pre-school programme at *Romano Kher* combining Romanes and Norwegian, aiming to promote bilingual development and ease the transition into school (Article 7.1.f). Romanes is not studied nor researched at university level (Article 7.1.h). Lørenskog Municipality in co-operation with *Romano Kher* is implementing the “Together for Roma” programme, which aims to improve the inclusion of Roma pupils in schools and translate public information into Romanes. There has been cross-border co-operation promoting Romanes, with *Romano Kher* collaborating with organisations of speakers from Romania and Sweden and participating in EEA and Norway Grants-funded projects in the field of culture and education. Such projects include “GENDAL’IPEN - Reflection” (2021-2023), which aimed at supporting cultural exchanges between Norway, Iceland, and Czechia. The project “Together with Roma We Will Achieve More” (2020-2023), was an educational initiative between Norway and the Slovak Republic with the European Wergeland Centre (Norway) as a partner.⁹⁷

⁹⁷ See “[GENDAL’IPEN - Reflection](#)” and “[Together with Roma We Will Achieve More](#)”.

Romani – Part II language

125. Romani is protected as a non-territorial language, and the Language Act establishes the responsibility of public bodies to protect and promote Romani as a national minority language (Article 7.1.a). At present, there is no strategy or action plan for promoting the use of Romani in public and private life nor for implementing the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d). Existing funding schemes may support cultural initiatives promoting Romani by organisations of speakers. There is a separate grant scheme for the Romani Collective Reparation to the Romani people (Taters), the purpose of which is to contribute to preserving, developing, and giving visibility to the culture, language, and history of the Romani people. However, there is no information on the allocation of these funds for the promotion of Romani in 2024. Representatives of Romani speakers report cuts in financial support and the discontinuation of support for the maintenance of the Romani language learning app (*New amigos*), which was developed in the framework of a language project in the current monitoring cycle. The museums in Sør-Trøndelag have received funding for 2025 for a project to relocate an intact Tater settlement from Levanger to the Sverresborg Open Air Museum in Trondheim. Some measures to standardise the Romani language have been supported by the authorities, with limited involvement by the Language Council, which, for instance, organises the reference group for the ongoing development of a Romani grammar book (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d, 7.1.f). Romani is not used in the media, nor in public life, and is not taught in formal education, nor at the university level (Articles 7.1.d, 7.1.f, 7.1.h).

South Sami – Part II and Part III language

126. While the legal basis for the promotion and protection of South Sami across the domains covered by the Charter is overall satisfactory, there is a severe lack of South Sami-speaking interpreters and professionals in many fields, and a structured approach is specifically needed to address this issue.

127. As far as education is concerned, South Sami is available at the pre-school level in Snåsa/Snåase, Røyrvik/Raarvihke, Røros/Rosse as well as Trondheim. The South Sami School/*Åarjel-saemiej skuvle* in Snåsa/Snåase is a key place for in-person education in South Sami and serves as a resource school for all South Sami pupils in Norway (Article 8.1.biv). It is a primary school (grades 1-7) and boarding school offering South Sami language education (both as a first and second language). It also offers distance learning, and cultural programmes including to Sami pupils from Sweden; it collaborates with Snåsa/Snåase lower secondary school to provide continued education at the lower secondary level (grades 7-10). South Sami is also taught at Grong/Kråangke and Røros/Rosse upper secondary schools (Article 8.1.civ). The main providers of South Sami distance education are the South Sami Knowledge Park (*Åarjelsaemien Vierhtiesåafoe*) in Hattfjelldal/Aarborte and the South Sami School/*Åarjel-saemiej skuvle* in Snåsa/Snåase.⁹⁸ As regards textbooks, the situation is challenging also for South Sami. In addition, recruitment to existing South Sami teacher training programmes at Nord University remains low despite existing scholarships allocated by the Sami Parliament, at the municipal and county level. At the university level, South Sami can be studied at the Nord University as well as at the Sami University of Applied Sciences and at the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway (Article 7.1.h). The history and culture reflected by South Sami are addressed in mainstream education and have been enhanced following the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Article 8.1.g).

128. The authorities report that within the Sami administrative area for Sami languages, the use of South Sami interpreters and translators does not involve extra expense for the person concerned (Article 9.1.d). The information available indicates that South Sami has not been used before judicial authorities and currently there are no South Sami interpreters registered in the National Interpretation Register.⁹⁹ Documents in South Sami may be validly submitted (Article 9.2.a). National statutory texts and relevant legislation are not available in South Sami (Article 9.3).

129. South Sami has limited use before administrative authorities (Article 10) and the information available indicates that it is not used within the framework of regional or local authorities (Article 10.2.a). Individuals may submit oral or written applications in South Sami, and forms in South Sami can be made available upon request, but this is rarely requested (Article 10.2.b). The information available indicates

⁹⁸ The authorities report that in the 2024/2025 school year, at the primary and lower secondary levels (grades 1-10), 22 pupils studied South Sami as a first language, 119 as a second language, and 7 as a third language.

⁹⁹ Articles 9.1.ai, 9.1.a.ii, 9.1.a.iii, 9.1.a.iv, 9.1.bi, 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii.

that local official documents are not generally available in South Sami (Article 10.2.d). Place names, including road signs, are available in South Sami (Article 10.2.g), and the use of family names in South Sami is possible (Article 10.5). According to the Sami Act, public bodies may require Sami language skills for relevant positions, and employees are entitled to paid leave to learn Sami if needed for their work. South Sami municipalities are making efforts to increase the number of Sami-speaking personnel; for example, the municipality of Snåsa/Snåase publishes new vacancies in South Sami as part of its South Sami language plan and encourages Sami language skills among all applicants (Article 10.4.b).

130. South Sami has a very limited presence in public radio and television (NRK). Representatives of South Sami speakers report that several television programmes for children in South Sami previously existed, but these are no longer available. Similarly, the podcast *Hævvvi* was discontinued in 2025, though the episodes are still available on the NRK online platforms (Articles 11.1.a.iii and 11.1.d). The available information does not indicate that any private radio or television broadcasters offer regular programmes in South Sami (Articles 11.1.b.i, 11.1.c.ii). There are no newspapers in South Sami (Article 11.1.e.i). Grants for local audio and video media include operational funding for local radio stations broadcasting in Lule Sami (Article 11.1.f.ii). There are no restrictions on access to radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries (Article 11.2).

131. South Sami is used in cultural activities and facilities throughout the South Sami municipalities and support is provided including by local authorities (Article 12). *Saemien Sijte*, which is central to the promotion of South Sami language and culture, opened its new building in Snåsa/Snåase in June 2022. The building offers exhibition spaces, workshops for various *duodji* (traditional Sami handicrafts), and storage for Sami cultural artefacts.

132. South Sami is promoted in economic and social life across South Sami municipalities, with a range of activities and initiatives enhanced during the Sami language week. Examples from Snåsa/Snåase, visited by the Committee of Experts, include South Sami signage in the local café and library, as well as at the Snåsa Fishing Festival (Article 13.1.d).

133. South Sami is also used in the field of cross-border co-operation through various range of activities, institutions, and projects and there is municipal co-operation promoting South Sami with Sweden (Articles 7.1.i, 14.b).

Chapter 2 Compliance of Norway with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and recommendations

2.1 Kven¹⁰⁰

2.1.1 Compliance of Norway with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Kven

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Norway concerning Kven ¹⁰¹	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of Kven as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Kven	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Kven	=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Kven, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Kven • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Kven at all appropriate stages		=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Kven to learn it		=		
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Kven at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Kven	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Kven	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Kven among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Kven among their objectives	↗			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Kven • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Kven		=		

* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking or the Committee of Experts has over several monitoring cycles not received any information on the implementation.

No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

¹⁰⁰ The Committee of Experts understands the denomination 'Kven', as employed in this evaluation report, to mean all varieties of the Finno-Ugric language traditionally used by the national minority of Kvens/Norwegian Finns, including Old Finnish, Our Finnish, Kven Finnish and Finnish. See footnote 6 and para. 9 of this report.

¹⁰¹ In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/treaty> (treaty No. 148).

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

134. The Committee of Experts notes that awareness of the Kven language and culture has increased following the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and the adoption of the new curriculum in 2020. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.3 fulfilled.

2.1.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Kven in Norway

The Committee of Experts recommends the Norwegian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.1.1 above) as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Norway¹⁰² remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. **Ensure that Kven is adequately taught at all levels of education, in particular at pre-school, including language nests and upper secondary level.**
- b. **Take effective measures to support and increase the number of Kven teachers and availability of educational materials.**
- c. **Improve the media offer in Kven in the broadcast media.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Encourage the provision of facilities and funding (including textbooks for adults) enabling non-speakers of Kven to learn it.
- e. Provide more sustainable public funding for the protection and promotion of Kven and organisation of cultural activities.

¹⁰² [RecChL\(2001\)5](#); [RecChL\(2003\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2007\)3](#); [CM/RecChL\(2010\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)8](#); [CM/RecChL\(2015\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)3](#).

2.2 Lule Sami

2.2.1 Compliance of Norway with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Lule Sami

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change
x first evaluation (after the 2021 declaration)¹⁰³

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Norway concerning Lule Sami ¹⁰⁴	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Part II of the Charter <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of Lule Sami as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Lule Sami		=		
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Lule Sami	=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Lule Sami, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Lule Sami • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Lule Sami at all appropriate stages	=			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Lule Sami to learn it	↗			
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Lule Sami at universities or equivalent institutions		=		
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Lule Sami	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Lule Sami	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Lule Sami among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Lule Sami among their objectives	↗			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Lule Sami • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Lule Sami	=			
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Lule Sami, a substantial part of primary education in Lule Sami or teaching of Lule Sami as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient	x			
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in Lule Sami, a substantial part of secondary education in Lule Sami or teaching of Lule Sami as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	x			
8.1.fii	offer Lule Sami as a subject of adult and continuing education	x			
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Lule Sami	x			
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Lule Sami and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings		x		
8.2	in territories other than those in which Lule Sami is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of Lule Sami at all the appropriate stages of education				x

¹⁰³ Based on the declaration of 1 October 2021, the Government of Norway formally accepted additional undertakings for Lule Sami under Part III of the Charter. See para.7.

¹⁰⁴ In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/treaty> (treaty No. 148).

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Norway concerning Lule Sami ¹⁰⁴	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.ai	provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the criminal proceedings in Lule Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Lule Sami in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.1.a.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Lule Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.1.a.iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Lule Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.1.bi	provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the civil proceedings in Lule Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			x	
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Lule Sami in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			x	
9.1.b.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Lule Sami in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			x	
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Lule Sami and the related use of documents and evidence in Lule Sami, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.2.a	not to deny the validity of legal documents solely because they are drafted in Lule Sami	x			
9.3	make available in Lule Sami the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Lule Sami				x
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services					
10.1.a.iii	ensure that users of Lule Sami may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Lule Sami			x	
10.2.a	use of Lule Sami within the framework of the regional or local authority				x
10.2.b	possibility for users of Lule Sami to submit oral or written applications in Lule Sami to the regional or local authority			x	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Lule Sami				x
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Lule Sami in debates in their assemblies			x	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Lule Sami	x			
10.3.b	allow users of Lule Sami to submit a request to and receive a reply from public service providers in Lule Sami			x	
10.4.b	recruitment and training of officials and public service employees speaking Lule Sami		x		
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Lule Sami	x			
Art. 11 – Media					
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Lule Sami				x
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Lule Sami				x
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Lule Sami on a regular basis				x
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Lule Sami		x		
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Lule Sami				x
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Lule Sami	x			
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Lule Sami • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Lule Sami • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Lule Sami	x			

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Norway concerning Lule Sami ¹⁰⁴	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Lule Sami are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media	x			
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities					
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Lule Sami		x		
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Lule Sami language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	x			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Lule Sami		x		
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Lule Sami in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	x			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Lule Sami	x			
12.2	In territories other than those in which Lule Sami is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Lule Sami	x			
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Lule Sami and the culture it reflects	x			
Art. 13 – Economic and social life					
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Lule Sami in economic and social life	x			
13.2.b	in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of Lule Sami in economic and social life				x
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.b	for the benefit of Lule Sami, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Lule Sami is used in identical or similar form	x			

* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking or the Committee of Experts has over several monitoring cycles not received any information on the implementation.

No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

135. The Committee of Experts notes that awareness of the Lule Sami language and culture has increased following the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and the adoption of the new curriculum in 2020. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.3 fulfilled. The Sami Parliament informs that Sami language centres offer Lule Sami courses to adults, including adult non-speakers with funding specifically allocated for this matter. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.g fulfilled.

2.2.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Lule Sami in Norway

The Committee of Experts recommends the Norwegian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.2.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Norway¹⁰⁵ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. Take further measures to strengthen and revitalise Lule Sami, in particular ensuring sustainable funding for educational facilities.**
- b. Take measures to increase the availability of teachers teaching in Lule Sami at all appropriate stages and intensify the development of educational materials.**
- c. Provide regular offer of media programmes in Lule Sami.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not create obstacles for the promotion of Lule Sami.
- e. Adopt a structured approach to increase the availability of Lule Sami speaking professionals as well as translators and interpreters.
- f. Strengthen measures to ensure the monitoring of progress achieved in the teaching of Lule Sami.
- g. Ensure an effective implementation of the legislation pertaining to Lule Sami before judicial and administrative authorities.

¹⁰⁵ [RecChL\(2001\)5](#); [RecChL\(2003\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2007\)3](#); [CM/RecChL\(2010\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)8](#); [CM/RecChL\(2015\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)3](#).

2.3 North Sami

2.3.1 Compliance of Norway with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of North Sami

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change
x first evaluation

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of Norway concerning North Sami ¹⁰⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
Part II of the Charter <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of North Sami as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of North Sami	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote North Sami	=				
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of North Sami, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life	=				
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using North Sami • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=				
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of North Sami at all appropriate stages	=				
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of North Sami to learn it	=				
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on North Sami at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of North Sami	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of North Sami	=				
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to North Sami among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to North Sami among their objectives	↗				
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses North Sami • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to North Sami	=				
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.iii	make available pre-school education in North Sami or a substantial part of pre-school education in North Sami at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient	=				
8.1.biv	make available primary education in North Sami, a substantial part of primary education in North Sami or teaching of North Sami as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient	=				

¹⁰⁶ In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: [http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/\(treaty No. 148\)](http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/(treaty%20No.%20148)).

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of Norway concerning North Sami ¹⁰⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in North Sami, a substantial part of secondary education in North Sami or teaching of North Sami as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	=				
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in North Sami, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in North Sami or teaching of North Sami as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	=				
8.1.eii	provide facilities for the study of North Sami as a university and higher education subject	=				
8.1.fii	offer North Sami as a subject of adult and continuing education	=				
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by North Sami	=				
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) North Sami		=			
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of North Sami and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings		✓			
8.2	in territories other than those in which North Sami is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of North Sami at all the appropriate stages of education	=				
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.ai	provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the criminal proceedings in North Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.a ii	guarantee the accused the right to use North Sami in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.a iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in North Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.a iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in North Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.bi	provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the civil proceedings in North Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.b ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use North Sami in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.b iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in North Sami in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in North Sami and the related use of documents and evidence in North Sami, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.2.a	not to deny the validity of legal documents solely because they are drafted in North Sami	=				
9.3	make available in North Sami the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of North Sami	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a iii	ensure that users of North Sami may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in North Sami	=				
10.1.b	make available widely used national administrative texts and forms in North Sami or in bilingual versions	↗				
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in North Sami	=				
10.2.a	use of North Sami within the framework of the regional or local authority	=				
10.2.b	possibility for users of North Sami to submit oral or written applications in North Sami to the regional or local authority	=				
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in North Sami	=				

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of Norway concerning North Sami ¹⁰⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in North Sami	=				
10.2.e	use by regional authorities of North Sami in debates in their assemblies	=				
10.2.f	use by local authorities of North Sami in debates in their assemblies	=				
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in North Sami	=				
10.3.b	allow users of North Sami to submit a request to and receive a reply from public service providers in North Sami	=				
10.4.a	translation or interpretation	=				
10.4.b	recruitment and training of officials and public service employees speaking North Sami	x				
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in North Sami	=				
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in North Sami	=				
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in North Sami	=				
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in North Sami on a regular basis				✓	
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in North Sami	x				
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in North Sami	=				
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audio-visual productions in North Sami	=				
11.1.g	support the training of journalists and other staff for media using North Sami	=				
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in North Sami • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in North Sami • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in North Sami	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of North Sami are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media	x				
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in North Sami	=				
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the North Sami language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=				
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of North Sami	=				
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of North Sami in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in North Sami	=				
12.1.h	create and/or promote and finance translation and terminological research services, particularly with a view to maintaining and developing administrative, commercial, economic, social, technical or legal terminology in North Sami	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which North Sami is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using North Sami	=				
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for North Sami and the culture it reflects	=				
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of North Sami in economic and social life	x				
13.2.b	in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of North Sami in economic and social life					x
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of North Sami		=			

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Norway concerning North Sami ¹⁰⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
13.2.e	arrange for information provided by the authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in North Sami				✓
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.b	for the benefit of North Sami, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory North Sami is used in identical or similar form	=			

* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking or the Committee of Experts has over several monitoring cycles not received any information on the implementation.

No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

136. The Committee of Experts notes that awareness of the North Sami language and culture has increased following the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and the adoption of the new curriculum in 2020. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.3 fulfilled. The Committee of Experts was informed that the current monitoring of North Sami in education focuses only on quantity and less on quality and therefore considers Article 8.1.i partly fulfilled. Widely used national administrative texts and forms in North Sami or in bilingual versions are available on public websites. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.1.b fulfilled. The authorities state that they are not aware of any private television broadcasters that offer regular programmes in Sami. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 11.1.cii not fulfilled. The authorities report that there is no information available in North Sami regarding the rights of consumers from public authorities, therefore the Committee of Experts considers Article 13.2.e not fulfilled.

137. As for Article 13.2.b, the Committee of Experts does not have information on its implementation, as ratification of this undertaking occurred after the submission of the ninth periodical report.

2.3.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of North Sami in Norway

The Committee of Experts recommends the Norwegian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.3.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Norway¹⁰⁷ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

¹⁰⁷ [RecChL\(2001\)5](#); [RecChL\(2003\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2007\)3](#); [CM/RecChL\(2010\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)8](#); [CM/RecChL\(2015\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)3](#).

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. Ensure the availability of sufficient places in kindergartens and encourage models where North Sami is used for all or large parts of teaching and/or interaction, so as to meet the demands by parents.**
- b. Ensure that health and social care facilities, such as hospitals and retirement homes, offer services in North Sami.**

II. Further recommendations

- c. Strengthen measures to increase the availability of educational materials and teachers teaching in North Sami at all appropriate stages.
- d. Strengthen measures to ensure the monitoring of progress achieved in the teaching of North Sami.
- e. Enhance the availability of translation and interpretation from and into North Sami for speakers in contact with authorities and public services, by promoting and supporting the training and recruiting of translators and interpreters.
- f. Arrange that information concerning the rights of consumers is provided in North Sami.

2.4 Romanes

2.4.1 Compliance of Norway with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Romanes

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Norway concerning Romanes ¹⁰⁸	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of Romanes as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Romanes				= 109
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Romanes		=		
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Romanes, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Romanes • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Romanes at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Romanes to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Romanes at universities or equivalent institutions				✓
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Romanes	↗			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Romanes		=		
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romanes among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romanes among their objectives		=		
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Romanes • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Romanes		=		

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking or the Committee of Experts has over several monitoring cycles not received any information on the implementation.

No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

In its evaluation of the application of Art. 7.1-7.4 to Romanes, the Committee of Experts has kept in mind that these provisions should be applied *mutatis mutandis*.

¹⁰⁸ In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/> (treaty No. 148).

¹⁰⁹ As Romanes is a non-territorial language according to the ratification by Norway, this undertaking is not applicable.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

138. The Committee of Experts was informed that Romanes is not studied at university level and there is little or no research concerning Romanes and therefore considers Article 7.1.h not fulfilled. There has been cross-border co-operation promoting Romanes by *Romano Kher* and organisations of speakers from Romania and Sweden, as well as within the framework of EEA and Norway grants funded projects with Iceland, Czechia and the Slovak Republic; therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.i fulfilled.

2.4.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Romanes in Norway

The Committee of Experts recommends the Norwegian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.4.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Norway¹¹⁰ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. **Adopt a strategy and action plan for the implementation of the Charter to Romanes.**
- b. **Develop a sustainable teaching model for Romanes, in particular in kindergarten, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Strengthen efforts to promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romanes among the objectives of education and media.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Strengthen the media offer in Romanes.
- e. Encourage university-level research and study of Romanes.
- f. Provide more sustainable public funding to the protection and promotion of Romanes.
- g. Strengthen the consultation mechanism with the Romanes speakers.

¹¹⁰ [RecChL\(2001\)5](#); [RecChL\(2003\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2007\)3](#); [CM/RecChL\(2010\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)8](#); [CM/RecChL\(2015\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)3](#).

2.5 Romani

2.5.1 Compliance of Norway with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Romani

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Norway concerning Romani ¹¹¹	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of Romani as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Romani				= 112
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Romani				✓
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Romani, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Romani • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↗		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Romani at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Romani to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Romani at universities or equivalent institutions		↘		
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Romani		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Romani		=		
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romani among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romani among their objectives		=		
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Romani • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Romani		=		

* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking or the Committee of Experts has over several monitoring cycles not received any information on the implementation.

No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

¹¹¹ In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/treaty> (treaty No. 148).

¹¹² As Romani is a non-territorial language according to the ratification by Norway, this undertaking is not applicable.

In its evaluation of the application of Art. 7.1-7.4 to Romani, the Committee of Experts has kept in mind that these provisions should be applied *mutatis mutandis*.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

139. The Committee of Experts received inconsistent information about funding of projects dedicated to the protection and promotion of Romani (see para. 31 and 125) and is not in the position to conclude on Article 7.1.c. Cultural links are maintained to a limited extent through the Contact Forum and other events organised by organisations of speakers. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts notes that there is no study or research of Romani at university level but an online Norwegian Romani dictionary from previous research remains available.¹¹³ The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.h partly fulfilled. The Language Council organised a conference on Romanes and Romani in co-operation with Sweden in 2026. There are also cross-border projects organised by speakers in co-operation with Sweden. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.i partly fulfilled.

2.5.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Romani in Norway

The Committee of Experts recommends the Norwegian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.5.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Norway¹¹⁴ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. Adopt a strategy and action plan for the implementation of the Charter to Romani.**
- b. Develop a sustainable teaching model for Romani, in particular in kindergarten, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. Strengthen efforts to promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romani among the objectives of education and media.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Strengthen the media offer in Romani.
- e. Encourage university-level research and teaching on Romani.
- f. Provide more sustainable public funding to the protection and promotion of Romani.
- g. Strengthen the consultation mechanism with the Romani speakers.

¹¹³ See at <https://tekstlab.uio.no/nro/htdocs/>.

¹¹⁴ [RecChL\(2001\)5](#); [RecChL\(2003\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2007\)3](#); [CM/RecChL\(2010\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)8](#); [CM/RecChL\(2015\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)3](#).

2.6 South Sami

2.6.1 Compliance of Norway with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of South Sami

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change
x first evaluation (after the 2021 declaration)¹¹⁵

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Norway concerning South Sami ¹¹⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of South Sami as an expression of cultural wealth	=			
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of South Sami	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote South Sami	=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of South Sami, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=		
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using South Sami • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of South Sami at all appropriate stages	↗			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of South Sami to learn it	↗			
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on South Sami at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of South Sami	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of South Sami	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to South Sami among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to South Sami among their objectives	↗			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses South Sami • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to South Sami	=			
Part III of the Charter (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.biv	make available primary education in South Sami, a substantial part of primary education in South Sami or teaching of South Sami as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient	x			
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in South Sami, a substantial part of secondary education in South Sami or teaching of South Sami as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	x			
8.1.fii	offer South Sami as a subject of adult and continuing education	x			
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by South Sami	x			

¹¹⁵ Based on the declaration of 1 October 2021, the Government of Norway formally accepted additional undertakings for South Sami under Part III of the Charter. See para.7.

¹¹⁶ In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/> (treaty No. 148).

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Norway concerning South Sami ¹¹⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of South Sami and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings		x		
8.2	in territories other than those in which South Sami is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of South Sami at all the appropriate stages of education				x
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.ai	provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the criminal proceedings in South Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use South Sami in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.1.a.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in South Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.1.a.iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in South Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.1.b.i	provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the civil proceedings in South Sami, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			x	
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use South Sami in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			x	
9.1.b.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in South Sami in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			x	
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in South Sami and the related use of documents and evidence in South Sami, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned			x	
9.2.a	not to deny the validity of legal documents solely because they are drafted in South Sami	x			
9.3	make available in South Sami the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of South Sami				x
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services					
10.1.a.iii	ensure that users of South Sami may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in South Sami			x	
10.2.a	use of South Sami within the framework of the regional or local authority				x
10.2.b	possibility for users of South Sami to submit oral or written applications in South Sami to the regional or local authority			x	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in South Sami				x
10.2.f	use by local authorities of South Sami in debates in their assemblies			x	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in South Sami	x			
10.3.b	allow users of South Sami to submit a request to and receive a reply from public service providers in South Sami			x	
10.4.b	recruitment and training of officials and public service employees speaking South Sami		x		
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in South Sami	x			
Art. 11 – Media					
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in South Sami				x
11.1.b.i	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in South Sami				x
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in South Sami on a regular basis				x
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in South Sami		x		
11.1.e.i	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in South Sami				x
11.1.f.ii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in South Sami	x			

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Norway concerning South Sami ¹¹⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in South Sami • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in South Sami • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in South Sami	x			
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of South Sami are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media	x			
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities					
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in South Sami		x		
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the South Sami language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	x			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of South Sami		x		
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of South Sami in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	x			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in South Sami	x			
12.2	In territories other than those in which South Sami is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using South Sami	x			
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for South Sami and the culture it reflects	x			
Art. 13 – Economic and social life					
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of South Sami in economic and social life	x			
13.2.b	in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of South Sami in economic and social life				x
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.b	for the benefit of South Sami, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory South Sami is used in identical or similar form	x			

* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking or the Committee of Experts has over several monitoring cycles not received any information on the implementation.

No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

140. There is an individual right to be taught South Sami and teaching in and of South Sami is offered at all levels, despite shortage of teachers and educational materials. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.f fulfilled. The Sami Parliament informs that Sami language centres offer South Sami courses to adults, including adult non-speakers with funding specifically allocated for this matter. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.g fulfilled. The Committee of Experts notes that awareness of the South Sami language and culture has increased following the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and the adoption of the new curriculum in 2020. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.3 fulfilled.

2.6.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of South Sami in Norway

The Committee of Experts recommends the Norwegian authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.6.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Norway¹¹⁷ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. **Take further measures to strengthen and revitalise South Sami, in particular ensuring sustainable funding for educational facilities.**
- b. **Take measures to increase the availability of teachers teaching in South Sami at all appropriate stages and intensify the development of educational materials.**
- c. **Provide regular offer of media programmes in South Sami.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Adopt a structured approach to increase the availability of South Sami speaking professionals as well as translators and interpreters.
- e. Strengthen measures to ensure the monitoring of progress achieved in the teaching of South Sami.
- f. Ensure an effective implementation of the legislation pertaining to South Sami before judicial and administrative authorities.

¹¹⁷ [RecChL\(2001\)5](#); [RecChL\(2003\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2007\)3](#); [CM/RecChL\(2010\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)8](#); [CM/RecChL\(2015\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)3](#).

Chapter 3 [Proposals for] Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

The Committee of Experts, while acknowledging the efforts the Norwegian authorities have undertaken to protect the minority languages spoken in their country, has in its evaluation chosen to concentrate on some of the most important deficiencies in the implementation of the Charter. The recommendations forwarded by the Committee of Experts to the Committee of Ministers should not, however, be interpreted as diminishing the relevance of the other, more detailed observations contained in the report, which remain valid in their own right. The recommendations proposed by the Committee of Experts are drafted accordingly.

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in accordance with Article 16 (4) of the Charter, proposes on the basis of the information contained in this report, that the Committee of Ministers makes the following recommendations to Norway.

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by Norway on 10 November 1993 and the declarations registered at the Secretariat General on 14 October 2021 and 10 September 2025;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts of the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by Norway;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by Norway in its ninth periodical report, supplementary information provided by the Norwegian authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in Norway and the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit;

Having taken note of the comments submitted by the Norwegian authorities on the content of the report of the Committee of Experts;

Recommends that the Norwegian authorities take account of all the observations and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. adopt a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter for Lule Sami and South Sami as well as for Romanes and Romani;
2. further strengthen the provision of teaching of Kven, as well as teaching in or of Lule Sami, North Sami and South Sami by ensuring local continuity, a sufficient number of teachers and updated educational materials;
3. take measures to develop an adequate and sustainable teaching model for Romanes and Romani, in co-operation with the speakers;
4. provide regular offer of Kven, Lule Sami, Romanes, Romani and South Sami programmes in the media.

The Committee of Ministers invites the Norwegian authorities to submit the information on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action by 1 January 2028 and the next periodical report by 1 July 2030.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁸ See Committee of Ministers' Decisions [CM/Del/Dec\(2018\)1330/10.4e](#), and "Outlines for the periodical reports on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to be presented by the States Parties", [CM\(2019\)69-final](#).

Appendix I: Instrument of Ratification



Norway

Declaration contained in a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, dated 2 September 2025, registered at the Secretariat General on 10 September 2025 – Or. Engl.

With reference to Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Government of the Kingdom of Norway declares in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 2, and Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Charter that the Government of Norway will apply the following provisions of Part III of the Charter in respect of the North Sami language, within the territory of Norway:

Article 10: Administrative authorities and public services

Paragraph 10.4.b.

Total: 1

Article 11: Media

Paragraphs 11.1.d, 11.3.

Total: 2

Article 13: Economic and social life

Paragraphs 13.1.d, 13.2.b.

Total: 2

Period covered: 10/09/2025

Articles concerned: 2,3

Declarations contained in a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, dated 1 October 2021, registered at the Secretariat General on 14 October 2021 – Or. Engl.

With reference to Part III of the Charter, the Government of the Kingdom of Norway declares in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 2, and Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Charter that it will apply the following provisions for the purposes of Part III of the Charter to the Lule Sami language and the South Sami language, in respect of the territory of Norway for which the Kingdom of Norway is responsible for international relations:

South Sami language – 43 paragraphs

Article 8: Education

Paragraphs 8.1.b(iv), 8.1.c(iv), 8.1.f(ii), 8.1.g, 8.1.i, 8.2.

Total: 6

Article 9: Judicial authorities

Paragraphs 9.1.a(i-iv), 9.1.b(i-iii), 9.1.d, 9.2.a, 9.3.

Total: 10

Article 10: Administrative authorities and public services

Paragraphs 10.1.a(iii), 10.2.a, 10.2.b, 10.2.d, 10.2.f, 10.2.g, 10.3.b, 10.4.b, 10.5.

Total: 9

Article 11: Media

Paragraphs 11.1.a.(iii), 11.1.b(i), 11.1.c(ii), 11.1.d, 11.1.e(i), 11.1.f(ii), 11.2, 11.3.

Total: 8

Article 12: Cultural activities and facilities

Paragraphs 12.1.a, 12.1.d, 12.1.e, 12.1.f, 12.1.g, 12.2, 12.3.

Total: 7

Article 13: Economic and social life

Paragraphs 13.1.d, 13.2.b.

Total: 2

Article 14: Transfrontier exchanges

Paragraph 14.1.b.

Total: 1

Lule Sami language – 43 paragraphs

Article 8: Education

Paragraphs 8.1.b(iv), 8.1.c(iv), 8.1.f(ii), 8.1.g, 8.1.i, 8.2.

Total: 6

Article 9: Judicial authorities

Paragraphs 9.1.a(i-iv), 9.1.b(i-iii), 9.1d, 9.2.a, 9.3.

Total: 10

Article 10: Administrative authorities and public services

Paragraphs 10.1.a(iii), 10.2.a, 10.2.b, 10.2.d, 10.2.f, 10.2.g, 10.3.b, 10.4.b, 10.5.

Total: 9

Article 11: Media

Paragraphs 11.1.a.(iii), 11.1.b(i), 11.1.c(ii), 11.1.d, 11.1.e(i), 11.1.f(ii), 11.2, 11.3.

Total: 8

Article 12: Cultural activities and facilities

Paragraphs 12.1.a, 12.1.d, 12.1.e, 12.1.f, 12.1.g, 12.2, 12.3.

Total: 7

Article 13: Economic and social life

Paragraphs 13.1.d, 13.2.b.

Total: 2

Article 14: Transfrontier exchanges

Paragraph 14.1.b.

Total: 1

With regard to education outside the areas where the languages are traditionally used, referred to in Article 8.2, Norway commits to undertake the alternative to provide teaching *of* the languages, and not *in* the languages.

Period covered: 14/10/2021

Articles concerned: 2, 3

Declarations contained in the instrument of ratification, deposited on 10 November 1993 - Or. Engl.

Norway undertakes to carry out the provisions contained in Parts I, II, IV and V of the Charter and also in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 2, the provisions contained in the following articles, paragraphs and sub-paragraphs of Part III of the Charter :

In Article 8 :

Paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a (iii), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (ii), g, h, i
Paragraph 2

In Article 9 :

Paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a (i-iv), b (i-iii), d
Paragraph 2, sub-paragraph a
Paragraph 3

In Article 10 :

Paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a (iii), b, c
Paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs a, b, c, d, e, f, g
Paragraph 3, sub-paragraph b
Paragraph 4, sub-paragraph a
Paragraph 5

In Article 11 :

Paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs, a (iii), b (i), c (ii), e (i), f (ii), g
Paragraph 2

In Article 12 :

Paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs a, d, e, f, g, h
Paragraph 2
Paragraph 3

In Article 13 :

Paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs c, e

In Article 14 :

sub-paragraph b

The above-mentioned paragraphs and sub-paragraphs shall, in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1, apply to the Sami language.

[Note by the Secretariat: See the declaration dated 14 October 2021.]

Period covered: 01/03/1998

Articles concerned: 2, 3, 8, 9 ,10,11,12, 13,14

Appendix II: Comments from the Norwegian authorities

The Government of Norway welcomes the report from the Committee of Experts for the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. We will take this opportunity to thank the Committee of Experts for its efforts in drafting the report and appreciate the amount of work the committee has put into it. We reiterate that we look forward to continued dialogue and cooperation during the next monitoring cycle.

We also appreciate the opportunity to make comments and observations regarding the report. We have chosen to highlight a few issues in our comments. We note for the record that the lack of comments on any other topic or issue may not be construed to mean that we vouch for the factual accuracy, nor that we necessarily agree with a specific assessment.

General comments

Comments to section 2.3.2 Recommendations for immediate action I.b. “Ensure that health and social care facilities, such as hospitals and retirement homes offer services in North Sami”.

We would like to inform that there is established a grant scheme for professional development and competence enhancement in care services for Sami users. The aim of the scheme is to help build, implement, and strengthen the quality of health and care services for users with a Sami language and cultural background through professional development and competence enhancement. The measures must target areas that include residents with South, North, and Lule Sami language and culture. The total grant amount is NOK 1.3 million in 2026.

Furthermore, funding is provided for a dedicated development centre for nursing homes and home care services for the Sami population (USHT Sami). The centre is headquartered in Karasjok and primarily covers Troms and Finnmark but supports the entire country. Among other things, they offer training and courses for healthcare personnel to strengthen understanding of Sami culture.

In 2025, the Northern Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Nord), in collaboration with the other regional health authorities, completed a planning phase for a national 24/7 interpreting service for Sami languages. The four regional health authorities have also collaborated on developing an e-learning programme on Sami language and culture for healthcare personnel. Parts of the course will be mandatory for all employees in Helse Nord.

Comments to 1.1 General developments in policies, legislation and practice concerning the regional or minority languages in Norway.

In paragraph 14 the report recommends “implementing a system for encouraging additional municipalities to become part of the administrative area for Sami languages, bearing in mind that in recent years, users of Sami languages have also moved to places outside the areas where Lule Sami, North Sami and South Sami are traditionally used (e.g., in major cities)”. This has been partly addressed through the new rules for the Sami language administrative area, which entered into force on 1 January 2024. The idea behind the municipal category “language-stimulation municipality” is to create a category for municipalities where the Sami population has largely moved in from elsewhere and does not have the same connection to the Sami language, or where the area has been heavily Norwegianised/assimilated. The categories are intended to reflect the actual differences in language situations and the needs this creates in municipalities within the administrative area. The aim is to make it easier for municipalities outside the traditional Sami language area, or municipalities where the Sami language is weak, to join the administrative area.

The wording of paragraph 48 can be misleading, as it might give the impression that the right to be taught Sami as a first or second language applies to upper secondary education. The right to receive *instruction in Sami* applies to all Sami pupils across primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education. The right to receive both *instruction in Sami* and to be *taught Sami as a first or second*

language is limited to primary and lower secondary education (and applies to all pupils in language development and language revitalisation municipalities and to pupils outside these municipalities if at least 10 pupils request it).

In paragraph 95 the report states, with regards to the Sami Act, that “This right does not apply to nationwide institutions and care or welfare institutions unless otherwise specified by regulation. It is not clear to the Committee of Experts what the latter provision means in practice”. We can inform that this means that the right in Section 3-5 first paragraph of the Sami Act to receive services in Sami in public health and care institutions and child welfare institutions applies only in language-development municipalities and language-revitalisation municipalities. This right does not apply in nationwide institutions unless regulations have been issued to that effect. No such regulations have been issued. An institution is considered nationwide if it provides its services to the entire country and not only to residents of a specifically defined geographical area.

Comments to 1.2 The situation of the individual regional or minority languages in Norway

Paragraph 106 states that “an Action Plan for the Kven Language is being developed in co-operation with the Language Council”. We note for the record that other bodies were also involved in the development of the plan, including the Directorate for Education and Training and Arts and Culture Norway (Kulturdirektoratet), and not least representatives of Kven language users. The action plan was presented by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development on 26 May 2026, in Tromsø.

In paragraph 109 it is written “The University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway offers various programmes in Kven and Finnish, including teacher training and research (Article 7.1.h). As regards adult education, Kven language courses are provided by the Kven language centres”. Given the current wording, it may be understood as implying that a dedicated teacher-education programme in Kven exists as a standalone degree. This is not the case. However, it is possible to complete 60 ECTS credits in the subject as part of a teacher-education programme.

Regarding paragraphs 111 and 127: In paragraph 111, it is stated that “At the university level, Lule Sami can be studied at Nord University (although no intake in 2025) as well as at Sami University of Applied Sciences and at the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway (Article 7.1.h).”, and a similar statement is found in paragraph 127: “At the university level, South Sami can be studied at the Nord University as well as at the Sami University of Applied Sciences and at the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway (Article 7.1.h).” It should be noted that the higher education institution mainly responsible for studies in Lule Sami and South Sami is Nord University. The Sami University of Applied Sciences also has some very few courses in these languages, in particular in interpretation, as well as some beginners’ courses. Those two higher education institutions have also signed a cooperation agreement on the teaching of Sami languages. Concerning the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway, their only programme in Lule Sami and in South Sami is the master’s programme in Lule Sami (and South Sami) on which they cooperate with Nord University, and where Nord University is responsible for the parts of the programme that concern training and proficiency in the Lule Sami language (and the South Sami language).

Regarding paragraph 130, we would like to inform that the newspaper Snåsinggen has a regular column in South Sami.

Further in the same paragraph 139 the sentence “Cultural links are maintained to a limited extent through the Contact Forum and other events organised by organisations of speakers” could be clarified. The following wording would be more accurate: “Cultural links are maintained through the Contact Forum once a year, through an annual meeting with each organisation and other events organised by organisations of speakers. The authorities also participate in some cultural events for Romani”.

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is an independent body that evaluates the compliance of the States Parties with their undertakings and, where appropriate, encourages them to gradually reach a higher level of commitment.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 25 June 1992 and entered into force on 1 March 1998, is the European convention for the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages. It is designed to enable speakers to use them both in private and public life and obliges the States Parties to actively promote the use of these languages in education, courts, administration, media, culture, economic and social life, and cross- border co-operation.

Regional or minority languages are part of Europe's cultural heritage and their protection and promotion contribute to the building of a Europe based on democracy and cultural diversity.

www.coe.int/minlang

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.