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SIXTH EVALUATION REPORT ON AUSTRIA

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

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Adopted on 10 June 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

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages entered into force in Austria in 2001 and applies to the following languages: Burgenland Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Romani, Slovak and Slovenian.

Austria has a well-developed system for the protection and promotion of minority languages, with a focus on Burgenland Croatian and Hungarian in Burgenland and Slovenian in Carinthia. Funding is provided mainly from the federal authorities for the activities carried out in all minority languages and throughout the country, but recent cuts give rise to concern regarding the sustainability of on-going and planned projects. There is a good dialogue between the authorities and minority language speakers.

Positive effects could be noticed as a result of the measures taken in recent years, such as the agreement between the federation and the *Länder* with respect to pre-school education, the federal funding for developing the bilingualism in administration or the adoption of new educational curricula, which foresee that the language, culture and history of each of the six national minorities be addressed with pupils in all schools in Austria. More recently, in the context of the 50 years anniversary of the National Minorities Act in 2026, the Austrian Parliament has taken initiatives raising the visibility of the national minorities and their languages, through events, activities for schools and an exhibition, which could be considered as good practice. Burgenland and Carinthia, in particular, have stepped up their efforts to reinforce the presence of Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian, Romani and Slovenian, respectively in education, administration and public life in general. However, recent incidents in Carinthia and Burgenland raised concerns among minority language speakers.

The absence of a structured and proactive approach towards the protection of minority languages in Styria and, in particular in Vienna, despite some support, remains a challenge. The Komenský school, a unique institution providing bilingual education for Czech and Slovak from kindergarten to secondary education, remains in a difficult financial situation, despite the current support in place, and its future is uncertain. Minority language speakers see this school as a model and the solution for ensuring bilingual education for the other minority languages in Vienna.

Challenges remain linked to the continuity of education, the shortage of adequately trained teachers for bilingual education, in particular in pre-school, and the insufficient provision of textbooks. The efforts made by the authorities in Carinthia to support the use of Slovenian have produced positive results. However, further measures are needed to strengthen the use of Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian before courts and in administration.

All minority languages are present in the media, including online, in particular thanks to the public broadcaster ORF. Nevertheless, for some minority languages, the duration and frequency of the programmes is too limited. Minority languages are used in new and social media, where the associations or the minority language media (e.g. newspapers, online platforms) are present.

Cultural activities provide the space for a wide use of minority languages. The increasing consideration of the minority languages by Burgenland and Carinthia, in particular, in their cultural activities is to be welcomed.

There is also intense cross-border co-operation between authorities, institutions and associations from Austria and the neighbouring countries for the benefit of the minority languages.

Finally, despite positive initiatives, there is a need to continue to promote awareness, respect and understanding about the minority languages and cultures as an integral part of Austria, in particular in mainstream education and in the media.

This sixth evaluation report is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts' on-the-spot visit to Austria in February 2026.

Chapter 1 The situation of the regional or minority languages in Austria – 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 which places obligations on its states parties to protect and promote the country’s traditional regional or 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. Austria signed the Charter on 5 November 1992 and ratified it on 28 June 2001. The Charter entered into force in respect of Austria on 1 October 2001 and applies to the following languages: Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian, Slovenian (each protected by Part II and Part III), Czech, Romani and Slovak (each protected by Part II only).

2. States parties are required to submit reports every five years¹ on the implementation of the Charter. The Austrian authorities submitted their sixth periodical report on 1 October 2025, in accordance with the due dates.² The Committee of Experts underlines that periodical reports should contain information covering the period from the previous on-the-spot visit to the date of submission of the following periodical report. The sixth periodical report contains also information which has already been taken into account by the Committee of Experts in its fifth evaluation report and reference is made to it throughout this evaluation report. This sixth 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 (16-20 February 2026) and/or submitted in written form pursuant to Article 16 (2) of the Charter. In the conduct of the on-the-spot visit and the present monitoring cycle, the gender equality aspect was taken into account.

3. Chapter 1 of this evaluation report focuses on the general developments and trends regarding the regional or minority languages in Austria and the situation of these languages. It examines in particular the measures taken by the Austrian authorities to respond to the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers at the end of the fifth monitoring cycle and also highlights new issues. Chapter 2 provides a detailed overview of the state of implementation of each undertaking of Austria in respect of the given language as well as the recommendations addressed to the Austrian 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 Austria, as provided in Article 16 (4) of the Charter. The Committee of Experts encourages the Austrian authorities to translate this report into German 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.

4. This evaluation report is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts’ on-the-spot visit to Austria in February 2026. It was adopted by the Committee of Experts on 10 June 2026.

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

5. Austria maintains a well-developed system for the protection and promotion of minority languages, with stronger legal provisions for Burgenland Croatian³ and Hungarian in Burgenland, and Slovenian in Carinthia, in particular as regards their use in education, courts and administration. Funding from the federal

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 \(2025\) PR 3](#).

³ The instrument of ratification refers to *Burgenland Croatian* as the minority language protected under the Charter, while in the Austrian legislation *Croatian* is used. The Committee of Experts uses the term interchangeably in the current report. See 1st report on the application of the ECRML(2005)1, paragraph 15.

authorities is available for the organisations of all “ethnic groups”⁴ and their cultural activities throughout the country and is supplemented to some extent by support from the *Länder*. All minority languages are present to some extent in the media, with the programmes of the public broadcaster ORF widely available across Austria. While shortcomings remain in practice in several areas covered by the Charter, there is generally a good dialogue between the minority language speakers and the Austrian authorities, and a concern at the level of the federal authorities, of Burgenland and of Carinthia to further the promotion of minority languages. In Vienna and Styria, despite some support, the absence of dedicated framework for the promotion of minority languages, has an impact in particular on education.

Resolute action to promote regional or minority languages

6. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Ministers recommended that the Austrian authorities “**take further steps towards a structured policy for the protection and promotion of all minority languages, especially in Vienna and Styria**”. The periodical report refers to the measures from the previous federal Government Programme 2020-2024⁵ and to the provisions of the new federal Government Programme 2025-2029, which includes a “clear commitment to the national minorities recognised in Austria as an indispensable part of the Austrian identity” and foresees the “further development of educational offers in minority languages”. It also refers to the restructuring of the funding procedure at federal level, resulting into making the funds available early in the year, and two-yearly funding period for three of the four categories of funding.⁶ A two-year funding period can be seen as a good practice, as it allows for better planning and carrying out the activities. As regards Vienna, the periodical report refers to the existing financial support from the federal authorities and the City of Vienna, as well as the educational offer: the Komenský school, first language teaching⁷ and out-of-school initiatives; in this context, the periodical report acknowledges that education is the main concern for the minority language speakers in Vienna and their goal is the establishment of an offer based on the model of the Komenský school, i.e. private school offering bilingual education from pre-school to upper secondary level.⁸ As regards Styria, the periodical report notes the good dialogue between the authorities and the Slovenian speakers and the presence of Slovenian in the fields of culture and education, as first language teaching.

7. The Committee of Experts welcomes the continued commitment of the Austrian authorities to the national minorities and their languages. Measures which had already been noted in the previous evaluation report, such as the increase of the federal funding in 2021, the agreement according to Article 15A of the Austrian Federal Constitution between the federation and the *Länder* with respect to pre-school education (hereafter, the 15A agreement on pre-school education) or the federal funding for developing bilingualism in administration have had a positive impact on the promotion of minority languages.⁹ In Carinthia, in particular, and in Burgenland, the initiatives of the authorities in support of the minority languages should be acknowledged. However, despite the good dialogue and some support for the Slovenian speakers in Styria, the Committee of Experts notes that there are still no structured policy and pro-active approach towards minority languages in Styria and Vienna. The openness of the federal authorities and their dialogue with the minority language speakers about ways to establish bilingual education in Vienna is to be welcome but should be followed by resolute steps leading to a practical solution.¹⁰

8. Nevertheless, recent developments raise concerns as regards their impact on minority language promotion. As regards the funding for the national minorities through the Federal Chancellery, this remained overall at the level of 2021 (€7.6 million - €7.9 million). In 2025 and 2026, however, the budget decreased, as part of wide cuts across sectors, due to fiscal consolidation measures. The authorities informed the

⁴ The Austrian legislation uses the term *Volksgruppe*, which in this context can be translated as “ethnic group” or as “national minority”. The Committee of Experts will use the term “national minority” throughout this report.

⁵ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 7.

⁶ Funding from the Federal Chancellery is divided in four categories: Grants under the National Minorities Act, Other Grants, Intercultural Projects Funding and Media Funding. For media, the two-year funding was already introduced at the time of the fifth evaluation report; this has been extended to Other Grants and Intercultural Projects.

⁷ [Mehrsprachigkeit – Erstsprachenunterricht – Interkulturelle Bildung](#).

⁸ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), paras. 62 and 68, Fourth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [CM\(2018\)38](#), paras. 49 and 52.

⁹ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 8.

¹⁰ See Recommendations [CM/RecChL\(2023\)3](#), [CM/RecChL\(2018\)2](#), [CM/RecChL\(2012\)7](#), [CM/RecChL\(2009\)1](#) of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Austria, which make specific reference to Vienna in the context of recommendations to adopt a structured policy as regards minority languages.

Committee of Experts that the cuts affecting the funding for the national minorities are lower than in other sectors and do not concern two of the four categories of funding, since the *Grants under the National Minorities Act* and *Media Funding* will not be affected.¹¹ The total amount remains above €7 million. Additional funding possibilities exist from other federal ministries, such as the Ministry of Education, as well as the *Länder*. Minority language speakers expressed, however, concerns about the effects of the cuts on ongoing and planned projects, also underlining that the allocations had not been adjusted for inflation in recent years.

9. During the on-the-spot visit, discussions were ongoing about reducing the number of hours for the second foreign language, which in some schools are used for teaching the minority language. These plans have been confirmed in March 2026 and will affect the *Realgymnasium* type of schools.¹² The authorities were confident that solutions could be found to secure the teaching of minority languages, including for example, by using the additional hours which schools have the freedom to assign to different subjects.

10. Minority language speakers still see a need for the legal framework pertaining to national minorities – based on the National Minorities Act, which in 2026 celebrated 50 years since its entry into force– to be revised in order to reflect the societal developments in time, in particular as regards a stronger provision for education also outside the areas where the minority language speakers traditionally live. According to the authorities, there are discussions concerning the legislation in this field, but no immediate plans to amend it.

11. In this context, the Committee of Experts encourages again the authorities, in co-operation with the minority language speakers, to look into ways of accepting new undertakings under the Charter in order to reflect developments in the situation of the regional or minority languages and to set medium- and long-term improvement targets.¹³ Stronger commitments could be made with respect to Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian in the fields of education, administration and culture, particularly since in some cases the current situation in practice is more favourable than the ratified undertakings.¹⁴

Promoting awareness, respect and understanding in relation to regional or minority languages

12. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Ministers recommended that the Austrian authorities “**promote awareness throughout the country of the minority languages and cultures as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Austria in mainstream education and in the media**”.

13. Since the 2023/2024 school year, new curricula have been in force. Reference to the history and culture of the national minorities is made in the context of the General Didactic Principle 6. This sets out the promotion of respect and appreciation of diversity and of the encounters between cultures as one of the tasks of the schools; pupils should be aware of and value diversity and multilingualism; in particular, the language, culture and history of each of the six national minorities shall be addressed and awareness about the rights and protection of minorities should be raised.¹⁵ According to the authorities, in practice this is implemented as part of history and of citizenship education, in the two last years of lower secondary education. It will be extended to upper secondary education in the coming school years. During the on-the-spot visit, the representatives of the minority language speakers and other interlocutors acknowledged the importance of the new curricula but emphasised that further steps are needed to provide more information about the minority languages in teaching materials and to train teachers on these topics. Minority schools continue to teach about the history and culture of the respective national minorities in Austria, but it is important that pupils in mainstream schools also have sufficient information on these topics. A recent study on the attitudes and values of young people in Austria (14-18 years) showed that over one third were not

¹¹ According to available information, cuts are of €189 000 in 2025 and €599 000 in 2026, see [UG 10-Bundeskanzleramt Budgets 2025 und 2026 | Parlament Österreich](#), [Kritik an Kürzungen für Volksgruppen - Slovenci-Meldungen](#), [Appell an die Bundesregierung: Volksgruppenförderung nicht kürzen!](#).

¹² The reduction concerns the hours dedicated to Latin or to the second foreign language, if Latin is not taught, as is the case in the *Realgymnasium*.

¹³ See Seventh evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Germany, [MIN-LANG \(2022\)7](#), para. 6; [Study on certain aspects of regional or minority language protection and identification of good practices in member States](#), Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), p. 43.

¹⁴ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), paras. 9, 70.

¹⁵ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), paras. 18-19.

aware of the existence of the six recognised national minorities in Austria; around a quarter tend not to agree or did not agree at all with the statement that the six national minorities belong to Austria; as regards the minority languages, about half of young people are in favour of their greater visibility in public space, whilst the other half disagree with this idea.¹⁶ The Committee of Experts therefore reiterates its encouragement to the authorities to take further measures to ensure the adequate implementation of these objectives, including by providing the necessary teaching materials and training of teachers.¹⁷

14. As regards the media, ORF produces and broadcasts the programme *WIR – das Volksgruppenmagazin* (30 minutes every two weeks), with contributions in all minority languages and subtitles in German.¹⁸ The programme is broadcast on two ORF channels, with repeats and is also available on the ORF-ON streaming platform. A new programme, *Daheim*, launched in January 2025 (30 minutes once per month, in German, with repeats) also covers issues related to the national minorities in Austria.¹⁹

15. In a wider context, several notable initiatives aim at raising awareness about the national minorities and the minority languages in Austria. The Austrian Parliament is organising in the 2026 anniversary year, in consultation with the speakers, an exhibition about the history, culture, languages and rights of national minorities in Austria, events and activities for schools in the Parliament as well as online.²⁰ Information about the national minorities and minority languages have also been included in the permanent exhibition of the Austrian Parliament. These initiatives have been widely appreciated by the minority language speakers. The Committee of Experts commends these initiatives as examples of good practice. In Carinthia, the annual events *Kulturtandem/Kulturni tandem* have involved, since 2023, a German-speaking municipality and a bilingual municipality. Other events, commemorations and exhibitions in Carinthia have highlighted the history and contribution of the Slovenian speakers and included the use of Slovenian, which was also acknowledged by the speakers. The Slovenian cultural organisations have been actively involved in the design of the cultural activities, including of the cultural strategy of Carinthia. In Burgenland, it is planned for the museum of the *Land*, which is undergoing renovation, to include a section about the national minorities. The House of National Minorities, which should open in the course of 2026 in Oberwart/Felsőőr, is planned as a cultural centre for the Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian and Romani speakers in Burgenland, which would also raise awareness about them, for example through joint activities with schools.

16. Nevertheless, recent incidents also raised concerns among the minority language speakers. Bilingual place name signs were vandalised in Carinthia in autumn of 2025 and in Burgenland in spring 2026.²¹ In February 2026, the use of words in Slovenian in the Carinthian parliament by a member resulted in a warning and a call to order by the presidency of the parliament.²² This issue has been addressed by the authorities in the Carinthian “Dialogue Forum for the development of the mixed areas”. In July 2025 a police operation took place at a youth camp organised at the Peršmanhof, a museum and significant remembrance and commemoration site for the Slovene national minority; the expert report commissioned by the Federal Ministry of the Interior found that the intervention had been illegal and disproportionate; it had also failed to take into account that, in the particular context of Peršmanhof, it would have been perceived as hostile against minorities and particular sensitivity would have been required. The report recommended, among others, training on the history of Peršmanhof and on interventions at memorial sites, as well as strengthening the minority language competence among law enforcement, including as a requirement for management positions.²³ Representatives of the Romani speakers are particularly concerned about the online hate speech against them.²⁴ This clearly shows how important it is to develop

¹⁶ [Lebenswelten 2025 Einstellungen und Werte von Jugendlichen in Österreich](#), Youth Research of the Colleges of Education of Austria.

¹⁷ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 18.

¹⁸ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 42.

¹⁹ [Daheim - das Volksgruppenmagazin - ORF III - tv.ORF.at](#).

²⁰ [Neue Ausstellung "Wir sind Demokratie" zu Volksgruppen in Österreich | Parlament Österreich, Thema: Volksgruppen in Österreich - DemokratieWEBstatt.at, Volksgruppen sollen durch breites Angebot im Parlament noch sichtbarer gemacht werden \(PK1029/18.11.2025\) | Parlament Österreich](#).

²¹ [Das Österreichische Volksgruppenzentrum: Erneute Beschmierung zweisprachiger Ortstafeln – das ÖVZ warnt vor besorgniserregender Entwicklung und fordert klare politische Reaktionen](#).

²² [Ordnungsruf wegen slowenischer Worte - Slovenci-Meldungen](#).

²³ See [Peršmanhof: Inzko fordert von Innenminister Karner Offenlegung der Auftraggeber, Peršmanhof: Sprachrechte teilweise gewährt - kaernten.ORF.at](#); the report of the expert committee is available in German and Slovenian at <https://www.bmi.gv.at/downloads/start.html>

²⁴ [Internationaler Roma-Tag thematisiert Hass im Netz gegen die Volksgruppe | Parlament Österreich](#).

and implement further measures to raise awareness and promote respect and understanding in relation to minority languages.

17. The Committee of Experts reiterates that the way a regional or minority language is protected and promoted is also linked to its perception by the society. Therefore, awareness raising among the majority is of the utmost importance and requires constant efforts in both education and media. The fundamental goal is for the majority population to value the fact that regional or minority language speakers are part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the state with their different languages and cultures.²⁵

18. Representatives of the minority language speakers underlined during the on-the-spot visit that bi- and multilingual signage (e.g. place names, names of institutions and authorities, railways, etc.) should be extended as a way to raise awareness about the presence of minority language and increase their visibility. The Committee of Experts was informed that in Carinthia bilingual place name signs have been adopted also by municipalities which are not legally obliged to do so, as it was decided in 2025 for the settlement of Zinsdorf/Svinča vas.²⁶ The Committee of Experts reiterates the importance of the visibility of minority languages in the public space; bilingual signage increases the visibility and prestige of a minority language, raising awareness among the majority population and maintaining the linguistic heritage, and should therefore be encouraged, including possibly through financial incentives.²⁷ The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to consider the ratification of Article 10.2.g for the minority languages covered by Part III.

Consultation

19. The Advisory Councils for each of the six national minorities whose languages are protected by the Charter remain the main consultation mechanism with the minority language speakers. A Conference of chairpersons of the advisory councils is also in place. There is a Roma Dialogue Platform of the Federal Chancellery. The Dialogue Platform for the six national minorities has been organised by Austrian Parliament annually since 2022 and it is appreciated by the minority language speakers. In addition, in Carinthia, the “Dialogue Forum for the development of the mixed areas” addresses different topics and in 2024 initiated the working group on continuity in language education.²⁸

Use of the regional or minority languages in education

20. All minority languages are present in education, but the scope, model and sustainability differ greatly depending on the language, the school level and the *Land*.²⁹ In Burgenland and in Carinthia, Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian, and Slovenian, respectively, remain well anchored in the education system, supported by dedicated legal provisions and institutions, although challenges persist in practice. The position of Romani in education in Burgenland is more vulnerable, but efforts are made to increase its sustainability. As for Vienna and Styria, where no dedicated legal provisions for minority language education exist, the private Komenský school offers bilingual education for Czech and Slovak in Vienna and is a model to which the other minority language speakers aspire; however, its funding is not guaranteed in the long term. Otherwise, in public schools minority languages are taught in the framework of “first language teaching”, a model which is not specifically aimed at minority languages.³⁰

21. Burgenland Croatian and Hungarian in Burgenland, as well as Slovenian in Carinthia, are present in education from pre-school to upper secondary and vocational education. Bilingual education (e.g. alternating between languages every day or every week) is offered in particular at pre-school and primary levels and, in a few schools, also at secondary level; however, teaching the language as a subject is the main model in secondary education. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that the school entry tests have been made available in Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian.

²⁵ See, for example, See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 22, Sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Slovenia, [MIN-LANG \(2025\) 3](#) para. 16.

²⁶ [Dorf will zweisprachig sein - kaernten.ORF.at](#).

²⁷ See, for example, Seventh evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Croatia, [MIN-LANG \(2024\)5](#), para. 32, Seventh evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Germany, [MIN-LANG \(2022\)7](#) para. 30.

²⁸ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), paras. 52-54.

²⁹ For the general structure of the Austrian education system, see [Das österreichische Bildungssystem](#).

³⁰ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 10.

22. At pre-school level, the implementation of the 15A agreement on pre-school education, particularly in Carinthia (see paragraph 65 below), and the adoption of similar pedagogical framework concepts in Carinthia and Burgenland, which *inter alia* aim to increase quality and reinforce the use of minority languages, are to be welcomed.³¹ Nevertheless, the lack of legal obligations to organise bilingual pre-school education is still a matter of concern for the Slovenian speakers.³² There are also concerns about the availability of kindergartens using minority languages. Both the minority language speakers and the education professionals are aware that the use of minority languages in the families is decreasing and that children reach primary education with different levels of language competence. The Committee of Experts reiterates that education from the early stages is increasingly important, and measures are necessary to further strengthen bilingual pre-school education, for example, through teacher training and provision of educational materials, and to make it more widely available. A campaign to raise awareness of the importance to use minority languages in the family and support language transmission, as suggested by some of the minority language speakers, could also be carried out.

23. Another challenge acknowledged by both minority language speakers and the authorities is the significant drop in the number of pupils in secondary education. During the on-the-spot visit, the minority language speakers referred to the low number and the geographical location of the secondary schools, especially bilingual, which might not sufficiently cover the area where they live. The view was expressed that the model of teaching minority languages as a subject in secondary education, often only as an optional subject, is not sufficiently attractive for pupils who have attended bilingual education in primary schools. The authorities referred during the on-the-spot visit to a certain lack of awareness about the existing offer at secondary level. The Committee of Experts welcomes the information campaigns and awareness raising measures about the offer of minority languages at secondary level, which are organised both in Carinthia and Burgenland (e.g. information folder for parents, open-days and taster days in schools providing secondary education, information visits to primary schools about the offer in secondary education, webinars, information on social media and websites). However, further steps are needed to increase the availability and attractiveness of minority languages in secondary schools.

24. As regards teaching minority language as a subject, the Committee of Experts recalls that, in order to comply with the requirements of the Charter, regional or minority languages should be taught at least three hours per week in primary and secondary education. Regional or minority languages should also be taught as an integral part of the curriculum. Therefore, if minority languages are taught only for one or two hours per week and outside the regular school hours, a stronger educational model needs to be developed.³³ This applies also to “first language teaching” when this model is used for the minority languages protected by the Charter.

25. The private Komenský school in Vienna, offering bilingual education from pre-school to upper secondary level for Czech and Slovak, is the main educational institution and the only with this type of offer for these languages. While it receives financial support from the authorities, a solution ensuring a sustainable and sufficient funding on the long-term has not been found. As all private kindergartens and all private schools under public law, the Komenský school receives subsidies and funding for the payment of teachers from Vienna and from the Federal Ministry of Education. Funding the running costs is based on funds from the federal authorities through the funding for national minorities dedicated to the Czech minority (making up most of the funding for the Czech ethnic group), school fees paid by parents, and donations; Czechia also contributes to the funding of the school. However, bearing in mind the high costs of running a school using three languages, the funding is insufficient and during the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that the school is facing financial difficulties. The authorities are discussing possible options with the Komenský school association, which runs the school. The possibility of the Komenský school becoming a “European school”³⁴ is not favoured by the minority language speakers as it would not equal the model of a minority language school. They would prefer to maintain the school as a minority language school in Vienna and therefore would be in favour of a solution under the Private Schools Act.

³¹ See [Sprachpädagogisches Rahmenkonzept](#), available in German and the three minority languages in Burgenland and [Leitfaden zur Förderung zwei- und mehrsprachiger Bildung und Betreuung in Kärntner elementaren Bildungseinrichtungen](#), available in German and Slovenian.

³² See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 70.

³³ See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 11.

³⁴ [Europäische Schulen](#); [About the European Schools | EURSC](#).

Acknowledging the role of the Komenský school in promoting Czech and Slovak in Austria, the Committee of Experts urges the authorities to work on a long-term solution which reflects their commitments to these languages as minority languages under the Charter, in close consultation with the speakers.³⁵

26. To a certain extent, according to the authorities, a solution for the Komenský school could be linked to establishing bilingual education in Vienna for Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian. Discussions have been ongoing since 2024 and the option favoured by the minority language speakers is based on the Komenský school model, i.e. private schools run by school associations. At the beginning, they could be based at the Komenský school, which could provide the necessary expertise. The representatives of the Ministry of Education expressed their openness towards finding a solution, while underlining the necessary time and the budgetary constraints. All representatives of minority language speakers met during the on-the-spot visit agree on the need of bilingual education in Vienna and advocate for the amendment of the Private Schools Act to ensure that minority language schools have their running costs covered. The private bilingual schools are also seen by the minority language speakers as a way to overcome the lack of a structured and proactive approach towards minority language education in Vienna.

27. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Ministers recommended that the Austrian authorities **“take measures to ensure that a sufficient number of trained teachers for minority language education is available, in particular for pre-school education.”**

28. The periodical report indicates that the number of children or pupils per teacher corresponds to the Austrian average, which is in line or below the EU and OECD averages. While providing an overview of the students enrolled in various teacher training or language studies programme, the periodical report acknowledges, however, that some numbers are low, but it indicates that it is possible to employ “lateral entrants” and teachers from neighbouring countries. During the on-the-spot visit, the challenges related to the provision of a sufficient number of adequately trained teachers have been raised both by authorities and by minority language speakers. Moreover, pre-school teacher training remains problematic, since the minority languages are only optional subjects. The Committee of Experts was also informed that hiring teachers from neighbouring countries is difficult, as there is a shortage of teachers also in these countries and knowledge of German is a pre-condition for being employed as a teacher in Austria. In this context, the joint campaign of Carinthia and Burgenland to attract young people to a teaching career in bilingual education is to be commended.³⁶ In addition, incentives could be introduced, in order to raise the attractiveness of a teaching career, particularly at pre-school level.

29. The provision of teaching materials remains challenging, despite steps taken by the authorities to support their development. In the context of the new curricula, there is a need to revise or discontinue some teaching materials. The process of revising and developing teaching materials for minority language education is slowed by the low number of available professionals and the difficulty of finding publishing houses. In practice, teachers still develop their own materials, in particular at pre-school and primary level. A wish for a stronger involvement of the authorities in the funding and production of teaching materials has been expressed by minority language speakers.

30. As regards the monitoring of minority language education (Article 8.1.i), in Carinthia and in Burgenland, the minority schools' divisions within the education directorates prepare annual reports, which are made public online.³⁷ In Carinthia, the annual reports about the Slovenian minority in Carinthia comprise extended information about education. As already noted by the Committee of Experts, these reports provide not only data on the numbers of schools and pupils enrolled at different levels in different models of education, but also an overview of measures and developments as regards minority language education, information on teaching materials and teacher training. An external evaluation of the minority school system in Carinthia took place in 2024. Every year discussions with each school director about the quality aspects and improvements take place. The Committee of Experts reiterates that aspects such as the developments

³⁵ See also [Fifth Opinion on Austria](#), Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, ACFC/OP/V(2023)002, para. 159.

³⁶ [Zweisprachige Lehrer:innen in Kärnten & Burgenland gesucht](#).

³⁷ See also Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 23, and [Minderheitenschulwesen - Bildungsdirektion für Burgenland, Jahresberichte / Letna poročila, Bildungsdirektion für Kärnten](#) (in German and Slovenian in 2024 and 2025), [Bericht zur Lage der slowenischen Volksgruppe in Kärnten - Land Kärnten](#) (in German and Slovenian).

in pupils' language proficiency should also be included. In addition, it is important that representatives of minority language speakers are involved, in order to have their concerns also taken into account.³⁸ In Burgenland, the *Forum4Burgenland*, established as an initiative of the education authorities, the Private Pedagogical University (PPH) and ethnic group representatives, organises annually an event dedicated to educational topics. In 2024, in Carinthia, under the "Dialogue Forum for the development of the mixed areas" a working group on education involving the federal and *Land* authorities and covering *inter alia* early childhood education and continuity across school levels, adopted 33 measures, dealing *inter alia* with bilingual education including at pre-school level and the provision of teachers.³⁹

Use of the regional or minority languages by judicial authorities

31. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Ministers recommended that the Austrian authorities **"take practical measures for the use of the Burgenland-Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian languages before the relevant judicial [...] authorities"**.

32. Slovenian remains the only minority language where the use before courts in practice has been reported. According to the authorities, a slight increase in the number of cases can be noticed in 2024 (69 cases) and 2025 (74 cases) before three district courts and the regional court in Klagenfurt. In these cases, the proceedings were conducted wholly or partly in Slovenian, with or without the use of interpreters. Information was also provided in Slovenian orally to the parties. The authorities further informed that the language skills of judges and judicial staff continue to be taken into account when appointing them and language courses are also offered. Interpretation costs are borne by the state. The websites of the district courts, where minority languages may be used, and of the regional court in Klagenfurt have been made available in minority languages; some documents are also available in minority languages on these websites.

33. The representatives of speakers of Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian refer to the low number of bilingual staff, interpreters and translators, as well as to the increased duration of proceedings, should interpretation be used. As regards Slovenian, they also drew attention to the forthcoming retirement of the only remaining Slovenian-speaking judge, which will have a further negative effect on an already precarious situation.

34. The Slovenian speakers also reiterated the need for a reform of the system in order to reinforce and extend the use of Slovenian before judicial authorities to the entire area where the language is used. Although at the time of the previous evaluation report discussions were ongoing, there have been no further developments in this respect.⁴⁰ The Committee of Experts invites the authorities, in co-operation with the speakers, to widen the possibilities of using Slovenian before courts.⁴¹

35. The Committee of Experts reiterates that a more proactive approach is needed in order to encourage and facilitate the use of Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian before courts in practice. This includes measures to regularly encourage parties to make use of the possibility to use minority languages in court proceedings, to ensure that a sufficient number of certified translators and interpreters are available, and to support legal professionals to acquire or develop their language competences in minority languages.⁴²

Use of the regional or minority languages by administrative authorities

36. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Ministers recommended that the Austrian authorities **"take practical measures for the use of the Burgenland-Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian languages before the relevant [...] administrative authorities"**.

³⁸ [Study on certain aspects of regional or minority language protection and identification of good practices in member States](#), Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), p. 43.

³⁹ See [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), pp. 55-56.

⁴⁰ Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 26.

⁴¹ Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 28.

⁴² Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 31.

37. Despite developments in the monitoring period, the use of minority languages in the administrative field remains limited. While the situation differs depending on the authority and the minority language concerned, overall, minority languages are predominantly used orally, while written applications are rare, as is the publication of documents in minority languages, especially by local authorities.

38. According to the authorities, federal ministries (Article 10.1.a.iii, c), such as the Ministry of the Interior, of Social Affairs or of Finance made available documents and forms in minority languages on their website. As regards the Ministry of Finance, based on the information received it is unclear to the Committee of Experts whether the forms can be submitted in minority languages.⁴³ The periodical report also indicates that the availability of staff speaking minority languages in the police is not consistently guaranteed, but interpreters are used. Moreover, language courses are available for police officials. Steps are taken as well to ensure that school certificates are issued bilingually directly in the centralized system and no longer translated by schools.

39. In Carinthia, there is a certain use of Slovenian in administration, by *Land*, district (Article 10.1.a.iii, c) and local authorities (Article 10.2.b, d). The Office for National Minorities of the *Land* of Carinthia makes available forms which can be used with different authorities and provides support with the interpretation and translation. One important initiative was the translation into Slovenian of one hundred online forms used in local administration, as part of a project financed by the Federal Chancellery and implemented by the municipality of Globasnitz/Globasnica in 2024. The Office for National Minorities has also started developing bilingual glossaries of legal terminology regarding administration and pre-school education.⁴⁴ The Committee of Experts notes that the use of minority languages in administration could be greatly facilitated, if they are properly integrated in the digitalisation process of the administration and the online services. As already noted in the previous evaluation report, the Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to use Slovenian in those municipalities which are not legally obliged to do so by the national legislation, but where the Slovenian speakers are traditionally present in sufficient numbers for the purposes of the undertakings entered into by Austria and to offer to all residents of a municipality the same possibilities to use Slovenian.⁴⁵

40. As regards Burgenland, according to the periodical report, forms are not available in Burgenland Croatian and Hungarian on the dedicated service page of the *Land* (Article 10.1.a.iii, c). The absence of bilingual forms which would facilitate application in these languages is also pointed out by the minority language speakers.

41. The Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian speakers also refer to insufficient presence of bilingual staff in administration and the delays caused by the use of interpretation or translation, which discourages the use of minority languages.⁴⁶

42. The Committee of Experts underlines that a more structured and pro-active approach is still needed to strengthen the use of minority languages in administration and ensure a more consistent presence in this field, in particular in Burgenland. Measures should be taken to ensure that all the relevant authorities are fully aware of their obligations related to the use of minority languages and to provide them with the necessary technical and financial support. Application forms should be made further available and easily accessible. The language competences of the staff should continue to be strengthened, including with respect to specific terminology.⁴⁷ In addition, minority language speakers should be encouraged to use their language in relations with the administrative authorities, including by their use in speeches by officials during public events and by an increased presence on websites. The Committee of Experts also draws the attention to its statement on the promotion of regional or minority languages through artificial intelligence,⁴⁸ which could be used to accommodate the use of these languages in administration. It requires to develop and/or include, in

⁴³ [BMF - Formulare Steuern & Zoll](#).

⁴⁴ [Glossare deutsch-slowenisch - Land Kärnten](#).

⁴⁵ Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 75.

⁴⁶ See also Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 36.

⁴⁷ Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 37.

⁴⁸ [Statement on the promotion of regional or minority languages through artificial intelligence](#) of the Committee of Experts of the of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

consultation with the speakers, appropriate administrative and legal terminology in each regional or minority language with due consideration to their terminological particularities.

Use of the regional or minority languages in the media

43. The public broadcaster ORF produces and broadcasts radio and television programmes in all minority languages. They are made available throughout Austria, as well as online.⁴⁹

44. In addition to the already existing programmes (see paragraphs 14, 56, 58, 62, 63, 64, 71) since 2024, the ORF Radio Burgenland, which can also be received in Vienna, produces a new two-hours weekly music magazine (*Musikmosaik*), with music in Burgenland Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Romani and Slovak.⁵⁰

45. Since 2021, the funding for media in minority languages by the Federal Chancellery is mainly dedicated to one “main medium” chosen by each national minority, which is funded from a dedicated budget.⁵¹ This “medium” is in general a newspaper or other publication, on paper and/or online, with the exception of Romani, where it is a radio programme. Other publications also receive subsidies. Weekly newspapers (Article 11.1.ei) are published in Burgenland Croatian and Slovenian, on paper and online, while Hungarian “main medium” is an online platform only.

46. The Committee of Experts reiterates the importance of broadening the presence of minority languages in a variety of media and encourages the financing of different types of media in minority languages.

47. While the offer of radio programmes is richer, the Committee of Experts notes that some television programmes are still broadcast only six times per year, which is not sufficient to make a real contribution to the promotion of these languages.⁵² The Committee of Experts is of the opinion that the Austrian authorities should increase the provision of television programmes in Czech, Hungarian, Romani and Slovak

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

48. Minority languages are widely used in cultural activities, which are organised by the minority associations and receive financial support from the Federal Chancellery and from the *Länder* (including some support from the City of Vienna, although there is no dedicated scheme). They include *inter alia* performances by folk ensembles and theatre groups, publication and translations of books, film screenings, lectures and presentations. Cultural activities are organised and funded throughout Austria, not only in the areas where the minority language speakers are traditionally present (see paragraphs 59, 60, 64, 66, 74 below).

49. According to the periodical report, the minority languages and cultures they represent are taken into account in the cultural policy abroad (Article 12.3), in particular in the activities of the Austrian Libraries and the Austrian Cultural Fora.⁵³ Performances of folk ensembles abroad are also financially supported. In addition, the website of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and of some embassies provide brief information about the protection of the six national minorities in Austria and about their languages. National minority rights are among the priorities of the Austrian Human Rights Policy. According to the authorities, Intercultural Dialogue, Culture and Human Rights are key areas of the international cultural policy. While acknowledging the emphasis placed by Austria on national minorities in an international context, the Committee of Experts invites the authorities to provide more specific information and examples of activities promoting the minority languages as part of the cultural policy abroad.

⁴⁹ Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), paras. 40-41.

⁵⁰ See annual report of ORF for 2024, available at [Jahresbericht - der.ORF.at](#).

⁵¹ Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 39.

⁵² Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para. 42.

⁵³ See Sixth periodical report of Austria pp. 33, 98.

The use of minority languages in economic and social life

50. In Carinthia, according to the information received during the on-the-spot visit, businesses (such as banks) use Slovenian. Sport associations of the Slovene national minority continue to receive financial support from the *Land*, as well as from the federal authorities. Slovenian is also used in the tourism sector, often with a cross-border component. In the *Karawanken-Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark*, for example, aimed at preserving the natural, and cultural heritage in the cross-border region, Slovenian is also used in the Austrian side of the Geopark. The Chamber of Agriculture has recently started to provide advisory services in Slovenian.

51. In Burgenland, Burgenland Croatian and Hungarian are used in a care and retirement home opened in 2023 in Schandorf/Čemba.

52. While welcoming the information and the new developments both in Carinthia and Burgenland, Committee of Experts invites the authorities to provide more information on how they promote each minority language covered by Part III in social and economic life “within the whole country” (Article 13.1.d).

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

Burgenland Croatian – Part II and Part III language

53. According to the periodical report, in the 2023/2024 school year, Burgenland Croatian was used in 26 kindergartens with 1 688 children (Article 8.1.a ii). At primary level (Article 8.1.b ii), updated information provided by the authorities for the 2025/2026 school year indicate that 24 schools and three classes in German-speaking schools provide bilingual education to a total of 1 490 pupils; other schools teach Burgenland Croatian. At secondary level (Article 8.1.c iii),⁵⁴ in the 2025/2026 school year there is one bilingual lower secondary school (*Mittelschule*, 68 pupils) and two other lower secondary schools with bilingual classes or bilingual teaching in certain subjects (94 pupils); five lower secondary schools offer language teaching in different formats (e.g. compulsory elective subject, optional subject with grades or without grades). The Bilingual Gymnasium in Oberwart (*AHS*, offering lower and upper secondary education) provides bilingual education to 89 pupils at both levels, while five other gymnasia provide language teaching as a subject in different formats. In vocational education (Article 8.1.d.iv), Croatian is taught in different formats (e.g. as a compulsory elective subject, as optional subject with grades) in seven schools, including the Training Institute for Early Childhood Education, to a total 207 pupils. There is still a sharp decrease in the number of pupils in secondary education,⁵⁵ and the speakers pointed out the low number and the territorial distribution of the secondary schools, especially bilingual, which leads to the offer not sufficiently covering the area where they live.

54. The Burgenland Croatian speakers are concerned about the level of the language competence of children reaching primary school and the staff shortage as regards the kindergarten teachers, as well as the fact that their training includes only studying the language as an optional subject. While pupils are automatically registered in bilingual primary education, a key issue to be addressed remains for the speakers the possibility to withdraw pupils from bilingual education at any time during the school year (“deregistration”). This leads in practice to a lowering of the requirements regarding the language knowledge, in order to prevent the “deregistration”. A solution favoured by the speakers would be to limit in time this possibility to the first few weeks of the school year.

55. At university level (Article 8.1.e iii), Burgenland Croatian/Croatian is offered as part of Slavic subjects in Graz and Vienna. Nevertheless, during the on-the-spot visit the Committee of Experts was informed that the courses about Burgenland Croatian which were offered in Vienna, would not be offered in the following semester. In adult education (Article 8.1.fii), courses of Burgenland Croatian/Croatian are offered by the adult education centre of the Burgenland Croats (*Volkshochschule der burgenländischen Kroaten*) and by associations, including in Vienna. Basic and further teacher training (Article 8.1.h) is

⁵⁴ In education, Burgenland Croatian is used in primary and lower secondary, while in upper secondary standard Croatian is used.

⁵⁵ In 2025/2026, for all models of education included, there are 1 909 pupils in primary education, 485 in secondary education and 207 in vocational education, including pre-school teacher training.

provided by the PH Burgenland (*Private Pädagogische Hochschule*).⁵⁶ At the Training Institute for Early Childhood, Education Burgenland Croatian is only an optional subject with grades, with 16 students in 2025/2026. PH Burgenland offers a study programme in early language promotion and multilingualism.⁵⁷

56. In Vienna, a bilingual children group using Croatian and German and a “Saturday school” (two hours Saturdays and two hours during the week) using Burgenland Croatian and Croatian are organised by the association *Hrvatski Centar/Kroatisches Zentrum*, which receives funding from the federal authorities. The association is also preparing the launching of a bilingual school after the model of the Komenský school (see also paragraph 26).⁵⁸

57. According to the periodical report, Burgenland Croatian is not used in practice before judicial authorities (Article 9). As regards the administrative authorities (Article 10), both the periodical report and the information received during the on-the-spot visit indicate that Burgenland Croatian is mainly used orally and at local level; at district level, even oral communication in Burgenland Croatian is rare. According to the speakers, the use of Burgenland Croatian is limited by the lack of staff and of interpreters; moreover, the use of interpretation prolongs the duration of proceedings. According to the periodical report, only forms in German are available in the Burgenland forms service;⁵⁹ documents published in Burgenland Croatian are rare and limited to a few municipalities. The periodical report also indicates that only five of the 28 municipalities where Burgenland Croatian has official status⁶⁰ provide bilingual information; for three of these five, the websites have been developed through the digitalisation initiative funded by the Federal Chancellery, and it is expected that other municipalities would also use this funding. For the other municipalities, the periodical report refers to a symbolical or marginal use, while eleven use only German. The Committee of Experts notes that the department responsible for minority language schools in the Burgenland Education Directorate uses Burgenland Croatian in some of its documents and forms. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was also informed that in the area covering cultural promotion there is staff with a full command of minority languages.

58. The weekly *Hrvatske Novine* (Article 11.1. e i) remains the “main medium”, funded from the dedicated media funding. Nevertheless, there are concerns about the long-term security and further development, as the funding is not sufficient, for example, to hire additional staff, and possibilities to access other funding are limited. On the radio, ORF Radio Burgenland broadcasts several programmes in Burgenland Croatian (30-minute daily magazine, with different genres, including programmes for children, and in addition daily news, journal, etc.).⁶¹ These can also be received in Vienna. *Radio Mora*, a non-commercial multilingual radio station financially supported by authorities, also broadcasts programmes in Burgenland Croatian. On television, ORF continues to produce and broadcast a 30-minute weekly magazine (*Dobar dan, Hrvati*), which is available regionally and country-wide. Burgenland Croatian is also used in the ORF programme WIR. Associations are present in new and social media. In addition, animated films have also been produced to support bilingual education (Article 11.1.d).

59. Cultural activities are organised by the associations and receive financial support from the Federal Chancellery, including in Vienna, as well as of the *Land* government in Burgenland. Examples include performances by folk ensembles such as *Tamburica Trausdorf*, *O Hajdenjaki*, or *Stinjacko Kolo*; theatre performances, including in Vienna; a musical performed by children from bilingual schools; and activities of the cultural association KUGA in Großwarasdorf/Veliki Borištof, the *Hrvatski Centar/Kroatisches Zentrum*, and the *Hrvatski Akademski Club/Kroatischer akademischer Klub* in Vienna.⁶² In economic and social life,

⁵⁶ According to the periodical report: Bachelor level: Burgenland Croatian/Croatian as a subject at secondary schools; Supplementary programme (*Erweiterung*): Burgenland Croatian at secondary level; further education programme (*Hochschullehrgang*): bilingual education German – Burgenland Croatian for primary and lower secondary schools; further training: intensive language course of Burgenland Croatian; see also [PPH Burgenland - PPH Burgenland](#).

⁵⁷ [Lehrgang Frühe sprachliche Förderung Mehrsprachigkeit](#).

⁵⁸ [ZWEISPRACHIGE SCHULE IN WIEN | Hrvatski Centar](#).

⁵⁹ [Formularservice Burgenland - Willkommen beim Formularservice Burgenland](#).

⁶⁰ See Fourth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria [CM\(2018\)38](#), para. 32.

⁶¹ See annual report of ORF for 2024, available at [Jahresbericht - der.ORF.at](#).

⁶² See Sixth periodical report of Austria, p. 25; for more information, including funds provided by the authorities, see [Report of the Federal Chancellery on the promotion of national minorities for 2023](#), Reports on cultural activities of Burgenland available at [Kulturberichte - Land Burgenland](#); see also [KUGA – Kulturna zadruha / Kulturvereinigung](#), [Nachrichten – Hrvatsko kulturno društvo u Gradišću](#), [KULTUR | Hrvatski Centar](#); [Hak - Hrvatski akademski klub / Kroatischer akademischer Klub | Wien | Facebook](#).

Burgenland Croatian is used, for example, in the trilingual care and retirement home opened in 2023 in Schandorf/Čemba. Transfrontier exchanges take place in particular in the domains of education and culture, with partners in Croatia, but also in Czechia, Hungary and the Slovak Republic.

Czech – Part II language

60. Bilingual Czech-German education from pre-school to upper secondary level continues to be organised at the private Komenský School in Vienna (Article 7.1.f).⁶³ Nevertheless, despite the available support, funding remains a serious concern, which endangers the future of the school (see paragraph 25). Outside the Komenský school, Czech is only offered at one other primary school in Vienna as first language teaching (20 pupils). Czech may be studied at the university of Vienna, as part of Slavic studies (Article 7.1.h); teacher training is also possible in Vienna. A 30-minute weekly magazine in Czech is broadcast by Radio Burgenland (*Radio Dráták*) and can also be received in Vienna; a 25-minute bilingual television programme in Czech and Slovak continues to be broadcast six times per year (*České Ozvěny/Slovenské Ozveny*) on ORF III. Czech is also used in the ORF programme WIR. The fortnightly publication, *Vídeňské svobodné listy* is the “main medium” of the Czech minority (Article 7.1.d). Cultural activities are organised by the Czech associations and receive funding from the Federal Chancellery. They include the promotion of folk culture, including dance and music, book presentations and discussions events, concerts, organised by the *Akademický spolek ve Vídni/Akademische Verein in Wien* or the association *Marjánka* and theatre performances, for example of the Omladina ensemble.⁶⁴ Associations co-operate across borders with institutions in Czechia (Article 7.1.i). Further co-operation takes place in the framework of EU INTERREG programme Austria-Czechia *Education for Tomorrow*, which covers, *inter alia*, cross-border training for education professionals.

Hungarian – Part II and Part III language

61. Hungarian is used at pre-school level (Article 8.1.a ii) in four bilingual kindergartens, according to the information from the authorities for the 2023/2024 school year; these are fewer than in previous years, although the number of pupils is increasing (555 pupils). At primary level (Article 8.1.b ii), according to updated information provided by the authorities for the 2025/2026 school year, bilingual education is organised in two schools and in bilingual classes in three German-speaking schools (166 pupils). There is no new class set up in Oberwart/Felsőőr in 2025/2026 school year, a worrying development for the speakers; however, according to the authorities, this is due to an insufficient number of requests. The Committee of Experts recalls that the undertaking chosen by Austria (Article 8.1.bii) is not linked to requests from speakers (which would be the case for the option in Article 8.1.b.iv). It notes that bilingual education in German and Hungarian is “made available” in other places. Bearing in mind that the number of these locations is relatively low and that in general, once a minority language offer in education is discontinued, it is difficult to reestablish it, the Committee of Experts urges the authorities to maintain bilingual education in places where it used to exist and to further develop it. Hungarian is also taught as a compulsory subject and as optional subject without grades at other schools (to a total of 945 pupils). The Committee of Experts notes that the highest numbers of pupils are learning Hungarian as a subject rather than being involved in bilingual education, which is the undertaking chosen by Austria for primary level. At secondary level (Article 8.1.c iii), Hungarian is taught as a compulsory subject at six lower secondary schools (91 pupils), as an optional subject with grades and an as optional subject without grades at several other schools at lower secondary (154 pupils) and upper secondary levels (10 pupils). Bilingual education is provided in one lower secondary school (28 pupils) and at the Bilingual Gymnasium in Oberwart/Felsőőr, which covers both the lower and upper secondary levels (74 and 65 pupils respectively). The number of pupils decreases in secondary education.⁶⁵ In vocational education (Article 8.1.d.iv) Hungarian is taught as compulsory subject in one school (27 pupils), as compulsory elective subject in three others (110 pupils), as and as optional subject with grades in two, including the Training Institute for Early Childhood Education (19 pupils). At

⁶³ In the 2023/2024 school year, there were 83 children at kindergarten, 102 pupils at primary level and 162 pupils at secondary level, according to the periodical report.

⁶⁴ See Sixth periodical report of Austria, p. 68; for more information, including funds provided by the authorities, see [Report of the Federal Chancellery on the promotion of national minorities for 2023](#); see also [Tanz-, Musik- & Sprachverein Marjánka • Startseite, Veranstaltungen | Akademický spolek ve Vídni, Kulturklub der Tschechen und Slowaken in Österreich - Kulturní klub Čechů a Slováků v Rakousku, Vlastenecká omladina – Webové stránky českého divadelního spolku ve Vídni](#).

⁶⁵ In 2025/2026 school year, all models of education included, there are 1 257 pupils in primary education (only 166 in bilingual education), 422 in secondary education and 156 in vocational education, including pre-school teacher training.

university level (Article 8.1.e iii), Hungarian is offered in Vienna and in Graz. Research is also carried out in Vienna. Courses for adults are organised by the adult education centre of the Burgenland Hungarians (*Volkshochschule der Burgenländischen Ungarn*), including one for Hungarian at the workplace and as official language (Article 8.1. f iii). Basic and further teacher training is provided at the PH Burgenland,⁶⁶ as well as the university of Vienna, as far as teaching the language as a subject is concerned. The numbers, as provided in the report, are very low (2-3 students). As far as pre-school teachers are concerned, Hungarian is an optional subject with grades at the Training Institute for Early Childhood Education (17 students in 2025/2026).

62. In Vienna, Hungarian language courses for children and youth are organised by two associations (Hungarian School Association and Vienna Hungarian School). One pre-school group where Hungarian is used alongside German and Slovak was organised at the Komenský School. One public primary school organises bilingual education,⁶⁷ while Hungarian is taught in the framework of first language teaching at three primary schools and one secondary school.⁶⁸ Hungarian language courses for adults are organised by associations and by the Vienna adult education centres. Hungarian speakers are also advocating for bilingual education in Vienna following the model of the Komenský school (see also paragraph 26).

63. Hungarian is not used before judicial authorities in practice (Article 9). It is rarely used in relations with the administrative authorities, and when it is, it is for oral communication, while written correspondence remains the exception (Article 10). According to the periodical report, only forms in German are available in the *Land* Burgenland forms service.⁶⁹ The Hungarian speakers also raise the issue of the limited use of Hungarian by the administrative authorities and the lack of Hungarian speaking staff, as well as of forms in Hungarian. According to the periodical report, out of four municipalities where Hungarian has official status, one has a bilingual website, one is in process of developing it and two have websites only in German. The Committee of Experts notes that the department responsible for minority language schools in the Burgenland Education Directorate uses Hungarian in some of its documents and forms. During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was also informed that in the area covering cultural promotion there is staff with a full-command of minority languages.

64. ORF Burgenland produces and broadcasts radio programmes in Hungarian (15-minute daily news, a 56-minute weekly magazine, a 20-minute weekly cultural programme).⁷⁰ A weekly programme for children JuniorON was introduced in November 2023. These programmes can also be received in Vienna. *Radio Mora* is also broadcasting in Hungarian. On television, ORF broadcasts the 25-minute programme in Hungarian (*Adj' Isten magyarok*) only six times per year (in Burgenland, Vienna and replay country-wide). Hungarian is used also in the ORF programme WIR. The online platform *Rólunk* ("About us"), a joint project of four associations, is the "main medium" (Article 11.1. ei). Initially only in Hungarian, now about 10% of the platform articles are published also in German; it is updated weekly with articles and regularly with videos and podcasts too. In addition, *Rólunk* has also a presence on social media and a Youtube channel. There are plans to further develop it, but the funding is not sufficient. Diverse cultural activities are organised by associations, with support from the Federal Chancellery and the Burgenland authorities. Examples include performances by folk ensembles such as *Csárdás Lányok*, *Magyar Néptáncgyűttes*, *Őri Banda*; theatre performances and lectures by the Hungarian bilingual theatre association and cultural circle *Alsóőri Kétnyelvű Színháztársaság és Kultúrkör*. Cultural activities are also organised in Vienna, including the promotion of folk culture, lectures and conferences.⁷¹ In economic and social life, Hungarian is used, for example, in the trilingual care and retirement home opened in 2023 in Schandorf. Cross-border co-operation is carried out by associations, but also by authorities, schools and universities. An example is the

⁶⁶ See [PPH Burgenland - PPH Burgenland](#), further education programme (*Hochschullehrgang*): bilingual education German – Hungarian for primary and lower secondary schools; see [Lehrgang Frühe sprachliche Förderung Mehrsprachigkeit](#), early language promotion in multilingual contexts at kindergarten.

⁶⁷ [Schwerpunkte - Bunte Schule Währing - 918061](#).

⁶⁸ [Sprachförderzentrum der Bildungsdirektion für Wien - Volksschule, Mittelschule](#).

⁶⁹ [Formularservice Burgenland - Willkommen beim Formularservice Burgenland](#).

⁷⁰ For details, see annual report of ORF for 2024, available at [Jahresbericht - der ORF.at](#).

⁷¹ See Sixth periodical report of Austria, p. 85; for more information, including funds provided by the authorities, see [Report of the Federal Chancellery on the promotion of national minorities for 2023](#), Reports on cultural activities of Burgenland available at [Kulturberichte - Land Burgenland](#); see also [theaterverein-unterwart.at](#), [Burgenlandi Magyar Kultúregyesület/Burgenländisch-Ungarischer Kulturverein](#), UMIZ, <https://hungarikum.at/>, [Ausztriai Magyar Egyesületek és Szervezetek Központi Szövetsége, WUKV - Wiener Ungarischer Kulturverein / Bécsi Magyar Kultúregyesület | WUKV - Wiener Ungarischer Kulturverein / Bécsi Magyar Kultúregyesület, Hírlevél – Kerekasztal](#).

“Educational Cooperation in the Border Region_innovativ AT-HU” in the INTERREG Austria-Hungary, which covers, inter alia, the development of teaching materials. Funding for projects in domains such as research or language courses are available also as part of the Austria-Hungary Initiative for Scientific and Educational Cooperation, from the Agency for Education and Internationalisation. Another INTERREG programme *Education for Tomorrow* where both Vienna and Burgenland participate, ensures a framework of co-operation in the field of education.⁷²

Romani – Part II language

65. In Burgenland, Romani language courses were organised until the 2022/2023 school year at the primary and lower secondary school in Oberwart, as optional subject without grades. The number of pupils enrolled remained low. As of the following school year, the organisation of these courses was commissioned to the association Roma-Service, a step meant, according to the periodical report, to increase the attractiveness of the lessons. Pupils continue to have the Romani courses registered in their certificate. The lessons are organised in the framework of the afternoon care and learning support and they are attended by about 30 pupils, including from other municipalities, which is an increase compared to the previous report (Article 7.1.f). Teaching materials were developed by the Romani speakers in co-operation with the authorities of Burgenland and are available on the platform *Skooly*. According to the periodical report, at university level Romani language courses, as well as a course on the history and present life of the Romani speakers in Austria, are organised at the university of Graz, where research on Romani is also carried out (Article 7.1.h). Language courses are, however, not organised every year. Language courses are also organised by the adult education centre of the Roma in Oberwart. In Vienna, Romani is taught as first language teaching in five primary schools⁷³ and language courses are organised as well by associations. The ORF Radio Burgenland produces and broadcasts a 20-minute weekly radio programme in Romani (*Roma Sam*), which is received in Burgenland and Vienna. A one-hour daily programme in Romani (*Romani Ora*) on *Radio Mora* is the “main medium”. The 25-minute TV programme (*Romano Dikipe*), in Romani and German, is broadcast six times a year (in Burgenland and replay country-wide). Romani is also used in the ORF programme WIR. Associations also run YouTube channels. The magazines *Romano Centro* (twice per year) and *d/ROM/a* (four times per year) are published bilingually, in German and Romani. A publication for children - *Mri Nevi Mini Multi* – is published in Romani twice per year (Article 7.1.d). The presence of Romani in the public space in general is limited and more visibility, for example in signage, would be welcome by the speakers (Article 7.1. d). The Romani associations organise cultural activities which use Romani language. They include promotion of folk culture, publication of books or the theatre festival *E bistarde*, organised in Vienna. An exhibition on the Romani language in Austria has been organised by Akademie Graz in 2023 and has been hosted in Burgenland, in the Austrian Parliament and in Styria.⁷⁴ Romani speakers co-operate across borders, for example with organisations in Hungary, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia (Article 7.1.i).

Slovak – Part II language

66. The Komenský School in Vienna offers Slovak-German education from pre-school to upper secondary level (Article 7.1.f).⁷⁵ It is the only provision of Slovak in education in Vienna.⁷⁶ Slovak may be studied at the University of Vienna, as part of the Slavic studies (Article 7.1.h); teacher training for language teaching is also organised in Vienna. A 20-minute radio programme in Slovak (*Radio Dia:Tón*) is broadcast once per week. The 25-minute bilingual television programme in Czech and Slovak (*České Ozvěny/Slovenské Ozveny*) continues to be broadcast six times per year. Slovak is also used in the ORF programme WIR. The quarterly publication in Slovak (*Pohlady*) is the “main medium” (Article 7.1.d). Cultural activities are organised by minority associations in Vienna and receive financial support from the federal authorities. They include the promotion of folk culture, including dance and music, theatre performances,

⁷² Projekt „eTOM AT-HU“ – eTom.

⁷³ See [Sprachförderzentrum der Bildungsdirektion für Wien - Volksschule, Mittelschule](#).

⁷⁴ See Sixth periodical report of Austria, p. 31; for more information, including funds provided by the authorities, see [Report of the Federal Chancellery on the promotion of national minorities for 2023](#), Reports on cultural activities of Burgenland available at [Kulturberichte - Land Burgenland](#).

⁷⁵ In the 2023/2024 school year, there were 24 children at kindergarten, 53 pupils at primary level and 113 pupils at secondary level, according to the periodical report.

⁷⁶ See at [Sprachförderzentrum der Bildungsdirektion für Wien - Volksschule, Mittelschule](#), [Sprachförderzentrum der Bildungsdirektion für Wien - Allgemeinbildende höhere Schule](#).

organised by the associations *Marjánka* and *Kulturklub der Tschechen und Slowaken in Österreich/Kulturní klub Čechů a Slováků v Rakousku*.⁷⁷ There is cross border co-operation in the framework of EU INTERREG programme Austria-Slovakia *Education for Tomorrow* (Article 7.1.i).

Slovenian – Part II and Part III language

67. **Slovenian** continues to be present at all levels of pre-university education in Carinthia, according to different models. At pre-school level (Article 8.1.aiv), Slovenian is used in bilingual education in public or private kindergartens, in day-care centres for children below the age of three and in afternoon-care centres, including in Klagenfurt (1 578 children).⁷⁸ On top of the funding provided by the *Land* to all pre-school institutions, those providing bilingual education receive additional financial support: public bilingual kindergartens and day-care centres on the basis of the 15A Agreement and private bilingual kindergartens on the basis of the Carinthian Kindergarten Fund Act.⁷⁹ Quality is a concern both for the speakers and the *Land* authorities and in this context, as a precondition for the funding, a language pedagogical concept based on the “Pedagogical Framework Concept - Guidelines for the Promotion of Bilingual and Multilingual Education and Care in Carinthian Elementary Educational Institutions” published in 2022 has to be applied.⁸⁰ This reinforces *inter alia* at least an equal use of Slovenian and German and, for example, in practice kindergartens switch between the two languages weekly. As regards availability, the authorities state that not all available kindergarten places are used, but there seems to be an unequal geographical distribution. On the basis of the 15 A Agreement, private and public pre-school institutions also received earmarked grants for purchasing educational materials and for further training.⁸¹ In addition, amendments to the Carinthian Child Education and Care Act in 2023 include a specific reference to the promotion of Slovenian and prescribes, *inter alia*, that founders of bilingual or multilingual kindergartens may be granted special funding for the promotion of Slovenian.⁸² A working group on education involving the federal and *Land* authorities and covering *inter alia* early childhood education and continuity across school levels, adopted 33 measures, dealing *inter alia* with bilingual education including at pre-school level and the provision of teachers.⁸³

68. At primary level (Article 8.1. bii), bilingual German-Slovenian education was offered in 53 schools in the 2024/2025 school year, including in Klagenfurt (2 372 pupils).⁸⁴ According to the information received during the on-the-spot visit, schools face sometimes challenges in recruiting bilingual teachers and providing teaching materials. At secondary level (Article 8.1.ciii), teaching of Slovenian was provided to 289 pupils at 16 lower secondary schools (*Mittelschule*) in the 2024/2025 school year. There is also teaching of Slovenian at schools offering lower and upper secondary education (*AHS*), as well as teaching in Slovenian at the Slovenian gymnasium in Klagenfurt (468 pupils in 2024/2025 school year).⁸⁵ As noted already in the previous evaluation report, there is a decreasing trend in the number of pupils studying (in) Slovenian at secondary level and there is a sharp decline between the primary and secondary levels.⁸⁶ The Slovenian speakers are concerned about this situation, which they find unsatisfactory for the promotion of Slovenian. They also report that this negatively affects the general competence in Slovenian, since many pupils stop their Slovenian-language education at primary level. Moreover, those who continue have, with the exception of the Slovenian Gymnasium in Klagenfurt, only the option of learning Slovenian as a subject. In this context, the Committee of Experts welcomes the information about the steps to set up a bilingual education at lower secondary level in Bleiburg/Pliberk as a pilot project and the plans to provide more information to parents and pupils about the offers in secondary education. In vocational education (Article 8.1.d. iv), bilingual

⁷⁷ See Sixth periodical report of Austria, p. 40; for more information, including funds provided by the authorities, see [Report of the Federal Chancellery on the promotion of national minorities for 2023](#); see also [Tanz-, Musik- & Sprachverein Marjánka • Startseite](#), [Kulturklub der Tschechen und Slowaken in Österreich - Kulturní klub Čechů a Slováků v Rakousku](#), [Kultúra - Slováci.at](#).

⁷⁸ For the most recent data – the year 2024/2025 - see [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), pp. 20-21.

⁷⁹ See [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), pp. 21-24.

⁸⁰ See also Evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action, [MIN-LANG \(2025\) 4](#), para. 7, Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Austria, [MIN-LANG \(2023\)2](#), para 70.

⁸¹ [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), p. 21.

⁸² [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2024), p. 9.

⁸³ [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), pp. 55-56.

⁸⁴ See [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), pp. 26-27.

⁸⁵ See [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), pp. 26, 28.

⁸⁶ See also [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#), p. 28-29; there are on the total 514 pupils learning Slovenian, as compulsory or optional subject, at general secondary schools (*AHS*) and vocational schools.

education is provided at the Commerce Academy in Klagenfurt (224 pupils in 2024/2025) and at the (private) Secondary School for Economic Professions in St. Jakob im Rosental/Šentjakob v Rožu (113 pupils in 2024/2025), while Slovenian as a subject is offered at other vocational schools, including one for training of pre-school teachers.

69. Slovenian is studied at the universities of Klagenfurt, Graz and Vienna (Article 8.1.eiii). It is offered as part of Slavic studies or translation studies (for example, in Graz). Slovenian literature and minority culture is a research field in Graz; research was also carried out as part of the cross-border project on Minority Languages in Tourism Promotion involving the universities of Klagenfurt, Vienna and Zadar (Croatia) in 2022-2023 (Article 7.1.h). Nevertheless, the number of students is low and on a decreasing trend. The speakers still regret the discontinuation on the master programme in Slavic studies in Klagenfurt, with Slovenian being now part of the Master of Cross-Border Studies. Slovenian language courses are offered by the Carinthian adult education centres (*Kärntner Volkshochschulen*) (Article 8.1.fiii).

70. Teacher training is provided at the Training Institute for Early Childhood Education for the preschool level, the University College of Teacher Education of Carinthia (PH Kärnten) for bilingual education at primary level⁸⁷ and Slovenian language teaching at lower secondary level, and at universities, such as Klagenfurt and Graz, for Slovenian language teaching at the other levels. Nevertheless, in pre-school teacher training, Slovenian is only an optional subject taught for two hours per week, which is insufficient for pre-school education taking place bilingually. As part of their efforts to ensure quality, the Carinthian authorities require compulsory further training of at least 16 hours annually in the field of bilingualism and developed, in co-operation with PH Kärnten, a course (micro-credential)⁸⁸ on bilingual education at pre-school level.⁸⁹ Overall, a decrease in the number of those in teacher training for all levels can be noticed and the Slovenian-speakers and other interlocutors during the on-the-spot visit referred to difficulties in recruiting bilingual teachers, in particular at pre-school level. The Carinthian authorities are aware of the shortage of teachers, which, due to retirements, will continue in the next years.

71. In Styria, Slovenian is taught in primary, secondary and vocational education, as first language teaching, compulsory elective or optional subject. The data provided by the periodical report as well as the speakers during the on-the-spot visit show a decrease in numbers, particularly at primary school level.⁹⁰ This is, according to the speakers, due to the end of a project of teaching Slovenian in one primary school in June 2024. According to data provided by the authorities during the on-the-spot visit, there are 86 pupils registered for first-language teaching in 2025/2026, an increase compared to previous years. At pre-school level, the only offer are the courses organised in Graz by the Slovenian speakers association. According to the speakers, the highest chances for establishing continuity from kindergarten to upper secondary would be in Bad Radkersburg. Language courses for adults are also organised by the Styrian adult education centres. Slovenian language teaching is offered also in Vienna as first language teaching (one primary and one secondary school). Since the 2024/2025 school year, language lessons have been also organised by an association in the Komenský school. Together with the Burgenland Croatian and Hungarian speakers, the Slovenian speakers are advocating for bilingual education under the Komenský school model (see also paragraph 26).

72. Slovenian is used before the judicial authorities (Article 9). In the field of administration, as indicated in the periodical report, Slovenian is used mainly in verbal exchanges and less in written communication. At the level of the *Land* authorities (Article 10.1.a.iii, c), forms in Slovenian (e.g. applications for passport, driver's licence, registration form, heating costs support, etc) are available on the website of the Office for National Minorities of Carinthia. Civil status certificates must be issued in Slovenian upon request. The Office provides translation and interpretation services to administrative authorities and to the *Land* administrative court. In 2024 interpretation and translation support have been offered in 138 cases in 2024,

⁸⁷ Further education programme (*Hochschullehrgang*): Bilingual education for primary schools with teaching in German and Slovenian, and Team teacher for primary schools with teaching in German and Slovenian ([Hochschullehrgänge - PH Kärnten](#)).

⁸⁸ Micro-credentials certify the learning outcomes of short-term learning experiences, offering a flexible way to acquire knowledge, skills and competences for personal and professional development.

⁸⁹ See [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), p. 19, [Mehrsprachigkeit, Minderheitensprachen und transkulturelle Bildung - PH Kärnten](#).

⁹⁰ See Annex 9 of the periodical report, which is also based on data provided by the Slovenian speakers' association: 329 pupils in the 2023/2024 school year; 268 pupils in 2024/2025, according to the information provided by the speakers; 450 pupils in 2020/2021.

out of which 29 to local authorities.⁹¹ Free language courses are offered by the *Land* to its and local authorities staff, in co-operation with the Carinthian Administration Academy and the Institute for Economic Promotion of the Austrian Economic Chambers (WIFI). Bilingual staff also receive a bonus. In addition, a workshop on Slovenian as official language is organised by the Carinthian Administrative Academy. The culture department has staff with a full-command of Slovenian and funding applications in Slovenian can be submitted. The annual report on the situation of the Slovenian national minority continues to be published bilingually, as is the cultural magazine *Die Brücke*. The *Land* “Arts and Culture Strategy Kärnten/Koroška” is promoted via a bilingual website. The *Land* uses Slovenian in some printed materials and in materials destined to media. At the level of districts (Article 10.1. aiii), Slovenian is also mainly used orally, on site and during phone calls. Slovenian speaking staff is generally available, or interpreters and translators are used. Enquiries in Slovenian at district level concern the areas of youth and family affairs, trade, associations, nature conservation, passports, water and building law, public safety, forestry. According to the data of the Carinthian authorities, there has been an increase in enquiries in Slovenian in 2024 compared to 2023.⁹² At local level (Article 10.2 b, d) according to the periodical report, half of the municipalities where Slovenian is also official language have bilingual websites.

73. Radio and television programmes in Slovenian generally cover both Carinthia and Styria. On radio, ORF Radio Kärnten broadcasts one programme in Slovenian (one hour on Wednesdays), a bilingual German-Slovenian programme (one hour on Sundays and holidays) and a multilingual German-Slovenian-Italian programme (two hours and 30 minutes, from Monday-Friday). ORF also produces eight hours of daily programme in Slovenian broadcast by Radio AGORA (non-commercial community radio), which can be received in Carinthia and Styria; four additional hours of programmes in Slovenian are produced by radio Agora, while twelve hours are covered by bi- and multilingual programme produced by volunteers (“open access” radio); news in Slovenian are broadcast four times per day. On TV, a 30-minute programme weekly (*Dober dan, Koroška*) is broadcast by ORF 2 Carinthia (with two replays country-wide), while a similar programme (*Dober dan, Štajerska*) is broadcast by ORF 2 Styria. The weekly newspaper *Novice* (print and online) is the “main medium” (Article 11.1.ei). As far as audio-visual works are concerned (Article 11.1.d), the support to the project SMRKLJA, a weekly live webcast aimed at encouraging young people between 10 and 18 to use the Slovenian language in new media, is to be noted.⁹³

74. Slovenian is used to a large extent in cultural activities (Article 12), in exhibitions, book publications, film screenings, lectures.⁹⁴ The cultural support of *Land* of Carinthia for cultural activities has increased in the monitoring period. Slovenian is promoted in transfrontier exchanges (Article 7.1.i, Article 14 b), with partners in Slovenia, Hungary and Italy. Examples, in the framework of the EU funded INTERREG programmes, are the project LINGUA, and well as the *Karawanken – Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark*. Diverse cultural activities using Slovenian continue to be organised by the association *Artikel-VII-Kulturverein für Steiermark/Kulturno društvo Člen 7 za avstrijsko Štajersko* of the Slovenian speakers also in Styria with support from the Federal Chancellery and from the *Land* authorities, in Bad Radkersburg,⁹⁵ as well as in Graz. Schools are involved in cross-border cooperation with partners in Slovenia.

⁹¹ See [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), p. 11.

⁹² See [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025), pp. 11-12; Slovenian is most used in administrative criminal proceedings, e.g. infringements to traffic regulations, but these concern mainly Slovenian citizens.

⁹³ [Smrkija – Tvoj glas, tvoja zgodba, tvoja oddaja; Initiative — Slovenščino do-živeti / Slowenisch erleben](#).

⁹⁴ See Sixth periodical report of Austria, p. 31; for more information, including funds provided by the authorities, see [Report of the Federal Chancellery on the promotion of national minorities for 2023](#), [Report on the Situation of the Slovenian Ethnic Group in Carinthia](#) (2025); see also, for example, [KKZ • Kršćanska kulturna zveza](#), [Mohorjeva - Hermagoras | Verlag - Bücher | Suche](#); [Slowenisches Institut in Wien](#).

⁹⁵ [Pavelhaus | Pavlova hiša](#).

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

2.1 Burgenland Croatian

2.1.1 Compliance of Austria with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Burgenland Croatian

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 Austria concerning Burgenland Croatian ⁹⁶	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 Burgenland Croatian 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 Burgenland Croatian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Burgenland Croatian	=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Burgenland Croatian, 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 Burgenland Croatian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Burgenland Croatian at all appropriate stages		=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Burgenland Croatian to learn it	=			
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Burgenland Croatian at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Burgenland Croatian	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Burgenland Croatian	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Burgenland Croatian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Burgenland Croatian among their objectives		=		
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Burgenland Croatian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Burgenland Croatian	=			
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.iii	make available a substantial part of pre-school education in Burgenland Croatian		=		
8.1.bii	make available a substantial part of primary education in Burgenland Croatian		=		

⁹⁶ 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 Austria concerning Burgenland Croatian ⁹⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
8.1.ciii	provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of Burgenland Croatian as an integral part of the curriculum	=			
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Burgenland Croatian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Burgenland Croatian or teaching of Burgenland Croatian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	=			
8.1.eiii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Burgenland Croatian or of facilities for the study of Burgenland Croatian as a university or higher education subject	=			
8.1.fiii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Burgenland Croatian as a subject of adult and continuing education	=			
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Burgenland Croatian		=		
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Burgenland Croatian		=		
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Burgenland Croatian and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings	=			
8.2	in territories other than those in which Burgenland Croatian is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of Burgenland Croatian at all the appropriate stages of education	=			
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Burgenland Croatian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned			=	
9.1.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Burgenland Croatian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=			
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Burgenland Croatian in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Burgenland Croatian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Burgenland Croatian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Burgenland Croatian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Burgenland Croatian and the related use of documents and evidence in Burgenland Croatian, 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 Burgenland Croatian	=			
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services					
10.1.iii	ensure that users of Burgenland Croatian may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Burgenland Croatian		=		
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Burgenland Croatian		=		
10.2.b	possibility for users of Burgenland Croatian to submit oral or written applications in Burgenland Croatian to the regional or local authority		=		
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Burgenland Croatian				=
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation	=			
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Burgenland Croatian	=			
Art. 11 – Media					
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Burgenland Croatian on a regular basis	=			

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Austria concerning Burgenland Croatian ⁹⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Burgenland Croatian on a regular basis	=			
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Burgenland Croatian	=			
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Burgenland Croatian	=			
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Burgenland Croatian			=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Burgenland Croatian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Burgenland Croatian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Burgenland Croatian	=			
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities					
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Burgenland Croatian	=			
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Burgenland Croatian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=			
12.2	In territories other than those in which Burgenland Croatian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Burgenland Croatian	=			
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Burgenland Croatian and the culture it reflects		=		
Art. 13 – Economic and social life					
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Burgenland Croatian in economic and social life		↗		
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.b	for the benefit of Burgenland Croatian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Burgenland Croatian 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.

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

75. Burgenland Croatian is used in a trilingual care and retirement home, which opened in 2023 in Schandorf/Čemba. The Committee of Experts therefore considers the undertaking in Article 13.1.d partly fulfilled.

2.1.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Burgenland Croatian in Austria

The Committee of Experts recommends that the Austrian authorities 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 Austria⁹⁷ 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 steps to strengthen the use of Burgenland Croatian from pre-school to secondary level, including by providing a sufficient number of adequately trained teachers and the necessary teaching materials.**
- b. Take resolute measures to encourage and facilitate the use of Burgenland Croatian in administration in practice.**
- c. Ensure sufficient financial support for the activities promoting Burgenland Croatian.**

II. Further recommendations

- c. Building on the positive measures recently taken, take further steps to promote awareness throughout the country of the Burgenland Croatian language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Austria, in particular in mainstream education and in the media.
- d. Encourage and facilitate the use of Burgenland Croatian before courts.
- e. Take further steps to promote Burgenland Croatian and the culture it reflects in Austria’s cultural policy abroad.

⁹⁷ [CM/RecChL\(2005\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)7](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2023\)3](#).

2.2 Czech

2.2.1 Compliance of Austria with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Czech

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 Austria concerning Czech ⁹⁸	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 Czech 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 Czech	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Czech		=		
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Czech, 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 Czech • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Czech at all appropriate stages		=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Czech to learn it	=			
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Czech at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Czech	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Czech	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Czech among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Czech among their objectives		=		
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Czech • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Czech	=			

* 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.

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.

⁹⁸ 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).

2.2.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Czech in Austria

The Committee of Experts recommends that the Austrian authorities 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 Austria⁹⁹ 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 resolute measures to ensure sustainable and sufficient funding for the Komenský School.**
- b. Ensure sufficient financial support for the activities promoting Czech.**

II. Further recommendations

- c. Building on the positive measures recently taken, take further steps to promote awareness throughout the country of the Czech language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Austria, in particular in mainstream education and in the media.
- d. Take measures to strengthen the use of Czech in the media and to increase the frequency and duration of television programmes in Czech.

⁹⁹ [CM/RecChL\(2005\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)7](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2023\)3](#).

2.3 Hungarian

2.3.1 Compliance of Austria with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Hungarian

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 Austria concerning Hungarian ¹⁰⁰	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 Hungarian 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 Hungarian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Hungarian	=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Hungarian, 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 Hungarian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Hungarian at all appropriate stages		=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Hungarian to learn it	=			
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Hungarian at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Hungarian	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Hungarian	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Hungarian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Hungarian among their objectives		=		
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Hungarian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Hungarian	=			
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.ii	make available a substantial part of pre-school education in Hungarian		=		
8.1.b.ii	make available a substantial part of primary education in Hungarian	=			
8.1.c.iii	provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of Hungarian as an integral part of the curriculum	=			
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Hungarian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Hungarian or teaching of Hungarian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	=			
8.1.e.iii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Hungarian or of facilities for the study of Hungarian as a university or higher education subject	=			
8.1.f.iii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Hungarian as a subject of adult and continuing education	=			

¹⁰⁰ 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 Austria concerning Hungarian ¹⁰⁰	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Hungarian		=		
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Hungarian		=		
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Hungarian and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings	=			
8.2	in territories other than those in which Hungarian is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of Hungarian at all the appropriate stages of education	=			
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Hungarian 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 Hungarian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=			
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Hungarian 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 Hungarian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.c.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Hungarian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.c.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Hungarian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Hungarian and the related use of documents and evidence in Hungarian, 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 Hungarian	=			
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services					
10.1.a.iii	ensure that users of Hungarian may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Hungarian		=		
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Hungarian		=		
10.2.b	possibility for users of Hungarian to submit oral or written applications in Hungarian to the regional or local authority		=		
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Hungarian				=
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation	=			
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Hungarian	=			
Art. 11 – Media					
11.1.b.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Hungarian on a regular basis	=			
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Hungarian on a regular basis				=
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Hungarian	=			
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Hungarian		=		
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Hungarian			=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Hungarian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Hungarian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Hungarian	=			
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities					

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Austria concerning Hungarian ¹⁰⁰	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Hungarian	=			
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Hungarian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=			
12.2	In territories other than those in which Hungarian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Hungarian	=			
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Hungarian and the culture it reflects		=		
Art. 13 – Economic and social life					
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Hungarian in economic and social life		↗		
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.b	for the benefit of Hungarian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Hungarian 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.

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

76. Hungarian is used in a trilingual care and retirement home, which opened in 2023 in Schandorf. The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking in Article 13.1.d partly fulfilled.

2.3.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Hungarian in Austria

The Committee of Experts recommends that the Austrian authorities 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 Austria¹⁰¹ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

¹⁰¹ [CM/RecChL\(2005\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)7](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2023\)3](#).

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. Take further steps to strengthen teaching in/of Hungarian in pre-school, primary and secondary level, including by providing a sufficient number of adequately trained teachers and the necessary teaching materials.**
- b. Take resolute measures to encourage and facilitate the use of Hungarian in administration in practice.**
- c. Ensure sufficient financial support for the activities promoting Hungarian.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Building on the positive measures recently taken, take further steps to promote awareness throughout the country of the Hungarian language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Austria, in particular in mainstream education and in the media.
- e. Increase the frequency and duration of Hungarian language television programmes.
- f. Encourage and facilitate the use of Hungarian before courts.
- g. Take further steps to promote Hungarian and the culture it reflects in Austria's cultural policy abroad.

2.4 Romani

2.4.1 Compliance of Austria 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 Austria concerning Romani ¹⁰²	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	=				
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.

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.

¹⁰² 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).

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

77. Romani lessons are organised in the framework of the afternoon care and learning support at the Roma association in Oberwart, and the subject is registered in the school certificate. The number of pupils has increased to about 30 pupils, from different municipalities. Teaching materials were developed and are available on the platform Skooly. The Committee of Experts therefore considers the undertaking 7.1.f partly fulfilled.

2.4.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Romani in Austria

The Committee of Experts recommends that the Austrian authorities 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 Austria¹⁰³ 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 the teaching of Romani at all levels of education.**
- b. Promote respect, understanding and tolerance throughout the country for the Romani language and culture in mainstream education and in the media.**
- c. Ensure sufficient financial support for the activities promoting Romani.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Take measures to further increase the visibility of Romani in public life, especially by extending the offer of Romani language programmes on television.

¹⁰³ [CM/RecChL\(2005\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)7](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2023\)3](#).

2.5 Slovak

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

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 Austria concerning Slovak 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 Slovak 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 Slovak	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Slovak		=		
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Slovak, 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 Slovak • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Slovak at all appropriate stages		=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Slovak to learn it	=			
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Slovak at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Slovak	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Slovak	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Slovak among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Slovak among their objectives		=		
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Slovak • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Slovak	=			

* 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.

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.

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 No. 148).

2.5.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Slovak in Austria

The Committee of Experts recommends that the Austrian authorities 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 Austria¹⁰⁵ 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 resolute measures to ensure sustainable and sufficient funding for the Komenský School.**
- b. Ensure sufficient financial support for activities promoting Slovak.**

II. Further recommendations

- c. Building on the positive measures recently taken, take further steps to promote awareness throughout the country of the Slovak language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Austria, in particular in mainstream education and in the media.
- d. Take measures to strengthen the use of Slovak in the media and to increase the frequency and duration of television programmes in Slovak.

¹⁰⁵ [CM/RecChL\(2005\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)7](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2023\)3](#).

2.6 Slovenian

2.6.1 Compliance of Austria with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Slovenian

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 Austria concerning Slovenian 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 Slovenian 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 Slovenian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Slovenian	=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Slovenian, 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 Slovenian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Slovenian at all appropriate stages		=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Slovenian to learn it	=			
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Slovenian at universities or equivalent institutions	=			
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Slovenian	=			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Slovenian	=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Slovenian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Slovenian among their objectives		=		
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Slovenian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Slovenian	=			
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.aiv	favour and/or encourage the provision of pre-school education in Slovenian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Slovenian	=			
8.1.bii	make available a substantial part of primary education in Slovenian	=			
8.1.ciii	provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of Slovenian as an integral part of the curriculum	=			
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Slovenian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Slovenian or teaching of Slovenian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient	=			
8.1.eiii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Slovenian or of facilities for the study of Slovenian as a university or higher education subject	=			

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).

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Austria concerning Slovenian ¹⁰⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
8.1.fiii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Slovenian as a subject of adult and continuing education	=			
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Slovenian		=		
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Slovenian		=		
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Slovenian and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings	=			
8.2	in territories other than those in which Slovenian is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of Slovenian at all the appropriate stages of education	=			
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a	guarantee the accused the right to use Slovenian 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 Slovenian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=			
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Slovenian 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 Slovenian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=			
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Slovenian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗			
9.1.c.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Slovenian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗			
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Slovenian and the related use of documents and evidence in Slovenian, 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 Slovenian	=			
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services					
10.1.a.iii	ensure that users of Slovenian may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Slovenian		=		
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Slovenian		=		
10.2.b	possibility for users of Slovenian to submit oral or written applications in Slovenian to the regional or local authority		=		
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Slovenian		=		
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation	=			
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Slovenian	=			
Art. 11 – Media					
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Slovenian on a regular basis	=			
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Slovenian on a regular basis	=			
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Slovenian	=			
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Slovenian	=			
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Slovenian	=			
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Slovenian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Slovenian	=			

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of Austria concerning Slovenian ¹⁰⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
	• ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Slovenian					
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Slovenian	=				
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Slovenian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=				
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Slovenian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which Slovenian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Slovenian	=				
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Slovenian and the culture it reflects	=				
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Slovenian in economic and social life		=			
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.b	for the benefit of Slovenian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Slovenian 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.

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

78. According to information received during the on-the-spot visit, Slovenian has been used in proceedings, including for the submission of documents, before the administrative court of Carinthia. The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking in Article 9.1.cii and 9.1.ciii fulfilled.

2.6.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Slovenian in Austria

The Committee of Experts recommends that the Austrian authorities 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 Austria¹⁰⁷ 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 [CM/RecChL\(2005\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2009\)1](#); [CM/RecChL\(2012\)7](#); [CM/RecChL\(2018\)2](#); [CM/RecChL\(2023\)3](#).

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. Take further measures to extend and strengthen the use of Slovenian in administration in practice.**
- b. Ensure sufficient financial support for the activities promoting Slovenian.**

II. Further recommendations

- c. Building on the positive measures recently taken, take further steps to promote awareness throughout the country of the Slovenian language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Austria, in particular in mainstream education and in the media.
- d. Further strengthen and extend the use of Slovenian in education, in particular at pre-school level, including by providing a sufficient number of adequately trained teachers and the necessary teaching materials.
- e. Further facilitate the use of Slovenian before courts.

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

The Committee of Experts, while acknowledging the efforts the Austrian 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 Austria.

The Committee of Ministers,

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

Bearing in mind the instrument of ratification deposited by Austria on 28 June 2001;

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

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

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

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

1. take further steps towards a structured policy for the protection and promotion of all minority languages, especially as regards education in Vienna and Styria;
2. take further measures to ensure that a sufficient number of adequately trained teachers for minority language education is available, in particular for pre-school education;
3. take further steps to promote awareness throughout the country of the minority languages and cultures as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Austria in particular in mainstream education and in the media;
4. take further practical measures to encourage and facilitate the use of the Burgenland Croatian, Hungarian and Slovenian languages before the relevant judicial and administrative authorities.

The Committee of Ministers invites the Austrian authorities to submit the information on the recommendations for immediate action contained in the sixth evaluation report by 1 April 2028 and their seventh periodical report by 1 October 2030.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁸ See Committee of Ministers' Decisions [CM/Del/Dec\(2018\)1330/10.4e - CM-Public](#), 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



Austria:

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 28 June 2001 - Or. Engl./Aus.

Austria declares that minority languages within the meaning of the Charter in the Republic of Austria shall be the Burgenlandcroatian, the Slovenian, the Hungarian, the Czech, the Slovakian languages and the Romany language of the Austrian Roma minority.

Pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Charter, the Republic of Austria shall specify the minority languages to which the provisions selected pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Charter shall apply upon the entry into force of the Charter in the Republic of Austria :

Burgenlandcroatian in the Burgenlandcroatian language area in the Land Burgenland :

Article 8, paragraph 1 a ii; b ii; c iii; d iv; e iii; f iii; g; h; i; paragraph 2;
 Article 9, paragraph 1 a ii and iii, b ii and iii; c ii and iii; d; paragraph 2 a;
 Article 10, paragraph 1 a iii, c; paragraph 2 b and d; paragraph 4 a; paragraph 5;
 Article 11, paragraph 1 b ii; c ii; d; e i; f ii; paragraph 2;
 Article 12, paragraph 1 a, d; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
 Article 13, paragraph 1 d;
 Article 14 b.

Slovenian in the Slovenian language area in the Land Carinthia :

Article 8, paragraph 1 a iv; b ii; c iii; d iv; e iii; f iii; g; h; i; paragraph 2;
 Article 9, paragraph 1 a ii and iii, b ii and iii; c ii and iii; d; paragraph 2 a;
 Article 10, paragraph 1 a iii, c; paragraph 2 b and d; paragraph 4 a; paragraph 5;
 Article 11, paragraph 1 b ii; c ii; d; e i; f ii; paragraph 2;
 Article 12, paragraph 1 a, d; f; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
 Article 13, paragraph 1 d;
 Article 14 b.

Hungarian in the Hungarian language area in the Land Burgenland :

Article 8, paragraph 1 a ii; b ii; c iii; d iv; e iii; f iii; g; h; i; paragraph 2;
 Article 9, paragraph 1 a ii and iii, b ii and iii; c ii and iii; d; paragraph 2 a;
 Article 10, paragraph 1 a iii, c; paragraph 2 b and d; paragraph 4 a; paragraph 5;
 Article 11, paragraph 1 b ii; c ii; d; e i; f ii; paragraph 2;
 Article 12, paragraph 1 a and d; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
 Article 13, paragraph 1 d;
 Article 14 b.

The separate specification of these provisions for the territories of each individual Land is in keeping with the federal structure of the Republic of Austria and takes into account the situation of each of these languages in the Land in question.

Part II of the Charter shall be applied to the Burgenlandcroatian, the Slovenian, the Hungarian, the Czech, the Slovakian languages and the Romany language of the Austrian Roma minority upon its entry into force in the Republic of Austria. The objectives and principles laid down in Article 7 of the Charter shall form the bases with regard to these languages. At the same time, Austrian law and established

administrative practice thus meet individual requirements laid down in Part III of the Charter.

With regard to Czech in the Land Vienna :

Article 8, paragraph 1 a iv;
Article 11, paragraph 1 d; f ii; paragraph 2;
Article 12, paragraph 1 a and d; paragraph 3;
Article 14 b.

With regard to Slovakian in the Land Vienna :

Article 8, paragraph 1 a iv;
Article 11, paragraph 1 d; f ii; paragraph 2;
Article 12, paragraph 1 a and d; paragraph 3;
Article 14 b.

With regard to Romany in the Land Burgenland :

Article 8, paragraph 1 f iii;
Article 11, paragraph 1 b ii; d; f ii;
Article 12, paragraph 1 a and d; paragraph 3;
Article 14 b.

With regard to Slovenian in the Land Styria :

Article 8, paragraph 1 a iv; e iii; f iii;
Article 11, paragraph 1 d; e i; f ii; paragraph 2;
Article 12, paragraph 1 a and d; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
Article 13, paragraph 1 d;
Article 14 b.

With regard to Hungarian in the Land Vienna :

Article 8, paragraph 1 a iv; e iii; f iii;
Article 11, paragraph 1 d; e i; f ii;
Article 12, paragraph 1 a and d; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
Article 13, paragraph 1 d;
Article 14 b.

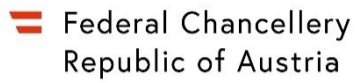
The separate specification of these provisions for the territory of each individual Land is in keeping with the federal structure of the Republic of Austria and takes into account the situation of each of these languages in the Land in question.

In accordance with the national distribution competencies, the way in which the above-mentioned provisions of Part III are implemented through legal regulations and Austria's administrative practice with due regard to the objectives and principles specified in Article 7 of the Charter shall be the responsibility of either the Federation or the competent Land.

Period covered: 1/10/2001 -

The preceding statement concerns Article(s) : 2, 3

Appendix II: Comments from the Austrian authorities



Comments of the Government of Austria on the Report of the Committee of Experts presented to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Vienna, August 2026

Publisher's information:

Federal Chancellery, Ballhausplatz 2, 1010 Vienna
Department II/5 – National Minorities Issues

E-Mail: volksgruppen@bka.gv.at

Statement on the report of the Committee of Experts

The Republic of Austria seizes this opportunity to provide its comments on the report of the Committee of Experts concerning the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Austria.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the delegation of the Committee of Experts for the constructive and productive dialogue held during the on-spot-visit in February 2026. The insights and discussions exchanged during this visit have been highly valuable and have contributed to a deeper understanding of the ongoing efforts to promote and protect regional and minority languages in Austria. The Austrian Government will carefully examine the report and its recommendations in detail, as the preservation and promotion of the languages and cultures of national minorities represent a fundamental and integral part of Austria's cultural heritage and national identity. The significance of protecting minority languages was once again underscored in 2026, when all six recognized minority groups in Austria were constitutionally anchored through an amendment to the National Minorities Act (Volksgruppengesetz – VoGrG). This legislative milestone further solidifies the legal framework for the protection and promotion of these languages, ensuring their continued recognition and support.

In this context, it is also important to reiterate Austria's declaration upon ratification of the Charter. According to this declaration, the minority languages recognized within the framework of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Republic of Austria are:

- Burgenland Croatian
- Slovenian
- Hungarian
- Czech
- Slovak
- Romani

The Republic of Austria remains fully committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Charter and will continue to actively promote the sustainable preservation, protection and use of these languages across all relevant sectors of public life.

1. Comments from the Federal Chancellery

Margin number 10 of the report:

In 2026 the amendment to the National Minorities Act¹ contains several essential changes that came into force on July 30, 2026:

§ 1 (1) VoGrG which is established as a constitutional provision now explicitly stipulates, that the autochthonous national minority groups within the meaning of this federal law are the Croatian minority group, the Slovene minority group, the Hungarian minority group, the Czech minority group, the Slovak minority group and the Roma minority group. This amendment ensures greater legal visibility and stronger protection for the national minority groups.

Additionally, § 1 (2a) VoGrG states that the Republic of Austria acknowledges its evolved linguistic and cultural diversity, as expressed in the autochthonous national minority groups according to subsection (1). Their language and culture, as well as their existence and preservation are to be respected, safeguarded and promoted.

Furthermore, § 9a VoGrG introduced a new National Minorities Report. The Federal Government is required to submit an annual report to the National Council on the situation of national minorities in Austria and the measures taken. The federal states must provide the necessary information and documents for the preparation of the report. The National Minorities Advisory Councils are to be involved in the preparation of the National Minorities Report and their statements are to be published unchanged. The National Minorities Report is to be submitted to the National Council for consideration in the competent committee. This ensures that the concerns of the national minority groups are regularly addressed at the federal political level

With regard to the amendments concerning the bilingual jurisdiction in Carinthia, please refer to the comments from the Ministry of Justice below.

¹ www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2026_I_71/BGBLA_2026_I_71.html (27.8.2026).

2. Comments of the Ministry of the Interior

Margin number 16 of the report:

With regard to the police operation at Peršmanhof at the end of July 2025, attention is drawn to the current status as of July 2026 and the decree on interventions at memorial sites:

In the wake of the police operation at Peršmanhof at the end of July 2025, a multidisciplinary expert commission was established by the Ministry of the Interior. Its mandate was to analyze the operation from multiple perspectives and compile a comprehensive analysis report. The commission comprised representatives of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, as well as experts in the fields of memorial culture, law and contemporary history, alongside representatives of the Slovene minority in Carinthia. The report was finalized and presented by the end of October 2025. A key aspect of the report consisted of 13 recommendations, which are currently being implemented in stages.

As part of these measures, the Ministry of the Interior has developed a decree to provide guidance for police officers during interventions at memorial sites. This aims to enhance clarity and precision in actions at sensitive locations. The measure also underscores the police's responsibility in upholding the democratic rule of law and further promotes the linguistic skills of police officers in bilingual regions. Additional recommendations are currently under review and await implementation. The interim report provides a detailed account of the measures taken to date. A final report is scheduled for completion by the end of October 2026.

The decree "*Intervention at Memorial Sites and Places of Remembrance*" (Einschreiten an Gedenkstätten und Erinnerungsorten) of July 22 2026, outlines the official procedures for security authorities during official actions and events at memorial sites and places of remembrance. Its objectives are to:

- Ensure a nationwide uniform approach during interventions at memorial sites and places of remembrance,
- Guarantee dignified and proportionate interventions,
- Protect the integrity and significance of these sites.
- Additionally, the decree emphasizes the need for historically focused sensitization and training measures, as well as the promotion of language acquisition in bilingual regions.

3. Comments from the Ministry of Justice

Margin number 35 of the report:

In this regard, the Ministry of Justice has recently signed a contract for the external creation of a new online legal dictionary German-Slovenian. The project aims to promote the use of the Slovenian language in court proceedings for court officials, as well as parties and interpreters through a modern and up-to-date dictionary. It will be freely accessible and easy to use and should be available at the end of 2027.

Margin number 34 of the report:

The amendment of the National Minorities Act in July 2026 also comprised a reform of the court system in Carinthia, with the aim of safeguarding bilingual jurisdiction in the long term. Through the establishment of specialized bilingual competence centers in Klagenfurt and Völkermarkt, expertise and language proficiency will be permanently consolidated and safeguarded. At the same time, regular court sittings will continue to be held in Bleiburg, Eisenkappel and Ferlach in order to maintain the regional presence of the judiciary. To ensure the long-term sustainability of this solution, applicants' knowledge of Slovenian should be given appropriate consideration when filling vacant positions in the judicial service (for example, through additional points in the area of the General Administrative Service). In addition, bilingual forms and digital services will be further expanded to facilitate the practical exercise of language rights.²

4. Comments from the Ministry of Education

It should be noted that the source of the data cited in paragraphs 53, 55 and 61 is unclear. In margin number 53, the report states that Croatian is taught in different formats in seven schools, including the Training Institute for Early Childhood Education, to a total of 207 pupils. In margin number 55, it states that Burgenland Croatian is offered as an optional subject with grades at the Training Institute for Early Childhood Education, with 16 students in 2025/2026. Margin number 61 states that Hungarian is offered as an optional subject with grades at the Training Institute for Early Childhood Education, with 17 students in 2025/2026. The figures

² See AB 553 BlgNR 28. GP, 3f.

cited in these passages could not be verified on the basis of the sources indicated in the state report. Clarification of the underlying data sources would therefore be appreciated.

Furthermore, the Carinthia Board of Education would like to draw attention to the following project: The “BeRUF – BeRUFung / poKLIC – poKLICanost” project is a cooperation initiative of the Boards of Education of Carinthia and Burgenland aimed at raising awareness among students of the diverse career opportunities in bilingual and multilingual education. To increase the visibility of these career opportunities and reach potential future educators, the project developed concepts for modern digital communication, including the use of landing pages (www.berufung.jetzt/) and implemented an online and social media campaign. The campaign generated a total of 28,114 landing page views between January and May 2026, primarily reaching the 25 to 34 age group as well as younger target groups. The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and supported by the Austrian Language Competence Centre. The awareness campaign will be continued and made available online during periods when educational and career decisions are typically made, in September/October and February.

5. Comments from the Vienna Board of Education

The Vienna Board of Education shares the objective of the report to sustainably protect the regional and minority languages covered by the European Charter and to further develop their educational provision. The particular role of the Komenský School for Czech and Slovak is acknowledged.

At the same time, the assessment of the situation in Vienna should comprehensively take into account the existing structures of the public school system. First-language instruction is a voluntary and free-of-charge provision of the mainstream school system, anchored in the curriculum under federal law. In Vienna, it is systematically planned and supported by subject-specific expertise and enables the promotion of a wide range of languages. It is not a substitute for specific bilingual minority-language school models, but it constitutes a key component of the structured promotion of multilingualism and, where Charter languages are concerned, also of the promotion of regional and minority languages.

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.

The text of the Cha is available in over 50 languages.

www.coe.int/minlang

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.