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FOURTH EVALUATION REPORT ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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

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Adopted on 25 March 2026

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

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

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

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

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Executive Summary

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages entered into force in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2011 and applies to the following 15 languages: Albanian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Italian, Ladino, Polish, Romani, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Slovenian, Turkish, Ukrainian and Yiddish.

The complex constitutional setup and administrative practice of Bosnia and Herzegovina with several levels of administration and distribution of competences continues to affect the implementation of the undertakings under the Charter. Nevertheless, due to the decreasing number and the dispersion of speakers of regional or minority languages, there is a need for urgent action to protect and promote these languages. To this end, the Committee of Experts reiterates its recommendation to establish a structured policy and take flexible measures facilitating the application of the Charter, as well as to draw up a medium-term strategy on the implementation of the Charter in respect of the regional or minority languages. This supposes better coordination among relevant authorities at all levels, as well as with the representatives of speakers of regional or minority languages. The established National Minority Councils could play an important role in this respect, including, where applicable, also in supporting the implementation of the Charter and the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers during the monitoring procedure.

The preparation of a new draft Law on Rights of National Minorities, and the launch of a consultation procedure with representatives of national minorities, including regional or minority language speakers is a welcome development. The Committee of Experts considers that this is an important opportunity to align the legislation with the Charter and to establish a legal framework which favours its implementation, including the abolition of the reference to numerical thresholds in domestic legislation.

The Committee of Experts welcomes the awareness raising activities on national minorities, their traditions, history and culture, however, emphasises the need to better reflect and strengthen the use of the regional or minority languages. Funding of cultural projects of the national minorities continues to be insufficient, project-based and sometimes burdened with difficult application procedures. The Committee of Experts calls on the authorities to increase the financial support for activities relevant to regional or minority languages, in particular regional or minority language education, in an equitable and predictable manner.

Teaching of most regional or minority languages continues to be absent from public education, and the shortage of teaching materials and the lack of trained teachers persist. German, Italian and Turkish are taught as foreign languages, however, the curriculum should be adapted to reflect the history and culture of these languages in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The existing legal framework defining the use of regional or minority languages in judicial and administrative proceedings, in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers is still not in conformity with the Charter, and in practice the regional or minority languages are almost completely absent in these areas.

In spite of the obligations ratified under the Charter, regional or minority languages continue to be absent from public broadcasting. However, the Committee of Experts commends the steps taken by the public broadcaster to provide both radio and television programmes with the aim of raising awareness of national minorities, their history, culture and languages in the society at large, and to making available foreign productions in some of these languages.

Finally, the Committee of Experts regrets that the seat of an expert in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been vacant since January 2020.

This fourth evaluation report is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts' on-the-spot visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2025.

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

1. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereafter referred to as “the Charter”) is a treaty of the Council of Europe putting obligations on its states parties to protect and promote the country’s traditional minority languages in all fields of public life: education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and transfrontier exchanges. The Charter entered into force in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 1 January 2011 and applies to the following languages:¹ Albanian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Italian, Ladino, Polish, Romani, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Slovenian, Turkish, Ukrainian and Yiddish. All languages receive protection under both Part II (Article 7) and Part III (Articles 8-14).

2. States parties are required to submit reports every five years² on the implementation of the Charter. On 29 April 2025, the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted their fourth periodical report,³ originally due on 1 June 2021. The submitted fourth periodical report provides data from 2020 until 2023.⁴ While the Committee of Experts acknowledges the complex constitutional structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which might also have a negative impact on effectively implementing reporting obligations, the delayed submission of the fourth periodical report and the lack of submission of the information document on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action based on the third monitoring cycle by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina are of concern. The Committee of Experts recalls that the due dates for the submission of periodic reports were decided by the Committee of Ministers in November 2018. Delays of almost four years are unacceptable as they adversely affect the functioning of the monitoring process under the Charter. The Committee of Experts urges the state authorities to take steps, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, to submit their mid-term report on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action contained in this evaluation report and their next periodical report in a manner consistent with their obligations under the Charter. Furthermore, the Committee of Experts reminds the authorities that periodical reports should contain information covering the period from the most recent on-the-spot visit to the date of submission of the following periodical report. It also regrets that the seat of an expert of the Committee of Experts in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been vacant since January 2020.

3. This fourth 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 regional or minority languages during the on-the-spot visit (3-7 November 2025). In the conduct of the on-the-spot visit and the present reporting cycle the gender equality aspect was taken into account.

4. Chapter 1 of this evaluation report focuses on the general developments and trends regarding the regional or minority languages in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the situation of these languages. It examines in particular the measures taken by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to respond to the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers at the end of the third monitoring cycle and also highlights new issues. Chapter 2 provides a detailed overview of the state of implementation of each undertaking of Bosnia and Herzegovina in respect of the given language, as well as the recommendations addressed to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina, as provided for in Article 16 (4) of the Charter. The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to translate this report into its official 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 Article 6 and 7.4.

¹ The Committee of Experts in consultation with the speakers and the state authorities have concluded that the Macedonian and the Montenegrin languages are not traditionally used in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the meaning of Article 1 of the Charter, therefore these languages are not subject to the monitoring (see: Second evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Bosnia and Herzegovina, [ECRML \(2016\) 3](#), paragraph 14).

² 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).

³ [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#).

⁴ [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#), paragraph 2.

5. As far as the detailed legal examination of each undertaking is concerned, the Committee of Experts refers to its second evaluation report on the application of the Charter in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ECRML (2016) 3).⁵

6. This report is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts' on-the-spot visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2025. It was adopted by the Committee of Experts on 25 March 2026.

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

General context

7. Bosnia and Herzegovina has a complex constitutional setup with several levels of administration. The authority is distributed between the state, the two entities, namely the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, as well as the Brčko District, with further layers of responsibilities at cantonal level in the case of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina,⁶ and lastly through the municipalities. This complex system, with sometimes responsibilities not clearly defined, makes decision making and coordination difficult. Ultimately, it contributes to the low level of implementation of the Charter, in particular as the undertakings require not only a strategy, but also resolute action including adequate financial support to protect regional or minority languages.

8. The Committee of Experts underlines the important co-ordinating role the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (hereinafter MHRR) of Bosnia and Herzegovina has had in the preparation and submission of the fourth periodical report. In this context it also acknowledges that the MHRR reached out to authorities at all levels, including at municipal level, as well as to Councils of National Minorities and to the representatives of the Jewish community⁷ on the situation of regional or minority languages during the current reporting. It welcomes that the fourth periodical report, together with previous periodical reports are available on the MHRR's website,⁸ and calls on the MHRR to disseminate also the evaluation reports of the Committee of Experts.

9. The Committee of Experts expresses its gratitude to the authorities, in particular the MHRR for the co-ordination and co-operation before, during and after the visit, and to the other interlocutors it met during the visit for their valuable contributions.

Legal and institutional framework of the protection of regional or minority languages and current plans

10. The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina⁹ recognises three constituent peoples: Bosniaks,¹⁰ Croats and Serbs, and three official languages, namely Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian. Everyone not belonging to the three constituent peoples falls under the category of "others". Representatives of minority language speakers met during the on-the-spot visit of the Committee of Experts all pointed out the lack of their appropriate political representation and its consequences for the protection and promotion of regional or minority languages.

11. Whereas Annex 1 of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina refers to the international human rights treaties directly applicable in Bosnia and Herzegovina in addition to the Constitution, including both the Charter and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, it is the Law on Rights of National Minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted in 2003, which continues to provide the framework for the protection of national minorities, including, their language and culture.¹¹ The Committee of Experts has expressed on multiple occasions, that the provisions relevant to the protection and promotion of regional or minority languages are not in conformity with the obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as ratified under the Charter, and it has repeatedly called for its amendment. In its third evaluation report, the Committee of

⁵ [ECRML \(2016\) 3](#).

⁶ The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of ten cantons.

⁷ [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#), paragraph 4.

⁸ See: www.mhrr.gov.ba.

⁹ As defined in Annex 4 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Agreement - 1995).

¹⁰ The authentic English version of the (Dayton) Constitution in its Preamble speaks of "Bosniacs". See also [the Fifth opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Advisory Committee](#) on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, see footnote 8.

¹¹ See: [Law on Rights of National Minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); its [amendments](#) at state level.

Experts expressed its concerns, especially relevant to Articles 12 and 14 of the Law on Rights of National Minorities which deals with official use of the languages and education, and which set excessively high thresholds (50% or 33% of the local population) for the use of regional or minority languages in education or in public life. It argued that *“given the low number and the dispersion of speakers of minority languages these requirements continue to be too high and lead to non-fulfilment of many of the undertakings ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina”*.¹² The Laws on Rights of National Minorities at the level of the two entities and the Brčko District change little as regards to thresholds and their effects on the use of regional or minority languages.¹³ In the case of Republika Srpska, however, local authorities have the possibility to decrease the threshold if they decide to do so and to amend their statutes accordingly. The Committee of Experts reiterates its call on the authorities to inform municipalities of this possibility. It also calls on the authorities to provide adequate financial support so that local authorities can adopt “local charters” to promote the use of regional or minority languages and hence implement the relevant Charter undertakings ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina under Article 10.¹⁴

12. During the on-the-spot visit the Committee of Experts was informed by the representatives of the MHRR and the representatives of speakers that a new draft Law on Rights of National Minorities was prepared by the MHRR.¹⁵ The MHRR also confirmed that in addition to the reference on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the new draft will also include the reference to the Charter. A first round of consultations with representatives of national minorities was also confirmed for shortly after the on-the-spot visit. Representatives of speakers believe that the adoption of a new Law on Rights of National Minorities is a historic moment, with an opportunity to correct the mistakes of the past. In their opinion, the adoption of an entirely new Law on Rights of National Minorities would be preferable and they would certainly propose amendments to the draft prepared by the MHRR during the consultation meeting. As the Constitution does not mention national minorities, but refers to them as “others”, all representatives of national minorities met expressed their wish that the new law addressed this lack and define clearly which are the national minorities traditionally present in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to speakers, the new draft shall take into account how long the minorities have been in the country and the relatively low number of members of national minorities and speakers of regional or minority languages as a result of what they describe as past policies of assimilation.¹⁶ It is equally important to the speakers that the new law not only preserves the rights that national minorities already have, but also eliminates the ability of people who are not members of national minorities to claim that status.¹⁷ The Committee of Experts welcomes ongoing consultations about the new draft law and recalls its concerns expressed previously relevant to the framework law in force and invites the state authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to seize this opportunity to appropriately reflect the country’s international obligations under the Charter in this legislative procedure and work towards a realistic possibility for their implementation. To this end, it encourages the state authorities to seek expertise from the Council of Europe. In line with the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers, the Committee of Experts urges the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to abolish the reference to numerical thresholds in domestic legislation. Bearing in mind the demographic situation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it emphasises that threshold references in the laws are clear obstacles in implementing the Charter.

13. National Minority Councils exist on state, entity, cantonal and local levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their role is advisory,¹⁸ and they receive funding from their respective authorities (Article 7.4). The composition of these councils is renewed at regular intervals, generally four years. Due to a recent change in legislation, one individual can only be a member of one minority council, and not several, as was the case previously. During the on-the-spot visit, in meetings with such councils, members confirmed that this is a very important and positive development as it has led to a diversification of their membership. However, they informed the Committee of Experts with regret, that their role was only symbolic and that their observations, drafted opinions on laws and policies often remain unanswered. They equally confirmed their commitment to promote their history, culture and language, and emphasised the importance of all types of support from the

¹² See: [Third evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Bosnia and Herzegovina, MIN-LANG\(2022\)2](#), paragraph 9.

¹³ See: [at the level of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); [at the level of Republika Srpska](#); [at the level of the Brčko District \(amendment\)](#).

¹⁴ See: [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Serbia, MIN-LANG\(2023\)3](#).

¹⁵ The MHRR informed the Committee of Experts that at this stage the draft is still a working version and therefore it cannot be shared. It will be submitted to the Committee of Experts at a later stage.

¹⁶ Some speakers informed the Committee of Experts that the draft new law includes a reference number of 300, which is too high for certain national minorities.

¹⁷ See: [the Fifth opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Advisory Committee](#) on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, paragraphs 35 and 174.

¹⁸ In the Sarajevo Canton, where the National Minority Council is an authorised proponent of legislation. See: [Fifth opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Advisory Committee](#) on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, paragraph 170.

authorities, not only financially, but also by attending their meetings.¹⁹ Members of the different National Minority Councils expressed a clear desire to enhance co-ordination with the other councils, however, due to the very limited financial resources, even the travelling costs to each other's events are sometimes impossible to cover.

14. National Minority Councils can contribute to the protection and promotion of regional or minority languages. The Committee of Experts has observed during its on-the-spot visit that gender equality and representation of youth is ensured in the composition of National Minority Councils, which also include persons living in areas where the regional or minority languages are traditionally used. However, the Committee of Experts urges the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure that persons belonging to national minorities take part in appointing members to the National Minority Councils²⁰ and to strengthen the role of these Councils, their statutory powers and financial situation as a matter of urgency.²¹ The Committee of Experts acknowledges that the councils, as well as relevant interlocutors, have been consulted in the preparation of the periodical report, but encourages the authorities to initiate a consultation between the National Minority Councils and the founding legislative bodies to address the issue of the effectiveness of the councils. It considers their role as important in promoting regional or minority languages, including, where applicable, the implementation of the Charter and the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers during the monitoring procedure.²² The Committee of Experts regrets that the Minority Co-ordination Group, put in place during the previous monitoring cycle in the framework of a Council of Europe project, has not been made permanent.²³

Resolute action to promote minority languages

15. In the two previous monitoring cycles, the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers recommended to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to ***“establish a structured policy and take flexible measures facilitating the application of the Charter”***.²⁴ The Committee of Experts also advised the authorities to draw up a medium-term strategy on the implementation of the Charter in respect of the minority languages. Given the decreasing number and the dispersion of speakers of minority languages, the lack of urgent actions will not only hamper the implementation of the Charter, but will lead to irreversible processes, ultimately to the disappearance of regional or minority languages that Bosnia and Herzegovina committed to protect and promote. The Committee of Experts recognises that by now many of these languages have small numbers of speakers but reiterates the importance of adhering to international obligations under the Charter to protect and promote them. While during its on-the-spot visit the Committee of Experts experienced a positive attitude towards national minorities, their contribution to enriching culture, history and language, and observed several positive examples, there appears to be little or no development in implementing the obligations under the Charter as ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is an urgent need for resolute action in particular in the field of minority language education. The Committee of Experts therefore urges the authorities, in co-operation with the representatives of the minority language speakers, to develop language-specific strategies and action plans based on the Charter's provisions and the recommendations of the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers,²⁵ with clear targets and with the short to long-term objective of increasing the number of users of minority language, irrespective of the thresholds in the domestic legislation (Article 7.1.c). In addition, the Committee of Experts calls on the relevant authorities to consult the speakers on the results and the recommendations of its evaluation reports, e.g. through the National Minority Councils and seek their views and those of the speakers' associations on the ways of their effective implementation (Article 7.4). The Committee of Experts emphasises the important role state authorities play and the ultimate responsibility they have in effectively implementing the Charter. It

¹⁹ See: [Fifth opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Advisory Committee](#) on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, paragraph 172.

²⁰ See also: [Fifth opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Advisory Committee](#) on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, paragraph 180.

²¹ Representatives of the National Minority Councils expressed their wish to change the councils' status to a working body of the respective Parliaments. See also: [Fifth opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Advisory Committee](#) on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, paragraphs 17 and 180; Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' sixth evaluation report on Denmark, [MIN-LANG\(2025\)23](#), paragraph 16.

²² See: Council of Europe Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI): [Study on certain aspects of regional or minority language protection and identification of good practices in member states](#), CM/Del/Dec(2026)1552/4.2.

²³ Council of Europe, Inclusion and Anti-discrimination, Strengthening national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 'First meeting of the newly established minority coordination group', 6 June 2018, available at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/inclusion-and-antidiscrimination/bih-news-page/-/asset_publisher/q9hXJJGeu4BR/content/first-meeting-of-the-newly-established-minority-coordination-group/1498993.

²⁴ See Recommendations [CM/RecCHL\(2016\)4](#) and [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

²⁵ See Recommendations [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Bosnia and Herzegovina, no.1.

therefore calls on the MHRR to enhance co-ordination, including through the (re)activation of the Minority Co-ordination Group to improve the situation.

16. The adoption of the 2020-2024 Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities in Republika Srpska, and the subsequent appointment of a Coordination Body by the Government of Republika Srpska, including members of the National Minority Council for monitoring its implementation, was a welcome development. The Committee of Experts regrets, however, that the anticipated Action Plan for the implementation of the strategy was not adopted and that there is no, or little information on the concrete results of the strategy. The Committee of Experts encourages the Government of Republika Srpska to seize the opportunity of a promising achievement and take steps to update the strategy, including with concrete provisions on protecting and promoting regional or minority languages and work towards its implementation, in line with the relevant provisions of the Charter. The Committee of Experts reiterates its call on the state authorities to adopt similar strategy at the state level and facilitate the adoption of similar documents in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Brčko District, in close co-operation and co-ordination with the National Minority Councils and representatives of the speakers. It reiterates its position that urgent measures are needed to adopt a clear policy and/or strategy for the protection and promotion of regional or minority languages, and to make the necessary adjustments to the relevant legal provisions at all levels, in order to implement the provisions of the Charter as ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina.²⁶ Finally, the Committee of Experts equally reiterates its recommendation to extend the mandate of the National Minority Councils and to allocate appropriate resources to effectively include them in this process.²⁷

17. The Committee of Experts emphasises the importance of the Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the social inclusion of Roma (hereinafter: Roma Action Plan) in place for the period 2021-2025, and notes that a new Action Plan for the period of 2025-2030 is drafted and consultation is envisaged with Roma representatives. It encourages the MHRR and other relevant authorities to take into account the needs and wishes of the Romani speakers during this process and incorporate the protection and promotion of the Romani language in this new Action Plan. In this context special emphasis and adequate funding shall be given to implement the Charter, including immediate support to train Romani language teachers, and for licencing and printing textbooks, so that teaching of Romani could start as soon as possible in all schools, in municipalities where Roma children traditionally live (Articles 8 and 7.1.f).

18. The budget allocation of the MHRR to support the associations of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina was BAM 100 000 (app. € 51 131) in 2024 and BAM 230 000 (app. € 117 606) for the years 2020 and 2023;²⁸ while the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina financed multiple projects, including in the field of international cultural co-operation.²⁹ In addition, the MHRR allocated BAM 1 380 000 (app. € 705 612) to secure the implementation of the Roma Action Plan for the period 2021-2025, of which, BAM 37 599.98 (app. € 19 225) was allocated for the education of Roma. However, no project relevant to education in and of Romani language was mentioned.³⁰ In the reporting period (2020-2023), BAM 142 000 (app. € 72 607) was allocated through the Public Competition for Co-financing Projects of Cultural Creativity of National Minorities by the Government of Republika Srpska.³¹ The Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports provided a total of BAM 41 500 (app. € 21 220) as financial support through transfers within public calls for the implementation of projects in the field of culture and youth, with an additional BAM 80 000 (app. € 40 905) starting from 2024, for co-financing of national minority projects in the field of culture in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, support was provided at cantonal, as well as municipality level. The Committee of Experts notes that the fourth periodical report provides a comprehensive overview of the financed activities and projects of national minorities by the authorities, mainly through grants. It observes, however, that the amount of financing had changed very little, if at all, in the reporting period. Representatives of national minority associations expressed concerns that the financial support continues to be inadequate and is burdened with non-transparent and complicated application procedures. In addition, associations with no “kin-state” support have sometimes difficulties to submit co-financed grant applications. Speakers equally emphasised that the lack of equal financial support and equal opportunities make some of the national minorities feel more marginalised than others. In its third evaluation report the Committee of Experts recalled that the distribution of relevant information is a precondition for a more successful promotion campaign, and therefore asked the state authorities to present and explain their system of funding to the speakers.³² In line with its previous recommendations and those of the Committee of Ministers, the Committee of Experts calls

²⁶ See also: Second evaluation report on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Committee of Experts, [ECRML\(2016\)3](#), paragraphs 19-31.

²⁷ See: paragraph 14 of this report.

²⁸ Compared to an annual budget of BAM 130 000 (approx. € 66 600) in the previous reporting period.

²⁹ See: [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#), paragraph 88.

³⁰ See: [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#), paragraph 231.

³¹ Compared to an annual budget of BAM 70 000 (approx. € 35 791,92) in the previous monitoring period.

³² See: [Third evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Bosnia and Herzegovina, MIN-LANG\(2022\)2](#), paragraph 18.

on the state authorities responsible for the implementation of the Charter to increase their financial support targeted to national minorities for financing cultural activities, including those relevant to minority languages, in particular minority language education, in an equitable and predictable manner.³³

Awareness raising

19. Among the listed contributions to the cultural projects dispersed all over the country, representatives of speakers confirmed the success of the “Festival of Cultural Creativity of National Minorities”, regularly organised in Banja Luka by the Alliance of National Minorities of Republika Srpska. The annual festival “Little Europe” organised by the municipality of Prnjavor, as well as the events on the occasion of the International Roma Day, organised in different parts of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina attract many visitors from all over the country. Other events dedicated to raising awareness of national minority culture and traditions are also regularly organised by national minority associations. However, due to the limited financial support available from the authorities, usually through co-financing, national minorities with more supportive “kin-states” are in a better position than others. Representatives of Roma associations informed the Committee of Experts that 2 August, the day of Saint Elijah – coinciding with the Remembrance Day for the Roma Holocaust – is still considered as one of the most important celebrations for the Roma population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and events are organised with music and dance in Tuzla. The event, which attracts between 3-5 000 people each year, is dedicated to Roma music, with music performances from neighbouring countries, such as Serbia and North Macedonia. Awareness of the language and culture is also raised in the context of the European Day of Languages, celebrated in several schools in Republika Srpska, where representatives of regional or minority language speakers have their stands and can present their books, etc. (Article 7.3). The Committee of Experts welcomes these initiatives but emphasises that, in addition, awareness raising needs a cohesive strategy, in particular in the education and media, including addressing prejudices against speakers of regional or minority languages.

20. The Committee of Experts visited Prnjavor in Republika Srpska.³⁴ The municipality consists of 63 settlements, where 14 national minorities live, with the Ukrainian minority being the largest.³⁵ The Committee of Experts met with the representatives of the municipality and with speakers of different minority languages. Representatives of speakers have one seat in the local government and several in the town assembly. The municipality also has a dedicated advisor on national minorities who co-ordinates the “Mala Evropa” events, including the National Minorities Festival, organised every year with much success. The city leaders and/or representatives participate in and often co-organise these events. Basic information on the city website about the municipality and its population is available in eight languages, including six regional or minority languages: Czech, German, Italian, Polish, Romani and Ukrainian. Signage is posted at all the entrances of the city in languages of the national minorities living in Prnjavor, as well as in some locations and on some buildings and cemeteries, relevant to the history and culture of national minorities.³⁶ On the occasion of the European Day of Languages a video was prepared, supported by the municipality and the Mayor, where all national minorities told something in their respective languages.³⁷ Regional or minority languages are regularly used in the context of international correspondence, including in the framework of the city’s twinning programmes.³⁸

21. The Committee of Experts welcomes the efforts and the achievements of the municipality of Prnjavor in protecting the history, culture and language of national minorities and the very important role it plays in raising awareness of the rich culture, history and language diversity of the country among the majority population. The Committee of Experts notes with satisfaction that speakers, including their young representatives, feel that their needs and wishes are taken into account and supported by the municipality. It encourages the Ministry of Education of Republika Srpska to continue its support to Prnjavor, and, if possible, expand it, including financially, so that teaching of minority languages in schools could be strengthened and introduced also for more languages. In addition, it encourages the municipality of Prnjavor to introduce the use of the minority languages wherever possible in public and economic life, in line with the relevant provisions of the Charter. Finally, the Committee of Experts calls on the authorities to support

³³ See: Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#), Recommendation no. 3. and Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#), Recommendation no. 4.

³⁴ <https://gradprnjavor.com>.

³⁵ <https://gradprnjavor.com/little-europe/national-minorities/?lang=en>.

³⁶ https://gradprnjavor.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/BILTEN_MALA_EVROPA.pdf. Many of the successful projects are supported by international organisations, including the Council of Europe.

³⁷ The video was viewed by over 500 000 people.

³⁸ <https://gradprnjavor.com/little-europe/sister-cities/?lang+eng>.

innovative models, also financially, elsewhere in the country where minority language speakers traditionally live.

22. A municipality-wide competition on the knowledge about national minorities, their history and culture is organised in schools of Republika Srpska, which originally started in the municipality of Prnjavor. Representatives of speakers informed the Committee of Experts that there is interest expressed from Tuzla Canton and Una-Sana Canton in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to do similar competitions. Preparation for the competition is facilitated by a handbook about national minorities; however, speakers informed the Committee of Experts that its content needs to be updated. A procedure was launched by the representatives of national minorities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Republika Srpska and other relevant institutions to produce a new handbook on national minorities.³⁹ The Committee of Experts welcomes this effort, as well as the ongoing consultation between the authorities and the speakers on this issue. It encourages both the state and entity authorities to support the production of the new handbook. It emphasises the importance that such a publication is based on equal representation, and that regional or minority languages should be included. It also emphasises that such a publication could form the basis for teaching the history and culture which is reflected by the regional or minority languages, as ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Charter (Article 8.1.g).

Use of the regional or minority languages in education

23. In the context of the two previous monitoring cycles, the Committee of Ministers recommended the state authorities to ***“provide appropriate forms and means for the teaching of the minority languages in co-operation with the speakers”***.⁴⁰

24. According to Article 14 of the state Law on Rights of National Minorities, educational authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina are obliged to secure within their educational programme (preschool, primary and secondary) “that the members of national minorities shall be enabled to have education in the minority language in the cities, municipalities, and inhabited areas in which the members of national minorities represent an absolute or relative majority”.⁴¹ The Laws on Rights of National Minorities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and the Brčko District state similarly high thresholds. It also states, however, that irrespective of the number of members of national minorities, the ministries of education at all levels shall secure instruction about their languages, literature, history, and culture, if they so request, as supplementary (extra-curricular), so called “optional” classes.⁴² The Committee of Experts regrets that in practice the possibility to learn regional or minority languages depends on the goodwill of the authorities, which is not in line with Bosnia and Herzegovina’s obligations under the Charter. In addition, learning of regional or minority languages should be accessible for everyone regardless of the lack of knowledge of the official languages. Furthermore, to ensure these rights, the competent educational authorities are obliged to provide financial resources for the training of teachers who will teach in the language of the national minorities, to provide space and other conditions for supplementary lessons, as well as the printing of textbooks.

25. Bosnia and Herzegovina has undertaken to make available pre-school, primary, secondary and vocational education, or a substantial part of it, in the regional or minority languages, or in case of primary, secondary and vocational education, the teaching of the regional or minority language as an integral part of the curriculum for all the protected languages under the Charter. Both the fourth periodical report and the on-the-spot visit of the Committee of Experts confirm that all minority languages continue to be absent from pre-school education. Except for German, Italian and Turkish, which are taught as foreign languages, regional and minority languages are also absent from primary, secondary, as well as technical and vocational education. German and Italian are taught all over the country, while Turkish is taught only in areas where it is traditionally spoken. The intensity of teaching these languages at different levels varies depending on the area of the country, and they are usually taught more intensively in the area where the language is traditionally used. Classes of German as part of the general school curriculum can take place up to three hours per week in primary and up to four hours per week in secondary schools, and are taught one to two hours per week in technical and vocational education.⁴³ Italian is also taught as second foreign language, two hours per week at the different levels.⁴⁴ Turkish is taught as a second foreign language at both primary

³⁹ According to the representatives of speakers, the aim is to present all national minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, their history, culture and language, how many they are today, where are they located, etc.

⁴⁰ See: Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#), Recommendation no. 2. and Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#), Recommendation no. 3.

⁴¹ State Law on Rights of National Minorities.

⁴² Optional classes are mandatory for children enrolled in these classes.

⁴³ See paragraph 58.

⁴⁴ See paragraph 60.

and secondary level in the Sarajevo Canton and the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, for two hours per week.⁴⁵ The Committee of Experts reminds the authorities that foreign language teaching as such does not meet the requirements of the Charter.⁴⁶ Rather, teaching in or of regional or minority languages should take into account the traditional character of these languages, in particular local history and culture of the respective minorities and provide for a number of teaching hours that is sufficient for pupils to acquire fluency in the language. It equally reminds the authorities that such an approach shall be integrated to all levels of education, including pre-school, and that authorities need to actively promote it.

26. Article 9 of the Law on Primary Education of Republika Srpska provides for the possibility of organising classes in the languages of national minorities.⁴⁷ Facilitated and supported by the Ministry of Education of Republika Srpska, teaching of Italian and Ukrainian is available in optional classes two hours a week in a few primary schools in Prnjavor and in some of the adjacent villages. These optional language classes also include history and culture of national minorities. All interested children can enrol in these language classes; there are no restrictions on the number of participants. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the municipality informed the Committee of Experts of their wish to introduce the teaching of Romani in primary schools; however, this is not possible due to the lack of qualified language teachers. When it comes to secondary education, such optional classes do not exist, due to the alleged lack of interest and/or lack of time of the pupils. In the case of Albanian and Romani on the other hand, the interest to learn the language in public education is a clear wish. In recent years Roma organisations developed teaching materials and modern textbooks for teaching Romani starting with the primary education, and a number of schools are ready to accommodate the interest shown by parents in Tuzla and in Tuzla Canton. Unfortunately, due to the lack of trained teachers, teaching could not start either in the 2024-2025, or in the 2025-2026 school years. For the other regional or minority languages, the lack of qualified language teachers or teaching materials suitable for different age groups persists, which makes it difficult to accommodate language learning. Speakers acknowledge that, as the generation gap in the use of regional or minority languages widens - with these languages being mainly spoken by the older generation - fewer and fewer persons belonging to national minorities are actually able to speak their minority languages and/or use them in their everyday life and transmit them to their children. The level of language competence varies among the speakers but continues to weaken within younger generations. The Committee of Experts emphasises that the very limited number of optional classes available in some schools are not enough to keep the languages alive or to increase the motivation to learn them.

27. The fourth periodical report provides no information on whether the general curricula used in primary or secondary education contain elements of teaching of the history and culture associated with minority languages (Article 7.3 and Article 8.1.g). However, representatives of speakers informed the Committee of Experts that children of the majority population receive little information in schools about the national minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, their history, cultures and languages, and such information is not included in relevant textbooks or teaching materials. It is upon the discretion of the teachers to inform pupils about the history, cultures and languages of the national minorities, as teaching about these is still not part of the compulsory curricula. During the on-the-spot visit, the authorities of Republika Srpska informed the Committee of Experts that the history and culture of the national minorities are included in the history and geography textbooks. The Committee of Experts notes that sporadic examples exist, such as the schoolwide competition in Republika Srpska mentioned above, or the organisation of an International Scientific Conference titled “The History of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina” by the University of Sarajevo, Institute of History in co-operation with the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar from Zagreb on 22 February 2024. The Committee of Experts emphasises the importance of such initiatives and encourages the authorities to build on its outcomes and follow them up, by developing materials for teaching the history and culture of all regional or minority languages covered by the Charter in the general curriculum regarding the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to raise awareness among the general public.

28. The Committee of Experts reminds the relevant authorities that the legislative framework relevant to education currently in place is not in line with the principles of the Charter and the promotion of regional or minority languages as ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina and therefore calls for its amendment accordingly.⁴⁸ It equally reminds the authorities that implementing the Charter requires a proactive approach. Rather than having the requests of the parents as a basis, education in regional or minority languages has

⁴⁵ See paragraph 70.

⁴⁶ See e.g. Second evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Bosnia and Herzegovina, [ECRML\(2016\)3](#), paragraph 64, Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Slovenia, [ECRML\(2019\)17](#), paragraph 11.

⁴⁷ Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 81/22). According to this provision the languages and culture of national minorities in Republika Srpska shall be respected and used in school to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Rights of National Minorities.

⁴⁸ According to the representative of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska, amendments to the Laws on Primary and on Secondary education of Republika Srpska are currently being drafted.

to be offered (“make available”) in pre-schools and schools. This implies that it has to be developed in advance, including by preparing educational materials, training teachers and actively promoting it among parents, pupils, as well as competent authorities. The Committee of Experts therefore calls on the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take urgent measures in close co-operation with the relevant authorities of the two entities and the Brčko District, and in consultation with representatives of the speakers, to work out a sustainable model of minority language education. In the short term, the teaching of minority languages through additional classes should be extended. The Committee of Experts reminds the authorities about the importance of promoting and teaching regional or minority languages at all levels of education to effectively secure their protection and transmission to future generations. Priority should be given to introducing minority language education from the early ages, as the use of regional or minority languages in pre-school education forms the basis for a comprehensive knowledge of the language.⁴⁹ While recognising the obligation of the state to develop appropriate teaching materials, the Committee of Experts recalls Article 7 1.i of the Charter and, in line with its previous recommendation, encourages the state authorities to promote the types of transnational exchanges that would lead to the improvement of the selection of teaching materials in Bosnia and Herzegovina by relying on the already existing offer from the other countries.⁵⁰

29. Outside of the educational system, language courses are organised by minority associations of Czechs, Germans, Hungarians, Italians, Polish, Roma, Slovaks and Slovenians. The teaching is conducted by qualified staff and is free of charge for those languages with “kin-states”, which provide financial support for different activities, including language learning. In some cases, for example for Romani, these courses are financed by NGOs. According to the representatives of the speakers, teaching materials are also provided and for some of the languages they are of good quality.

30. While Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook to encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Romani or of facilities for the study of Romani as a university or higher education subject (Article 8.1.eiii), this Charter provision is still not implemented. The situation needs urgent measures as it would also facilitate the provision of language teachers, without which Romani language classes cannot start. Speakers confirm the possibility for interim measures, such as relying on teacher training programmes in neighbouring countries in the meantime. The Committee of Experts calls on the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to step up efforts to create a Chair of Romani language at one of the universities where conditions are most appropriate to start such a programme as soon as possible. As for other minority languages, where university study programmes exist already, such as Czech, German, Italian, Polish, Slovenian and Turkish, the Committee of Experts encourages the state authorities to examine how these study programmes could facilitate teacher training in these languages. It equally encourages the relevant authorities to start consultation on how these programmes could complement ongoing efforts in providing regional or minority language media programmes or contribute to efforts of revitalisation of the use of regional or minority languages in public life.

Use of the regional or minority languages by judicial authorities

31. The framework law in force on court procedures,⁵¹ and its subsequent adoptions at the level of entities and the Brčko District,⁵² state that the languages of the proceedings are the official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian). The laws do not refer to regional or minority languages but provide the accused the right to use his or her native language, or the language he or she understands in all proceedings. While neither the framework law, nor the laws of the entities and the Brčko District, which are meant to implement the framework law, explicitly mention that this provision only applies if the accused does not speak one of the official languages, representatives of the speakers confirmed that this is the case in practice. Translation is provided by a certified court interpreter.⁵³ In case of criminal procedures, interpreters may be used free of charge, if the accused does not speak one of the official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁵⁴ According to the law, in the case of civil proceedings, the costs of

⁴⁹ See also Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' seventh evaluation report on the Netherlands [MIN-LANG \(2024\)14](#), paragraph 10.

⁵⁰ See: [Third evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Bosnia and Herzegovina, MIN-LANG\(2022\)2](#), paragraph 32.

⁵¹ Law on the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ‘Official Gazette of BiH’, no. 49/2009 - consolidated text, 74/2009 - amended and 97/2009), <https://www.paragraf.ba/propisi/bih/zakon-o-sudu-bosne-i-hercegovine.html>.

⁵² Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: <https://advokat-prnjavorac.com/zakoni/Zakon-o-sudovima-u-FBiH.pdf>; Republika Srpska: <https://www.paragraf.ba/propisi/republika-srpska/zakon-o-sudovima-republike-srpske.html>; Brčko District: <https://www.paragraf.ba/propisi/brcko/zakon-o-sudovima-brcko-distrikta-bosne-i-hercegovine.html>.

⁵³ In the event that there are no certified court interpreters for a particular language, the court may appoint as an interpreter a person who is fluent in the language required for the translation.

⁵⁴ See: Law on criminal procedures [at state level](#); [Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); [Republika Srpska](#); [Brčko District](#).

interpretation are not covered.⁵⁵ The same applies to court proceedings concerning administrative matters.⁵⁶ In practice this means that the use of any other language than the three official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina is only possible in civil proceedings if all costs are borne by the person initiating the use of those languages.⁵⁷

32. The fourth periodical report refers to several criminal proceedings⁵⁸ where the accused used a regional or a minority language. However, it is only the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office of the Zenica-Doboj Canton that confirmed that in the criminal proceedings regional or minority languages were used by citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is unclear, if these citizens were able to speak one of the three official languages or not. The Committee of Experts has not received information relevant to the other cases mentioned whether the persons involved in criminal or civil proceedings were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were able to speak the official languages. Representatives of the speakers confirmed that the use of regional or minority languages are only allowed in court proceedings if the accused does not speak one of the official languages. Based on the information received from relevant cantonal authorities, as well as representatives of speakers, it is upon the discretion of the court, whether the proceedings can be conducted in regional or minority languages, even if the party is fluent in one of the official languages.

33. The Committee of Experts considers that the laws on court proceedings are still not in line with Bosnia and Herzegovina's obligations under the Charter. It recalls its previous recommendations to align the domestic legislation with the relevant undertakings. This means that regional or minority language speakers shall have the right to use their languages in all judicial proceedings, regardless of the fact that they are fluent in one of the official languages, and that there shall be no additional expenses if interpretation or translation is used (Articles 9.1.aii and 9.1.iii for criminal; 9.1.b.ii and 9.1.b.iii for civil; and 9.1.cii and 9.1.ciii for administrative proceedings). Not providing translation free of charge from minority languages into the official languages in civil and administrative proceedings means that these languages are practically absent from these proceedings. The Committee of Experts calls on the relevant authorities to ensure that it is possible to use regional or minority languages in court proceedings, regardless of whether the person speaks an official language or not. It also urges the authorities to inform the minority language speakers of their right to use minority languages before judicial authorities.

34. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language. However, it has not received adequate information on whether this legal protection has always been observed in practice. Furthermore, as the applicable laws on procedures state that translation of any documents related to civil or administrative proceedings are not free of charge if they are in any language other than the three official ones, the Committee of Experts is concerned that, if a person is not able to bear the costs of translation of his or her documents in civil or administrative proceedings, such documents will not be admitted (Article 9.2.c).

Use of the regional or minority languages by administrative authorities

35. There have not been changes in the use of minority languages in dealings with public authorities since the previous monitoring cycle. The languages used in the public administration are Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian, and only persons not speaking these languages are eligible for interpretation.⁵⁹ Bearing in mind the dispersion of speakers of minority languages in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the "prohibitively high"⁶⁰ threshold established in the relevant legislation,⁶¹ there is practically no possibility for the use of minority languages before administrative authorities (Article 10). It is important to note, however, that while the high numerical thresholds exist, the Law on Rights of National Minorities of Republika Srpska allows that if a "significant number" of persons belonging to national minorities request to make use of minority

⁵⁵ See: Law on civil procedures [at state level](#); [Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); [Republika Srpska](#); [Brčko District](#).

⁵⁶ See: Law on administrative proceedings ("on administrative disputes") [at state level](#); [Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); [Republika Srpska](#); [Brčko District](#).

⁵⁷ See: Law on civil procedures [at state level](#); [Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); [Republika Srpska](#); [Brčko District](#).

⁵⁸ See: [MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#), paragraphs 38-61.

⁵⁹ Representatives of the municipality of Prnjavor confirmed that they do communicate in regional or minority languages with twin cities and/or those, settled in the municipality, but not speaking the official language(s). See the proceedings before administrative authorities: [at state level](#); [Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); [Republika Srpska](#); [Brčko District](#).

⁶⁰ [Fifth opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Advisory Committee](#) on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, paragraph 121; See also: [Fourth Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), paragraph 94; [First Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), paragraph 81.

⁶¹ Laws on National Minorities: [law at state level \(amendments\)](#); [at the level of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); [at the level of the Republika Srpska](#); [at the level of the Brčko District \(amendment\)](#). See the comments in paragraph 11 of this report.

languages before the administrative authorities, this right may be incorporated into the statutes of the municipalities or cities.⁶² This still does not exist in practice.⁶³

36. In line with the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers,⁶⁴ the Committee of Experts urges the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the Charter irrespective of the thresholds in domestic legislation. The Committee of Experts reiterates its call on the relevant authorities to take proactive steps to facilitate that regional or minority language speakers are able to submit oral or written applications in their languages, in accordance with the relevant Charter obligations (Articles 10.1.a.iv, 10.1.c, 10.2.a and 10.2.b), as ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina. It encourages the authorities to use the provisions of the law to the fullest extent possible and develop a strategy to introduce the use of regional or minority languages with the administrative authorities and public services. Such an approach would not only lead towards implementing relevant obligations under the Charter, but the reintroduction of the use of regional or minority languages in public life, together with systematic support for the teaching of these languages as of an early age, would also facilitate their revitalisation in the long-term.

37. Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the Charter with regards to the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in regional or minority languages (Article 10.2.g). In the fourth periodical report, authorities informed the Committee of Experts of the implementation of this provision, among others, through a successful Council of Europe/EU joint programme, in the context of which relevant municipalities have been offered funding and technical expertise enabling the use of the place names. As a result, multi-lingual topographic signs have been installed in Bijeljina, Gradiška, Laktaši, Prnjavor, and Srbac. In the municipality of Prnjavor certain local sites of importance for the national minorities (e.g. churches, cemeteries, museums, or premises of minority associations) have been signposted also in minority languages. The Committee of Experts considers this important in raising awareness among the majority population of the existence of national minorities and increasing the visibility and prestige of a regional or minority language and encourages this practice to continue. The Committee of Experts recalls that topographical signs are a relatively simple but effective promotional measure, which can be easily applied. It therefore encourages the authorities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the authorities of Republika Srpska and those of the Brčko District, to continue this good practice and/or to take steps and support relevant municipalities regarding obligations under the Charter and support them in implementation.

38. The fourth periodical report does not provide adequate information on the use of regional or minority languages by public service providers (Article 10.3.c), on the implementation of the placement of minority language-speaking civil servants to areas where those languages are spoken (Article 10.4.c), nor on the use of surnames in minority languages upon request by the speakers (Article 10.5). During the on-the-spot visit, however, speakers confirmed that there is no established practice of employing public service employees who have knowledge of a regional or minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used. The Committee of Experts calls on the authorities to take steps, in co-operation with the National Minority Councils, to find ways to regulate this situation in order to implement the relevant Charter provision(s).

39. According to the laws in place at the level of the entities and the Brčko District, it is only the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests.⁶⁵ Representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the state authorities informed the Committee of Experts that the law allows the use or adoption of family names in regional or minority language in their original form and script. They also informed the Committee of Experts that work is ongoing to comply with this provision and to amend relevant provisions of the Law on Registry of Republika Srpska, in reply to a call from the Ombudsperson. The Committee of Experts takes note of this information and calls on the authorities of Republika Srpska and the Brčko District to ensure the necessary legal basis and coherent practice of application, so that it reflects the obligations ratified under the Charter (Article 10.5). It also calls on the authorities, including those of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to adjust the technical conditions,

⁶² Article 9 of the Law on National Minorities of Republika Srpska.

⁶³ See paragraph 15 of this report.

⁶⁴ See: Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#), Recommendation no. 1.

⁶⁵ See Article 38 of the [Law on Registers of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); see also: the Law on Registers of [Republika Srpska](#); as well as that of the [Brčko District](#).

so that all persons who wish to do so can use or adopt their family names in their regional or minority language, including its form and script. Furthermore, it also calls on the authorities to inform the National Minority Councils and the speakers of regional or minority languages that such a possibility exists.

Use of the regional or minority languages in the media

40. In the previous monitoring cycles the Committee of Ministers recommended that the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina “**make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in the minority languages**”.⁶⁶ However, there are still no programmes in regional or minority languages offered by public broadcasters (Article 11.1.iii).

41. The fourth periodical report extensively informs of the programmes on national minorities broadcast by the Radio Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHRT).⁶⁷ The Committee of Experts met with the representatives of the BHRT during the on-the-spot visit and was informed by them that after 80 years of existence, BHRT is fighting for financial survival.⁶⁸ Today BHRT operates only one TV and one radio channel. According to the laws in force,⁶⁹ BHRT is obliged to broadcast 10% of its programmes on national minorities in their regional or minority languages, which constitutes roughly one hour per week of original programmes, with one hour per week of retransmission. While the representatives of BHRT are very conscious of and committed to fulfilling their legal obligations, due to the significant financial problems, their capacity to provide broadcasting relevant to national minorities, in particular in their languages is extremely limited and they expressed doubts that there would be targeted financial support from the authorities for such programmes in the near future. They informed the Committee of Experts that due to the lack of means, they are unable, for example, to finance travel costs, and as a consequence, they cover issues mostly in Sarajevo. The situation notwithstanding, thanks to the creativity of the BHRT and its staff, programmes continue to be regularly broadcast on national minorities both on radio and on television. These are, however, still mainly in Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian, and are aimed at presenting the cultural heritage and wider range of issues important for the national minorities, while at the same time contributing to raising awareness and fighting stereotypes. There are still no dedicated radio and television programmes broadcast in regional or minority languages on a regular basis.

42. In its daily news,⁷⁰ entertainment,⁷¹ and music programmes⁷² BH Radio regularly includes issues related to national minorities, reports of different celebrations or festivities, and often hosts their representatives. A programme called “Among us about us” (*Među nama o nama*) is dedicated to national minorities, where their representatives can present their life, culture, and language. It is broadcast on Wednesdays and is repeated once.⁷³ It is also available on BHRT’s website, as well as on social media platforms and Youtube channels. Some music programmes, such as “The world in the palm of your hand” (*Svijet na dlanu*) are also dedicated to the culture and music of national minorities, living in rural areas. BH Radio is currently preparing a new 55-minute weekly radio programme, called “The sounds of diversity” (*Zvukovi različitosti*), dedicated exclusively to the music of national minorities. The first edition was planned to be broadcast on 4 January 2026. This talk-show type programme will also include regional or minority languages.

43. A weekly programme dedicated to national minorities called “Identities” (“Identiteti”) continues to be broadcast in the state television (BHT1), but guests rarely speak their regional or minority languages. In 2025, a documentary series was produced on national minorities in which interlocutors partially speak their regional or minority languages. Four episodes of the series “Historical and cultural links: Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina” were also ready and planned to be broadcast still in 2025. Italian is used in the programme, subtitled in Bosnian. Thanks to a broader co-operation with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU),⁷⁴

⁶⁶ Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#), Recommendation no. 4. and Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#), Recommendation no. 5.

⁶⁷ Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraphs 76-82.

⁶⁸ BHRT is funded by the licence fee (BAM 7 (approx. € 3.58/household/month), however, even this limited fee is not collected and/or paid to BHRT since years.

⁶⁹ Law on the Public broadcast system; Law on National Minorities (Article 16). There is no obligation foreseen in these laws on the use of regional or minority languages.

⁷⁰ Such as “Morning journal” (*Jutarnji dnevnik*), “News” (*Vijesti*), “Diary” (*Dnevnik*) or “Week” (*Sedmica*).

⁷¹ Such as “Open studio” (*Otvoreni studio*), “Epicenter” (*Epicentar*), “Postcard” (*Razglednica*).

⁷² Such as “Visiting a village” (*Selu u pohode*), “Ethno music” (*Etno muzika*), “The world in the palm of your hand” (*Svijet na dlanu*).

⁷³ The programme was suspended during the summer but restarted during the autumn programme schedule.

⁷⁴ [Home | EBU](#). While BHRT is so far part of this co-operation, it accumulated a significant debt due to the lack of fulfilling its financial commitments, and as a result, is currently under sanctions. However, BHRT can continue benefiting from the programme scheme/programme bank developed by the EBU for the entire Europe, in the context of which, European countries can exchange programmes interesting to their viewers.

programmes in regional or minority languages produced in other countries were also randomly broadcast in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

44. Since 2024, with the support of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka and that of the University of Sarajevo, providing adjunct lecturers, Radio Television of Republika Srpska (RTRS) launched Let's Learn Languages, during its programme "Mala Evropa" as a response to the need for such content expressed by speakers. Each edition lasts around five minutes and aims at introducing regional or minority languages spoken in Bosnia and Herzegovina to a wider audience. So far, 20 lessons of Italian, 21 lessons of Czech, and 18 lessons of Slovenian were broadcast, with Hungarian planned to be broadcast at the end of 2025. Representatives of national minorities confirmed the importance of the initiative. The Committee of Experts welcomes this project and considers its importance not only in awareness raising of the regional or minority languages traditionally spoken in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also as a way to trigger interest of learning these languages among the majority population and persons belonging to national minorities trying to regain their languages. The Committee of Experts therefore encourages the authorities to continue to support the series, including financially, so that all regional or minority languages can benefit from such an opportunity in both the medium and long term. Further television programmes are also broadcast, mainly in Italian,⁷⁵ and at least once a week in one of the other regional or minority languages protected under the Charter.

45. While the legal possibility exists to issue licences for national minority stations,⁷⁶ to date the Regulatory Agency for Communication of Bosnia and Herzegovina has not received any requests. Bearing in mind that Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station (Article 11.1.bi) and the broadcasting of private television programmes on a regular basis (Article 11.1.cii) in regional or minority languages, and there are still no such radio station or television programmes, the Committee of Experts calls on the relevant authorities to encourage the creation of such radio stations, as well as the broadcasting of such television programmes in minority languages, including online, and to provide financial incentives and to establish legal requirements to this end.

46. The Committee of Experts acknowledges the efforts by BHRT to provide content in public radio and television in regional or minority languages despite its extremely difficult financial situation. It points out, however, that the current practice, while certainly commendable, is still not in conformity with the undertakings of Article 11 of the Charter. The Committee of Experts reminds the authorities that their obligations under Article 11 apply regardless of the number of speakers. It calls on all relevant authorities to support, including financially, BHRT to continue its efforts in producing media content in minority languages. The Committee of Experts recalls its third evaluation report and emphasises the benefits of establishing and/or increasing co-operation with media providers from neighbouring countries that already developed such programmes, and/or with "kin-states" where such programmes exist in the same minority languages.

47. Except from newsletters, published one to three times annually by some national minority organisations (more details are provided in the language portraits under chapter 1.2), there are no daily newspapers, magazines, or media articles in minority languages in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Article 11.1.eii).

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

48. In the previous monitoring cycles the Committee of Ministers recommended that the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina "***establish a scheme for financing cultural activities and facilities relating to the minority languages***".⁷⁷

49. According to the fourth periodical report, the MHRR allocated a total of BAM 230 000 (app. € 117 602) in the reporting period (2020-2023) and BAM 100 000 (app. € 51 131) in 2024 in form of grants, aiming to "co-finance or finance projects that enhance integration, promote and increase the visibility of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while also preventing their assimilation". Only national minority associations can apply for these grants. In addition, municipalities where national minorities traditionally live also provide financial support in a similar way.⁷⁸

⁷⁵ Five hours of series programmes in Italian.

⁷⁶ Rule 76/2015 on the Provision of Media Services, and Rule 95/2023 on Audiovisual Media Services, see: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraph 76.

⁷⁷ See: Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#), Recommendation no. 3. and Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#), Recommendation no. 4.

⁷⁸ See: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraphs 64-75.

50. The fourth periodical report describes extensively cultural activities financed or co-financed by the authorities at all levels.⁷⁹ Among the listed contributions to the cultural projects dispersed all over the country, the “Festival of Cultural Creativity of National Minorities”, regularly organised in Banja Luka by the Alliance of National Minorities of Republika Srpska, the annual festival “Little Europe” organised by the municipality of Prnjavor, as well as the events on the occasion of the International Roma Day, organised in different parts of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, receive regular financing from relevant authorities. They attract many visitors from all over the country. Some events organised by national minority associations to raise awareness of national minority culture and traditions also receive support from the authorities. However, due to the limited financial resources available, this is usually through co-financing, leaving national minorities with more supportive “kin-states” in a better position than others. Events related to Roma history and culture are often sponsored by international organisations and NGOs. While these events are important in promoting national minority traditions and culture, the use of regional or minority languages is limited.

51. According to the information received from the authorities, national minority associations and speakers of regional or minority languages have the opportunity to use the space of public cultural institutions (museums, libraries, galleries, cultural centres) free of charge to organise their respective cultural events (Article 12.1.a). Through the programme “Co-financing of projects of national minorities”, the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports provides financial support to implement cultural projects of national minorities, including those aimed at protecting and promoting regional or minority languages.⁸⁰ During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that the municipality of Banja Luka provides a building free of charge to all national minority organisations residing in the city, the use of which is shared among those who would wish to. Further to providing the facility or other venues to host their cultural activities free of charge, the municipality of Banja Luka also provides a grant based on detailed project proposals for financing such events.

52. Bearing in mind the information received from the representatives of speakers during the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts concludes that the current project-based system of financing cultural activities is insufficient. Furthermore, it may result in unequal opportunities among national minority organisations, as some of them are in a better position to compete for funds than others, due to the possibility of getting funding support from “kin-states”. It therefore calls on the relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to amend the system and introduce a financial support scheme in consultation with the speakers, which provides regular and stable financial support for cultural activities and facilities using the minority languages and ensures that the needs of the speakers are taken into account on a regular basis.

Use of the regional or minority languages in economic life

53. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina⁸¹ prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (Article 13.1.c).

54. The fourth periodical report does not provide information on whether the relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina facilitate and/or encourage the use of regional or minority languages in economic and social life (Article 13.1.d). Following the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed by the authorities that in Republika Srpska special vocational (dual) education projects exist that have been initiated in co-operation with German companies.⁸² In addition, numerous German companies operate in Bosnia and Herzegovina, providing employment opportunities for those who know the language. Technical and vocational schools often adapt their curricula to create qualified manpower for these companies.

Use of the regional or minority languages in transfrontier exchanges

55. Bosnia and Herzegovina has several bilateral co-operation agreements in the field of education, culture and science that may potentially benefit the protection of national minorities, including regional and minority languages (Article 14.a as well as Article 7.1.h). According to the information received from the authorities, such agreements exist with Albania, Austria, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Türkiye, as well as with Croatia and Serbia. The Committee of Experts, however, does not have detailed information on concrete activities and on their impact on regional or minority

⁷⁹ See: paragraphs 83-90 and in the context of each of the minority languages.

⁸⁰ All data on the previously supported projects of national minorities are available on the Ministry's official website: www.fmks.gov.ba.

⁸¹ Exists only at the state level, see:

<https://www.mhrr.gov.ba/PDF/LjudskaPrava/1ZAKON%20O%20ZABRANI%20DISKRIMINACIJE1.pdf>; and its [amendments](#).

⁸² These programmes combine theoretical teaching at school with practical work in companies, where knowledge of the language is often prerequisite.

languages. Cross-border co-operation between the national minority organisations exists and for some is regular. The Alliance of National Minorities of Republika Srpska also maintains relations with partner organisations in Croatia, Italy, Hungary and Serbia. Several municipalities also have active twinning programmes with both neighbouring and other European countries, in the context of which regional or minority languages are used (Article 14.b).⁸³ The Committee of Experts reiterates the importance of such international co-operation at all levels and encourages the authorities to support further, also financially, cross-border exchanges. It equally emphasises the possibilities such co-operations could have for the benefit of the regional or minority languages, including through establishing links between universities and training programmes to support teacher training in the short and medium term. In this context, the Committee of Experts calls on the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to seize the opportunity of the existing bilateral co-operation with Croatia and Serbia in the field of education and include the possibility of obtaining scholarships for Romani teachers in this framework.

1.2 The situation of the individual regional or minority languages in Bosnia Herzegovina

Albanian

56. Albanian continues to be absent from public education at all levels (Articles 8 and 7.1.f), with no optional classes taking place either. According to the speakers, there is little hope for improvement, whereas investing in the new generation's education would be key. Language courses are organised by the Albanian association in Tuzla, without financial support from the state. Due to the lack of appropriate financial resources, speakers continue to struggle to organise language courses elsewhere, or to pay for qualified teachers, for appropriate teaching materials, and to provide a venue. According to the fourth periodical report, Albanian was used in one court proceeding (Article 9), with the support of a court interpreter hired and paid by the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office of the Zenica-Doboj Canton. The person involved in the criminal proceeding was a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but no information was received as to whether the person was able to speak one of the official languages. Albanian was not used by administrative authorities and in public services (Article 10), and there are no bilingual signs in Albanian either (Article 10.2.g). There are no regular programmes dedicated to Albanian either on public radio, or on public television (Articles 11.1.a.iii, 11.1.bi, and 7.1.d). In the current monitoring cycle BHRT broadcast documentaries in Albanian on television, but only randomly.⁸⁴ Speakers informed the Committee of Experts that they also had a private initiative to broadcast in Albanian, but it was not supported, including financially by the state (Article 11.1.cii). Since 2012, the association "Dardania" has published a bi-lingual magazine ("Glas-Zeri") in Albanian and Bosnian, financed by the MHRR,⁸⁵ which is very popular among speakers (Article 12.1.a). "Dardania" also receives financial support from the city of Tuzla for its projects.⁸⁶ Speakers emphasised, however, that due to the complex application procedures and the lack of minimum financial means available, they have difficulties applying for grants, in particular if it is based on co-financing. A bilateral agreement on co-operation in the field of education and science exists between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania, in the framework of which the establishment and development of direct relations between universities and research institutions of the two countries, with the aim of promoting participation in seminars and training on language and civilisation among other things, are encouraged (Articles 14.a, and 7.1.i). Finally, some speakers of Albanian report incidents of prejudice in relation to the use of their language, raising concerns in relation to Article 7.3 of the Charter.

Czech

57. Speakers of Czech traditionally live on the territory of Republika Srpska. There is no teaching in or of Czech in public education (Article 8). The protection and promotion of the Czech language and culture is done through speakers' associations ("Češka Beseda"). In this context language courses are organised, including online, with the help of a Czech lector at the University of Sarajevo. Language learning is also facilitated through the television programme "Mala Evropa" ("Little Europe") of Radio Television of Republika Srpska, where the same Czech language lector presents short language classes. In addition, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs is organising yearly summer language courses free of charge for four weeks for younger members of the associations. These courses are available at all levels. In recent years, a Czech language lector has been employed at the University of Sarajevo, and until 2020, a Czech language lector was also employed at the University of Banja Luka, but this was discontinued due to funding issues

⁸³ For concrete examples see Chapter 1.2 of this report.

⁸⁴ As part of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) programmes exchange, one documentary series (6x30 minutes); and two documentaries (30 and 60 minutes) were broadcast in Albanian.

⁸⁵ BAM 7 060 (approx. € 3 610) in 2023, and BAM 6 860 (approx. € 3 508) in 2024.

⁸⁶ BAM 3 000 (approx. € 1 534) in 2020, BAM 3 644 (approx. € 1 863) in 2022, and BAM 5 765 (approx. € 2 948) in 2023.

(Article 7.1.h). According to the fourth periodical report, Czech was used in two court proceedings (Article 9), with the support of a court interpreter hired and paid by the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office of the Zenica-Doboj Canton and the Ministry of Justice and Administration of the Una-Sana Canton. In the Zenica-Doboj Canton, the person involved in the criminal proceedings was a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but no information was received as to whether the person was able to speak one of the official languages. Czech is not used in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13). The basic information on the website of Prnjavor is available also in Czech, however forms and administrative information are only available in the three official languages (Articles 10.2.a and 10.2.b). Topographical signage is available in some municipalities in Republika Srpska, such as in Prnjavor or Srbac (Article 10.2.g).⁸⁷ Czech is absent from public television and radio (Article 11). Some foreign television channels can be received through satellite and the internet. Films in Czech are occasionally broadcast on Croatian television channels and are available in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Article 11.2). The Czech association "Češka Beseda" has been publishing a newsletter since 1998, available in Czech and in Serbian, covering all activities of the associations. Its frequency is limited to 1-2 bulletins per year (Article 12.1.a). They also have their website and are active on social media. Language is also promoted through cultural activities organised by the association, such as the festival of choirs of national minorities (Article 12.1.a). There is also regular co-operation with other national minority associations (Article 7.1.e). Prnjavor maintains an active twinning programme with Boskovice in Czechia (Article 14.b). A bilateral agreement on cultural, educational and scientific co-operation exists between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Czechia, in the framework of which, among other things, the establishment and development of direct relations between educational institutions of the two countries are encouraged (Articles 14.a and 7.1.i).

German

58. German is taught as a foreign language at all levels of public education, including study and research of German at universities (Article 8 and Article 7.1.h). According to the information received from the relevant authorities, in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina some 25 000 pupils are enrolled in German classes. In the Sarajevo Canton, German is taught as a second foreign language to 18 966 pupils in primary schools, and 5 665 pupils in secondary schools. In vocational education it is taught as a business language for 1-2 hours per week. In the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, German is taught as a second foreign language up to three hours per week in the first and second grades, and for four hours per week in the third and fourth grades. In total, 2 170 pupils are enrolled in these classes. In Republika Srpska, 25 842 pupils are enrolled in German classes at primary school level. It is also studied in secondary schools and in vocational education through dual education projects that have been initiated in co-operation with German companies.⁸⁸ History and culture of the German national minority living in Bosnia and Herzegovina are however not taught either in the context of German, or in the history classes (Article 8.1.g). German was used multiple times in court proceedings (Article 9), where translation was provided free of charge to the persons involved in these procedures,⁸⁹ including to citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁹⁰ It is unclear, however, whether these persons have a knowledge of one of the official languages. German is not used in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13). It appears on topographic indicators, including on place names in several municipalities in Republika Srpska, such as in Laktaši, Prnjavor and Srbac (Article 10.2.g). The basic information on the website of Prnjavor is available also in German, however, forms and administrative information are only available in the three official languages (Articles 10.2.a and 10.2.b). There are no regular programmes dedicated to German, either on public radio, or on public television (Articles 11.1.iii, 11.1.bi, and 7.1.d). In the current monitoring cycle, BHT broadcast two series in German.⁹¹ Speakers confirm that German is seldom used in programmes on radio and television, including in those about national minorities. German representatives informed the Committee of Experts that only sporadic financial support was granted for cultural events, mainly from the Sarajevo Canton. German is often used by companies operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina and employment opportunities are provided to those who know the language. Technical and vocational schools often adapt their curricula to create a qualified workforce for these companies (Article 13.1.d; see paragraph 22). Bilateral agreements on cultural, educational and scientific co-operation exist between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Germany, as well as Austria aiming at, among other things, the enhancement of the teaching of language and literature in the educational institutions in each of the countries (Articles 14.a and 7.1.i).

Hungarian

⁸⁷ See: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraphs 123 and 124.

⁸⁸ The Committee of Experts did not receive information on the intensity of teaching of German in primary, secondary and technical and vocational education in Republika Srpska.

⁸⁹ See: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraphs 148-156.

⁹⁰ Based on the information of the Prosecutor's Office of the Zenica-Doboj Canton.

⁹¹ Two series were broadcast in German (12x60 minutes and 13x60 minutes).

59. There is no teaching in and of Hungarian, even as an optional class in any level of the public education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Article 8). The association of Hungarian speakers (“Magyar Szó”) puts emphasis on organising language courses delivered by trained teachers through scholarships from Hungary. These are available to all age groups in both Banja Luka and in Sarajevo, twice a week for beginners, as well as at more advanced level, financed by the Hungarian Government. It is possible to enrol in both, free of charge. There is a real interest in learning the language and knowing more about the culture, both inside and also outside the membership. A Hungarian language course is also broadcast on television through the “Mala Evropa” series. According to the fourth periodical report, Hungarian was not used in court proceedings in the reporting period (Article 9). It is not used in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13.1.d). While a bilingual sign has been installed in front of the old Hungarian cemetery in Vučijak (Republika Srpska), there are no topographical indicators in Hungarian (Article 10.2.g). Hungarian is absent from public television and radio, except for occasional appearances, including in the framework of the Radio Television of Republika Srpska series “Mala Evropa” (Article 11.1.iii). In the current monitoring cycle BHT broadcast two documentaries in Hungarian. A few Hungarian television channels can be received in Bosnia and Herzegovina by cable or the internet (Article 11.2). The two associations publish a bilingual (Hungarian and Serbian) newsletter twice a year, called “Új Dobos”, including with the financial support of the MHRR (Article 11.1.eii). The newsletter is also available online. Occasional project-based funding for cultural activities is also provided by the MHRR, the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government of Republika Srpska and the city of Banja Luka (Article 12.1.a). Similarly to other national minority organisations, the association uses the premises of the Alliance of National Minority provided by the municipality of Banja Luka (Article 12.1.a). A number of bilateral agreements exist between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Hungary, in the context of which cultural, educational, scientific and linguistic co-operation is enhanced (Articles 7.1.i and 14.a). The associations of speakers have extensive co-operation with similar associations in the region and beyond, including through the “Körösi Csoma Sándor” programme,⁹² aiming at establishing links between similar associations in Hungary and elsewhere (Articles 14.b and 7.1.i). In this framework exchanges and visits are organised for the members of the association. In the current monitoring cycle, cross-border co-operation, including through supporting of related activities of the Alliance of National Minorities of Republika Srpska were facilitated by the authorities, including with Hungary (Article 14.b).

Italian

60. The majority of the Italian speakers originate from the region of Trentino in Italy and reside around Tuzla, Prnjavor and Štivor. Štivor is considered unique in the Western Balkans, and speakers pointed out that, in addition to Italian, its specific variety needs additional support to be preserved. As the population is elderly, and there is little transmission to younger generations, efforts by speakers are ongoing to preserve it through different means, including working on a dictionary, as well as producing a textbook for children in order to start education of this traditional variety early. Italian is not available in pre-school education (Article 8.1.iii). In Republika Srpska, 598 children at six primary schools are enrolled in classes where Italian is taught as a foreign language. Italian is available in two primary schools in Republika Srpska as an optional class (once and twice per week), where 23 children are enrolled in total (Article 8.1.biv). Financial support is received from the Ministry of Education of Republika Srpska. Italian is available as a foreign language in both secondary and vocational education all over the country (Articles 8.civ and 8.1.div), on average for two hours per week. According to the information received from the relevant authorities, in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italian is mainly taught in art and tourism schools. In the Sarajevo Canton, Italian is only taught in secondary schools to 37 pupils. In the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Italian is taught in tourism-related vocational education for two hours per week to 160 pupils.⁹³ Italian is available at university (Article 7.1.h). Italian language courses are offered in the universities of Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Tuzla free of charge.⁹⁴ Other courses are operated by national minority organisations, with the financial support of the Italian Embassy, or directly from Italian cities or the Region of Trentino. These courses are open to anyone interested in learning the language. Since 2024, Radio Television of Republika Srpska has been broadcasting the section “Let’s learn languages” in the television show “Mala Evropa”. The “Parliamo l’italiano” section features 20 episodes of lessons, each lasting an average of five minutes, conducted by an Italian lector from the Faculty of Philology of the University of Banja Luka. In the city of Prnjavor, workshops are regularly organised to read Italian to stimulate interest among children to learn the language. The fourth periodical report refers to a number of court proceedings, where Italian was used and where translation was

⁹² Launched in 2013 by the State Secretariat for National Policy of the Office of the Prime Minister of Hungary, [the programme “Körösi Csoma Sándor”](#) is an initiative aimed at supporting Hungarians living in the diaspora. The aim of the program is to reach out to Hungarian communities around the world and support them to preserve Hungarian history, culture and language.

⁹³ While the authorities of Republika Srpska confirm that Italian is available in both secondary and vocational education, the Committee of Experts did not receive information on the intensity of teaching of Italian at this level.

⁹⁴ The education is mostly funded by Italy, including providing teaching materials and teachers.

provided free of charge, including to citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Zenica-Doboj Canton. While certified court interpreters are available, according to speakers Italian cannot be used in court proceedings if the accused understands one of the official languages (Article 9). Speakers confirmed that Italian is not used in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13.1.d). The basic information on the website of Prnjavor is available also in Italian, however, forms and administrative information are only available in the three official languages (Articles 10.2.a and 10.2.b). Topographical indicators are available in Italian in Štivor/Stivor, where the majority population are members of the Italian minority, as well as in Mahovljani (Article 10.2.g).⁹⁵ While there are television programmes available also on state television (Article 11.1.iii),⁹⁶ as well as broadcast by the Television of Republika Srpska,⁹⁷ speakers regularly watch television channels from Italy (Article 11.2). Representatives of speakers in Republika Srpska informed the Committee of Experts of the very good media coverage their events have in both the state, entity and local television. In addition to the events organised with other national minorities (see paragraph 55), the Italian associations have their own successful events, such as, for example, the “Days of Italian cuisine”, organised every year free of charge on the main square of Tuzla. Italian associations are active on the internet and in social media; in Tuzla, they operate their own website⁹⁸ and issue their own publication called “Trentini nel mondo”, regularly reporting on their activities. Over the years, they issued many other publications, including books, and are currently working on producing a documentary about Italians in Tuzla. During the reporting period, 27 editions have been published/translated or published in bilingual format from/to the Italian language, available in the Digital National and University Library of Republika Srpska (Article 12.1.a). The Italian association in Tuzla also operates a library, and the Italian literature is available for everyone also outside of the community. These activities are financed through support from the MHRR, Italy or by the members of the associations themselves. Co-operation with other national minority organisations or with Italian associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina is well established and regular (Article 7.1.e). Bilateral co-operation agreements exist between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy in the fields of education, culture and sports, with a new one being concluded on the establishment of the Italian Institute of Culture in Sarajevo, aiming at strengthening existing co-operation in the fields of culture, art, research and education (Article 14.a). Cross-border co-operation, including through supporting of related activities of the Alliance of National Minorities of Republika Srpska were facilitated by the authorities, including with Italy (Article 14.b).

Ladino

61. According to the fourth periodical report there are currently no institutional or supported revitalisation efforts for Ladino. However, in the context of the preservation of its cultural heritage, the Jewish community of Bosnia and Herzegovina organises events, exhibitions and also documentation of the linguistic heritage. According to representatives of the community, an option could be to include Ladino under the research programme carried out within Jewish studies in the Faculty of Philosophy of Sarajevo. Working together with the University of Jerusalem, where there are advanced studies of Ladino, would also be possible, bearing in mind the active co-operation of the Jewish community of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the university, and also through the bilateral co-operation programme. The Committee of Experts recalls its previous evaluation report, where it encouraged the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to start a research programme on Ladino at a relevant university, as well as to seize the opportunity of bilateral co-operation and benefit of best practices from abroad. As no steps were taken to implement this recommendation and bearing in mind that there are only very few Ladino speakers left in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Committee of Experts calls on the state authorities to take urgent steps, to support the revitalisation of Ladino in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including financially, in close co-operation with the speakers.

Polish

62. Persons belonging to the Polish national minority mainly live on the territory of Republika Srpska. Except for university studies (Article 7.1.h), Polish is not available in public education (Article 8), and there are no optional courses either. Polish is available through online courses and through courses organised by the Embassy of Poland or the Association of Poles. Financial support is received from Poland for their activities, including to learn the language. Funds are also provided by the MHRR, the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska, or the municipality of Banja Luka and the municipality of Prnjavor. Teachers in Prnjavor and Srbac engage in teaching the history of national minorities in their relevant classes, but this is on their own initiatives (Article 8.1.g). During the reporting period, Polish was used in two criminal

⁹⁵ Both are settlements in Republika Srpska.

⁹⁶ Italian TV magazine (11x30 min); Imaginary correspondence (Corrispondenze immaginarie – 60 min); Miners of Monteneve (Monteneve – 30 min); The superstition of liberty (La superstizione della libertà – 60 min); Mother's son (Il mammone – 90 min).

⁹⁷ On a weekly basis, five hours of series programme in Italian.

⁹⁸ [UGIP – TZ – Udruženje građana italijanskog prijekla](#).

proceedings, and interpretation was offered free of charge. The person involved in the proceeding in the Zenica-Doboj Canton was a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, however there is no information as to whether the person speaks one of the official languages (Article 9). Polish is not used in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13.1.d). The basic information on the website of Prnjavor is available also in Polish, however forms and administrative information are only available in the three official languages (Articles 10.2.a and 10.2.b). Polish is used in place names and street names, as well as on certain topographic indicators (mostly at cemeteries) in the municipalities of Prnjavor, Srbac and Gradiška (Article 10.2.g).⁹⁹ There are no dedicated programmes broadcast in Polish on public television or radio (Article 11.1.iii). According to the information received from the authorities, a series of 16 episodes of 60 minutes was broadcast on public television (Article 11.1.iii). Speakers otherwise rely on the internet to access information and programmes in Polish. The language is also promoted through cultural activities organised by the Polish associations, including through financial support from the authorities (Article 12.1.a). The municipalities of Prnjavor, Srbac and Gradiška have active twinning programmes with cities in Poland (Article 14.b).¹⁰⁰ According to the fourth periodical report, a bilateral co-operation agreement is being concluded between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Poland in the fields of culture, education, science, sports and youth. In its framework, the teaching of Polish language and literature in schools and education institutions, the training and exchanging of teachers, and material support through providing textbooks are envisaged (Articles 14.a and 7.1.i). Co-operation is also regular with other national minority associations (Article 7.1.e). Poles are represented in the National Minority Councils, and the principal advisor on national minorities of the municipality of Prnjavor is also a representative of the Polish national minority (Article 7.4).

Romani

63. According to the data of the 2013 census, 12 583 residents declared themselves as Roma, with a significant concentration in the Tuzla Canton and the Zenica-Doboj Canton. However, representatives of the speakers informed the Committee of Experts that the actual number is much higher.¹⁰¹ The number of Romani speakers has decreased rapidly, due to assimilation, but also to historical reasons of being persecuted if speaking the language. Romani is not taught at any level of public education or at the university level (Article 8). Representatives of Roma associations have raised the issue of starting a university pedagogical programme to train teachers of Romani, but so far without result. According to the speakers, the issue was discussed during the Rectors' Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which confirmed its readiness to facilitate the establishment of such programmes.¹⁰² Speakers believe that, with real political will and appropriate financial support, results can be achieved relatively fast. In the meantime, training of teachers would also be possible through multilateral, or bilateral co-operation. The study of Romani is available in Serbia, for example, in the context of which, 170 Romani teachers were trained and there is also a vocational college where Romani is taught. Romani studies are also available at the University of Zagreb (Croatia). In order not to lose momentum, representatives of Roma associations are considering separating the teaching of Roma language and culture for the time being and starting only with teaching Roma history and culture in schools, where trained teachers are available. Efforts, however, have intensified in recent years to support language education. To this end, focus was given to the standardisation of the Romani language in the countries of ex-Yugoslavia. In parallel, according to the speakers, several good quality textbooks were developed for children. Currently textbooks are printed in Serbia, as the Roma associations do not have the resources yet to print them in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, once teaching starts, more textbooks will be needed. There is a clear interest in starting classes in Tuzla and Tuzla Canton and several schools would provide classrooms.¹⁰³ Two years ago, a change in the curriculum was also introduced to include Romani language and culture. According to the speakers, a public call was launched for professional teachers, but no one applied. In the absence of qualified professionals, as currently no programmes to train teachers exists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, teaching of Romani could not start neither in the 2024-2025, nor in the 2025-2026 school years. Finally, some speakers of Romani report incidents of prejudice in relation to the use of their language, raising concerns in relation to Article 7.3 of the Charter.

⁹⁹ See: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraphs 219-221.

¹⁰⁰ Idem.

¹⁰¹ See also: [Fifth opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Advisory Committee](#) on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, paragraph 43.

¹⁰² In its [Fifth opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) (paragraph 157), the Advisory Committee firmly encouraged the authorities of the Canton of Sarajevo to approve the Romani studies course at University of Sarajevo as a matter of priority, with a view to ensuring the provision of Romani language teaching. During the on-the-spot visit, speakers informed the Committee of Experts that consideration could also be given to start such studies at the University of Tuzla.

¹⁰³ Speakers mentioned that around ten schools (3-4 schools in Tuzla and 5 in the Canton of Tuzla) could already introduce the teaching of Romani as per the interest expressed. Surveys were conducted, but the responses are largely depending on who conducts these surveys, and more schools could be engaged.

64. Romani was not used in court proceedings (Article 9). It is not used in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13.1.d). The basic information on the website of Prnjavor is available also in Romani, however forms and administrative information are only available in the three official languages (Articles 10.2.a and 10.2.b). In the city of Prnjavor a bilingual sign is posted in Romani in front of the historical Roma cemetery (Article 10.2.g). According to the information received from the authorities, there were some 150 hours of programmes broadcast in Romani. It is unclear, however, if these are public radio or television programmes (Article 11.1.iii), or are only available through programmes of neighbouring countries (Article 11.2). In the current monitoring cycle, BHT broadcasts one documentary in Romani. “Mala Evropa” programme of the Radio Television of Republika Srpska presented five Roma associations from Bijeljina, Gradiška, Prijedor, Prnjavor and Tuzla. The Committee of Experts did not receive information about the extent to which Romani language was used during these programmes. Speakers informed the Committee of Experts during the on-the-spot visit that the possibility of using Romani on the local television was recently discussed with the Tuzla TV station, which would provide both the frequency and the facility. However, there is no financial means to pay staff to be employed for this specific activity. State funding for projects is channelled through financing the implementation of the Roma Action Plan, however the funds are insufficient and aim at improving the housing and general education of Roma children in the Bosnian language over supporting minority language projects.¹⁰⁴ While there is a Roma (Advisory) Board¹⁰⁵ to monitor the implementation of the current Action Plan, this body is not really involved by the authorities in the consultation procedures. The representatives informed the Committee of Experts that while an invitation was received to discuss the new Roma Action Plan 2025–2030 in mid-November 2025, no draft was yet shared with the Roma Advisory Board. Occasional funding for different projects is received from international organisations, including the Council of Europe, or from NGOs. Representatives of the Roma national minority are members of the National Minority Councils (Article 7.4).

65. Roma associations are active in celebrating many important days for the Roma population, including the International Roma Day and the Roma Genocide Remembrance Day. These events are supported, also financially, by the state authorities (Article 12.1.a). In general, however, Romani is hardly ever used during events, including in conferences organised by international organisations or the civil society.

Romanian

66. Except for information relevant to the implementation of Article 14.a, the fourth periodical report provides no information on the implementation of the Charter with regards to Romanian.¹⁰⁶ State authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the Committee of Experts that a bilateral co-operation agreement exists in the field of culture, and a new one is being finalised on education, science, research and innovation. No details were shared, however, about whether the protection and promotion of the Romanian language is covered in these agreements and/or any activities have been carried out in the reporting period. While the Romanian national minority is represented in the National Minority Councils (Article 7.4), the Committee of Experts did not meet their representatives during the on-the-spot visit, nor was information provided by them on the situation of their language, which is regrettable.

Ruthenian

67. Apart from the number of speakers based on the data of the 2013 population census, the fourth periodical report did not contain information on the situation of the Ruthenian language. Further information received from the Ministry of European Integration and International Co-operation of Republika Srpska indicates that most of the Ruthenians live in the municipality of Prnjavor. The language is used, however, only to a very limited extent in the context of cultural activities. Ruthenian is absent from education at all levels, public, social or economic life, is not used in court proceedings, and is absent from public radio and television (Articles 8, 9, 10, 11, 13). While Ruthenians are represented in the National Minority Councils (Article 7.4), the Committee of Experts did not meet their representatives during the on-the-spot visit, nor was information provided by them on the situation of their language, which is regrettable.

Slovak

68. Most of the persons belonging to the Slovak national minority live in the municipality of Bijeljina in Republika Srpska. Slovak continues to be absent from education (Article 8). In the reporting period, Slovak

¹⁰⁴ See: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraphs 243-253.

¹⁰⁵ It consists of 11 government representatives and 11 Roma representatives of different associations and is co-ordinated by the MHRR.

¹⁰⁶ See: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraph 256.

was not used in court proceedings (Article 9). Slovak is not used in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13.1.d). There are no programmes in Slovak broadcast on public radio and television (Article 11), except from the few occasions when the Slovak national minority is presented in the framework of celebrations, or other cultural events together with other national minorities. The protection and promotion of the Slovak language is done through the activities of the association ("Udruženje Slovaka Semberije Juraj Jánosík – Spolok Slovákov Semberije Juraj Jánosík", Bijeljina), with little support from the state (Article 12.1.a). The Slovak church in Bijeljina, inaugurated in 2009, functions as an important community-building institution. Language courses (workshops) are available through the support of the Slovak Government (Office of Slovaks in the Diaspora). The language courses are three-month courses, organised usually on weekends, as the teacher is coming from Serbia. These courses are primarily targeting children but are not limited to this age group and are also available for adults. The lack of sufficient funding from authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, however, continues to hamper the successful preservation of the Slovak history, culture and language in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Co-operation with associations of other national minorities exists and is regular, including cross-border co-operation (Article 7.1.e). A Memorandum of Understanding on cultural co-operation was signed in 2011 between the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Slovak Republic, but no information was shared with the Committee of Experts on its implementation (Articles 14.a and 7.1.i). The National Minority Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina has also a Slovak member (Article 7.4). Cross-border co-operation, through the support of related activities of the Alliance of National Minorities of Republika Srpska was facilitated by the authorities, including with Slovakia (Article 14.b).

Slovenian

69. Except for university (Article 7.1.h), Slovenian is absent from public education (Article 8). Slovenian is taught in classes financed and organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia in co-operation with the Institute of Education of Republika Srpska, which provides expert support and classrooms in schools. Such classes exist in Sarajevo, Breza, Zenica, Kakanj, Banja Luka, Slatina and Prijedor, as well as in Tuzla. They take place in the premises of the Slovenian national minority associations, or in schools, once a week for different age groups, outside the regular school hours (not equal to optional classes) and/or weekends. The classes are available to all age groups, focusing mainly on descendants of Slovenians, but are open to anyone interested. According to the fourth periodical report, Slovenian was used in court proceedings several times, with the support of a court interpreter hired and paid by the judicial authority conducting the proceedings (Article 9). Except for the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, the Committee of Experts did not receive information as to whether the persons involved in these proceedings were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were able to speak one of the official languages. In the case of Zenica-Doboj Canton, three persons were involved in the criminal proceedings, all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but no information was received as to whether the persons were able to speak one of the official languages. Slovenian is not used in communication with administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13.1.d). Slovenian is used, however, to a very limited extent on public radio and television (Article 11.1.a.iii), including through the TV programme "Mala Evropa", broadcast by the Radio Television of Republika Srpska. While this programme covers all national minorities, contributors can speak in their regional or minority languages, and where they do so, their contribution is subtitled. Short language learning sessions of Slovenian in the framework of this TV-programme are also available. In the current monitoring cycle BHT broadcast two documentary series and two films in Slovenian. Television and radio channels are available from Slovenia (Article 11.2). Like in the case of other regional or minority languages, the protection and promotion of Slovenian is done in the context of the activities carried out by Slovenian associations. These activities are financed by the funds for Slovenes Abroad, provided by the Slovenian Government, as well as through funding from Republika Srpska, the municipality of Banja Luka and Laktaši. Financial support is also granted by the MHRR, including through co-financing projects. During the on-the-spot visit the speakers' association confirmed that it has its own venue, provided by the municipality of Banja Luka free of charge (Article 12.1.a). The events organised by the association are bilingual, as not everyone speaks Slovenian, and they can attract up to 300 guests per occasion. The association also has a choir and a children's folk dance ensemble. A bilingual printed newsletter is published once a year, available also online. The association also operates a bilingual Facebook page and a website, where information is available in Serbian, Slovenian and English. Awareness of the language and culture is raised also in the context of the European Language Days, celebrated in several schools in Republika Srpska, where representatives of regional or minority language speakers have their stands and can present their books, etc. Slovenian associations are active in Prijedor, Slatina, Sarajevo, Kakanj, Zenica and Tuzla, and are also regularly co-operating both within the community and with organisations outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina through twinning programmes. A meeting is foreseen in Croatia together with other Slovenian organisations (Articles 14.b and 7.1.e). A bilateral agreement on co-operation in the field of education exists between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Slovenia, in the framework of which learning and studying Slovenian language and literature among others

is envisaged, with a special focus on children and youth (Articles 14.a and 7.1.e). The authorities supported through co-financing a cross-border project of the Slovenian association “Triglav” (Article 14.b).

Turkish

70. Turkish is mainly spoken in parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the Bosniak population lives.¹⁰⁷ Turkish is not available at pre-school level (Article 8.1.iiii), but is taught at primary (Article 8.1.biv) and secondary (Article 8.1.civ) levels in public schools, as well in vocational education (Article 8.1.div) as foreign language. In the Sarajevo Canton, Turkish is taught through the project “My Choice is Turkish”. 1 187 children are enrolled in these classes at the primary, and 501 at the secondary level. The Committee of Experts does not have information on the number of lessons per week. In the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, a total of 287 children are enrolled in Turkish language classes for two hours per week. It is unclear, however, at what level. The authorities informed the Committee of Experts that Turkish is available as an optional class for one to two hours per week in several schools of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Sarajevo, Zenica and Mostar. The Committee of Experts did not receive information as to whether the history and the culture of Turkish is reflected during these classes (Article 8.1.g).¹⁰⁸ Turkish is available at universities (Article 7.1.h). In addition, the Turkish Cultural Institute Yunus Emre in Sarajevo has an important role in the promotion of the Turkish language. It regularly organises language courses, financed by the Turkish Government. According to the fourth periodical report, Turkish was used in several court proceedings, with the support of a court interpreter hired and paid by the judicial authority conducting the proceeding (Article 9). The Committee of Experts did not receive information as to whether the persons involved in these proceedings were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, or, whether they were able to speak one of the official languages. Turkish is not used in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13.1.d). The Committee of Experts has no information on Turkish programmes broadcast on public radio. Turkish is available on public television through the co-operation with the European Broadcasting Union, in the framework of which numerous TV series were broadcast in the current monitoring cycle (Article 11.1.iii).¹⁰⁹ There are several bilateral agreements signed between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Türkiye, including in the field of culture (Articles 14.a and 7.1.i). The Committee of Experts did, however, not receive information on their implementation with regards to the protection and promotion of Turkish. The fourth periodical report provides no information on funding for activities relevant to the protection and promotion of Turkish, and the Committee of Experts did not receive any feedback during and/or after the on-the-spot visit either (Article 12.1.a). While Turkish speakers are represented in the National Minority Councils (Article 7.4), the Committee of Experts did not meet their representatives during the on-the-spot visit, nor was information provided by them on the situation of their language, which is regrettable.

Ukrainian

71. Most of the persons belonging to the Ukrainian national minority live in the territory of Republika Srpska. The speakers have several minority associations, and they are represented in the National Minority Councils at different levels (Article 7.4). While Ukrainian is not available in public education (Article 8), optional classes are offered in three primary schools in Republika Srpska (two in Prnjavor and one in Prijedor) for three hours per week, where 20 children are enrolled. Ukrainian is taught by the priest, who is also engaged to teach history, culture and religion to the children during these language classes. Teaching is based on a curriculum developed by the Cultural-Educational Association of Ukrainians “Taras Shevchenko”. Ukrainian churches in general are important in both community building and transmitting the language. In addition, summer schools are organised from early age – 12 years, focusing on language acquisition. The financial support is received from the MHRR and the Ministry of Education of Republika Srpska, which facilitates and supports the teaching of Ukrainian in primary schools in optional classes. According to the fourth periodical report, Ukrainian was used in one criminal court proceeding, with the support of a court interpreter hired and paid by Tuzla Canton Prosecutor’s Office conducting the proceeding (Article 9). The Committee of Experts did not receive information as to whether the person involved in the proceeding was a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, or whether the person speaks one of the official languages. Ukrainian is

¹⁰⁷ See: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraph 295.

¹⁰⁸ Turkish is not taught as part of the official school curriculum in Republika Srpska.

¹⁰⁹ Mainly soap operas: Game of fate (*Vuslat*) 149x60 minutes; My wonderful family (*Benim Güzel Ailem*) 71x60 minutes; The joy of my life (*Hayatımın Neşesi*) 51x60 minutes; Sweet revenge (*Tatlı İntikam*) 82x60 minutes.

not used in communication with the administrative authorities and by public service providers (Article 10), nor is it used in economic or social life (Article 13.1.d). The basic information on the website of Prnjavor is available also in Ukrainian, however forms and administrative information are only available in the three official languages (Articles 10.2.a and 10.2.b). Place names and topographical indicators are also provided in Ukrainian in the municipalities of Laktaši, Prnjavor, Srbac (Article 10.2.g).¹¹⁰ Television and radio programmes in Ukrainian are available mostly through the internet, but are limited to a few occasions on public radio and/or television (Article 11.1.iiii). According to the information received from authorities, BHT broadcast three television programmes (2x60 minutes and 1x30 minutes) in the reporting period. Ukrainian associations were represented in the programme “Mala Evropa” of the Radio Television of Republika Srpska; however, Ukrainian is little used during these occasions. Funding is provided to finance cultural activities by the MHRR, the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska, the municipality of Banja Luka, as well as other municipalities of Republika Srpska, where Ukrainians traditionally live, such as Gradiška, Laktaši, Prijedor, Prnjavor, Srbac (Article 12.1.a). A twinning programme exists between Prnjavor and Zhydachiv (Ukraine), from where members of the Ukrainian national minority living in the municipality of Prnjavor originate (Article 14.b). A bilateral agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine on co-operation in the fields of education and science is currently being finalised, aiming, among others at promoting the exchange of textbooks between higher education and scientific institutions, supporting study and research of Ukrainian, including through establishing a department of Ukrainian language at higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Articles 14.a and 7.1.i).

Yiddish

72. According to the fourth periodical report there are no Yiddish speakers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.¹¹¹ The Committee of Experts reiterates its call to the authorities to initiate a dialogue with the Jewish associations to support the revitalisation of this language in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Decisive steps should also be taken in co-operation with speakers from abroad.

¹¹⁰ See: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraphs 316-318.

¹¹¹ See: Fourth periodical report ([MIN-LANG \(2025\) PR 1](#)), paragraphs 15 and 329; see also: [Third evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Bosnia and Herzegovina, MIN-LANG\(2022\)2](#), paragraph 85.

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

2.1 Albanian

2.1.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Albanian

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Albanian ¹¹²	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 Albanian 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 Albanian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Albanian				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Albanian, 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 Albanian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Albanian at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Albanian to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Albanian at universities or equivalent institutions				=
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Albanian		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Albanian			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country, • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Albanian among the objectives of education and training, • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Albanian among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Albanian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Albanian		=		
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.iii	make available pre-school education in Albanian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Albanian at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Albanian, a substantial part of primary education in Albanian or teaching of Albanian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in Albanian, a substantial part of secondary education in Albanian or teaching of Albanian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=

¹¹² 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Albanian ¹¹²	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Albanian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Albanian or teaching of Albanian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=	
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Albanian				=	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Albanian 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 Albanian, 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 Albanian 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 Albanian 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 Albanian 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 Albanian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Albanian			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiv	ensure that users of Albanian may submit oral or written applications in Albanian to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Albanian				=	
10.2.a	use of Albanian within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Albanian to submit oral or written applications in Albanian to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Albanian				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Albanian to submit a request in Albanian to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Albanian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Albanian				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Albanian				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Albanian				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Albanian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Albanian				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Albanian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Albanian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Albanian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Albanian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Albanian		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Albanian				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Albanian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities				=	
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Albanian				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Albanian ¹¹²	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
12.2	In territories other than those in which Albanian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Albanian				=
Art. 13 – Economic and social life					
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Albanian in connection with economic or social activities			↗	
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Albanian in economic and social life				=
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Albanian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Albanian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
14.b	for the benefit of Albanian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Albanian 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

73. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received during and after the on-the-spot visit from the authorities regarding the bilateral agreement on the education and science, among others through developing relations between universities and training on languages and civilisation (paragraphs 55 and 56), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a as partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Albanian (paragraph 56). The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled.

2.1.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Albanian in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.1.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Bosnia and

Herzegovina¹¹³ 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 steps to develop teaching in/of Albanian at all levels, in particular by providing the adequate teacher training and textbooks and inform students and parents directly about the offer and encourage them to make use of it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Albanian, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Albanian.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Promote study and research of Albanian at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Albanian.
- f. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Albanian as a minority language in the society.
- g. Amend legislation to allow the use of Albanian in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- h. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Albanian, including programmes for children.
- i. Take steps to protect and promote Albanian through cross-border co-operation between regional or local authorities.
- j. Ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in Albanian.

¹¹³ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.2 Czech

2.2.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Czech ¹¹⁴	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of 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		=		
Part III of the Charter (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Czech or a substantial part of pre-school education in Czech at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Czech, a substantial part of primary education in Czech or teaching of Czech as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Czech, a substantial part of secondary education in Czech or teaching of Czech as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.d.iv	make available technical and vocational education in Czech, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Czech or teaching of Czech as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Czech				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Czech in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

¹¹⁴ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Czech ¹¹⁴	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 Czech, 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 Czech 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 Czech 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 Czech 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 Czech in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Czech			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.i.v	ensure that users of Czech may submit oral or written applications in Czech to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Czech				=	
10.2.a	use of Czech within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Czech to submit oral or written applications in Czech to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Czech		↗			
10.3.c	allow users of Czech to submit a request in Czech Albanian to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Czech to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Czech				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Czech				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station Czech				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Czech on a regular basis				=	
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Czech				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Czech • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Czech • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Czech	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Czech are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Czech		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Czech				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Czech in providing facilities and planning cultural activities		↗			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Czech				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Czech is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Czech				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Czech in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Czech in economic and social life				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Czech ¹¹⁴	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Czech is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Czech in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
14.b	for the benefit of Czech, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Czech 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

74. Czech is taught at the University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Philosophy, in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.h partly fulfilled. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of a bilateral agreement on cultural, educational and scientific co-operation, among others through developing relations to promote Czech (paragraphs 55 and 57), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. Topographical signage is available in Czech in some municipalities in Republika Srpska, such as in Prnjavor or Srbac (paragraph 57), the Committee of Experts considers Article 10.2.g partly fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Czech (paragraph 57). The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. In Prnjavor, city leaders and/or representatives of the municipality participate and often co-organise cultural events. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 12.1.f partly fulfilled. Prnjavor maintains an active twinning programme with Boskovice in Czechia. The Committee of Experts considers Article 14.b fulfilled.

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

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

by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Bosnia and Herzegovina¹¹⁵ 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 steps to develop teaching in/of Czech at all levels, in particular by providing the adequate teacher training and textbooks and inform students and parents directly about the offer and encourage them to make use of it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Czech, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Czech.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Continue to promote study and research of Czech at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Czech.
- f. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Czech as a minority language in the society.
- g. Amend legislation to allow the use of Czech in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- h. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Czech, including programmes for children.
- i. Continue to ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in Czech.

¹¹⁵ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.3 German

2.3.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of German

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning German ¹¹⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of German 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 German	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote German				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of German, 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 German • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of German at all appropriate stages		=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of German to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on German at universities or equivalent institutions		=		
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of German		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of German			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to German among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to German among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses German • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to German		=		
Part III of the Charter (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in German or a substantial part of pre-school education in German at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in German, a substantial part of primary education in German or teaching of German as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient		↗		
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in German, a substantial part of secondary education in German or teaching of German as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient		=		
8.1.d.iv	make available technical and vocational education in German, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in German or teaching of German as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient		↗		
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by German				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use German in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

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

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning German ¹¹⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 German, 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 German 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 German 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 A German 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 German in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in German			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.i v	ensure that users of German may submit oral or written applications in German to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in German				=	
10.2.a	use of German within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of German to submit oral or written applications in to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in German		↗			
10.3.c	allow users of German to submit a request in German to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of German to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in German				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in German				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in German				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in German on a regular basis				=	
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in German				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in German • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in German • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in German	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of German are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in German		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of German				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of German in providing facilities and planning cultural activities		↗			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in German				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which German is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using German				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of German in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of German in economic and social life		↗			

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning German ¹¹⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which German is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of German in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
14.b	for the benefit of German, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory German 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. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of bilateral agreements on cultural, educational and scientific co-operation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Germany, as well as Austria aiming at, among others, the enhancement of the teaching of language and literature in the educational institutions (paragraphs 55 and 58), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. According to the information received from the relevant authorities, German is taught as a foreign language in primary schools in average 2-4 hours per week. German is also taught in vocational education as a business language for 1-2 hours per week. In Republika Srpska special vocational (dual) education projects exist that have been initiated in co-operation with German companies. In addition, numerous German companies operate in Bosnia and Herzegovina, providing employment opportunities for those, who know the language. Technical and vocational schools often adapt their curricula to create a qualified manpower for these companies. (Paragraphs 54 and 58). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 8.1.biv, 8.1.div and 13.1.d partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. German appears on topographic indicators, including on place names in several municipalities in Republika Srpska, such as in Laktaši, Prnjavor and Srbac. The Committee of Experts considers Article 10.2.g partly fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in German. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. In Prnjavor, city leaders and/or representatives of the municipality participate and often co-organise cultural events. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 12.1.f partly fulfilled.

2.3.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of German in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.3.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Bosnia and Herzegovina¹¹⁷ 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. **Increase the teaching in/of German at all levels and adapt the curriculum to ensure that the history and culture of German as a minority language is reflected in it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to German, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of German.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Continue to promote study and research of German at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of German as a minority language in the society.
- f. Amend legislation to allow the use of German in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- g. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in German, including programmes for children.
- h. Take steps to protect and promote German through cross-border co-operation between regional or local authorities.
- i. Continue to ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in German.

¹¹⁷ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.4 Hungarian

2.4.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Hungarian ¹¹⁸	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of 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 (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Hungarian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Hungarian at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Hungarian, a substantial part of primary education in Hungarian or teaching of Hungarian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Hungarian, a substantial part of secondary 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.d.iv	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.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Hungarian				=
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				=

¹¹⁸ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Hungarian ¹¹⁸	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 A 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 A 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				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Hungarian			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.i.v	ensure that users of Hungarian may submit oral or written applications in Hungarian to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Hungarian				=	
10.2.a	use of Hungarian within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Hungarian to submit oral or written applications in Hungarian to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Hungarian				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Hungarian to submit a request in Hungarian to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Hungarian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Hungarian				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Hungarian				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Hungarian				=	
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Hungarian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.e.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles 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	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Hungarian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Hungarian		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Hungarian				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Hungarian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities		↗			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Hungarian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Hungarian				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Hungarian in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Hungarian in economic and social life				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Hungarian ¹¹⁸	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Hungarian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Hungarian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
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. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of bilateral agreement on cultural, educational and scientific co-operation, among others through developing relations to promote Hungarian culture and language (paragraphs 55 and 59), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Hungarian (paragraph 59). The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. In Prnjavor, city leaders and/or representatives of the municipality participate and often co-organise cultural events. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 12.1.f partly fulfilled. Cross-border co-operation, including through supporting of related activities of the Alliance of National Minorities of Republika Srpska were facilitated by the authorities, including with Hungary. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 14.b partly fulfilled.

2.4.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Hungarian in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.4.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Bosnia and

Herzegovina¹¹⁹ 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 steps to develop teaching in/of Hungarian at all levels, in particular by providing the adequate teacher training and textbooks and inform students and parents directly about the offer and encourage them to make use of it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Hungarian, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Hungarian.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Promote study and research of Hungarian at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Hungarian.
- f. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Hungarian as a minority language in the society.
- g. Amend legislation to allow the use of Hungarian in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- h. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Hungarian, including programmes for children.
- i. Continue to ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in Hungarian.

¹¹⁹ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.5 Italian

2.5.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Italian

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Italian ¹²⁰	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of Italian 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 Italian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Italian				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Italian, 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 Italian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Italian at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Italian to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Italian at universities or equivalent institutions		↗		
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Italian		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Italian			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Italian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Italian among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Albanian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Italian		=		
Part III of the Charter (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Italian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Italian at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Italian, a substantial part of primary education in Italian or teaching of Italian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient		=		
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Italian, a substantial part of secondary education in Italian or teaching of Italian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient		=		
8.1.d.iv	make available technical and vocational education in Italian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Italian or teaching of Italian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient		✓		
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Italian				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Italian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

¹²⁰ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Italian ¹²⁰	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 Italian, 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 Italian 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 Italian 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 Italian 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 Italian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Italian			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.i v	ensure that users of Italian may submit oral or written applications in Italian to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Italian				=	
10.2.a	use of Italian within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Italian to submit oral or written applications in Italian to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Italian		=			
10.3.c	allow users of Italian to submit a request in Italian to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Italian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Italian				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Italian				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Italian				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Italian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Italian				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Italian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Italian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Italian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Italian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Italian		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Italian				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Italian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities		↗			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Italian				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Italian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Italian				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Italian in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Italian in economic and social life				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Italian ¹²⁰	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Italian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Italian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
14.b	for the benefit of Italian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Italian 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

77. Italian is studied at the University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Philosophy. The Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.h partly fulfilled. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of bilateral agreements on cultural, educational and scientific co-operation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy, (paragraphs 55 and 60), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. According to the information received from the relevant authorities, Italian is taught as a foreign language in vocational education on average for two hours per week (paragraph 60). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 8.1.div only partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Italian (paragraph 60). The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. In Prnjavor, city leaders and/or representatives of the municipality participate and often co-organise cultural events. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 12.1.f partly fulfilled. Cross-border co-operation, including through supporting of related activities of the Alliance of National Minorities of Republika Srpska were facilitated by the authorities, including with Italy. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 14.b partly fulfilled.

2.5.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Italian in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.5.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so,

the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Bosnia and Herzegovina¹²¹ 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. **Increase the teaching in/of Italian at all levels and adapt the curriculum to ensure that the history and culture of Italian as a minority language is reflected in it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Italian, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Italian.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Continue to promote study and research of Italian at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Italian as a minority language in the society.
- f. Amend legislation to allow the use of Italian in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- g. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Italian, including programmes for children.
- h. Continue to ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in Italian.

¹²¹ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.6 Ladino

2.6.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Ladino

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Ladino ¹²²	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of Ladino 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 Ladino	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Ladino				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Ladino, 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 Ladino • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Ladino at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Ladino to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Ladino at universities or equivalent institutions				=
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Ladino				=
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Ladino			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ladino among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ladino among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Ladino • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Ladino		=		
Part III of the Charter (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Ladino or a substantial part of pre-school education in Ladino at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				✓
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Ladino, a substantial part of primary education in Ladino or teaching of Ladino as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				✓
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Ladino, a substantial part of secondary education in Ladino or teaching of Ladino as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				✓
8.1.d.iv	make available technical Ladino and vocational education in Ladino, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in or teaching of Ladino as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				✓
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Ladino				✓
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Ladino in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				✓

¹²² 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Ladino ¹²²	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 Ladino, 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 Y Ladino 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 Ladino 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 Ladino 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 Ladino in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				✓	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Ladino			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.i v	ensure that users of Ladino may submit oral or written applications in Ladino to local branches of the national authorities				✓	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Ladino				✓	
10.2.a	use of Ladino within the framework of the regional or local authority				✓	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Ladino to submit oral or written applications in Ladino to the regional or local authority				✓	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary, in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Ladino				✓	
10.3.c	allow users of Ladino to submit a request in Ladino to public service providers				✓	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Ladino to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				✓	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in and Ladino				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Ladino				✓	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in and Ladino				✓	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Ladino on a regular basis				✓	
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in and Ladino				✓	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ladino • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ladino • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Ladino			↗		
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Ladino are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				✓	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ladino		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Ladino				✓	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Ladino in providing facilities and planning cultural activities				✓	
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Ladino				✓	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Ladino is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Ladino				✓	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Ladino in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Ladino in economic and social life				✓	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Ladino ¹²²	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Ladino is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Ladino in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education				✓
14.b	for the benefit of Ladino, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Ladino 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. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. There is no legal restriction to the freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ladino, neither do the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ladino. They equally ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Ladino. The fourth periodical report does not provide any information concerning this aspect. However, it seems that terrestrial broadcasts do not exist in neighbouring countries in Ladino. The Committee of Experts considers Article 11.2 formally fulfilled. Production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works are also encouraged by the authorities in Ladino. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts interprets the repeated lack of information regarding all other undertakings under Part III as an indication that those undertakings are not fulfilled.

2.6.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Ladino in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.6.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in Bosnia and Herzegovina¹²³ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

¹²³ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. **Take immediate steps to develop collaboratively a strategy to provide appropriate forms and means for the revitalisation of Ladino.**
- b. **Promote study and research of Ladino at university and equivalent institutions, also through multilateral co-operation.**

II. Further recommendations

- c. Increase the awareness of Ladino language and culture, particularly for all authorities responsible for the implementation of the Charter for Ladino as a minority language in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- d. Ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Ladino.

2.7 Polish

2.7.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Polish

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Polish ¹²⁴	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of Polish 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 Polish	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Polish				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Polish, 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 Polish • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Polish at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Polish to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Polish at universities or equivalent institutions		↗		
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Polish		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Polish			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Polish among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Polish among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Polish • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Polish		=		
Part III of the Charter (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Polish or a substantial part of pre-school education in Polish at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Polish, a substantial part of primary education in Polish or teaching of Polish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Polish, a substantial part of secondary education in Polish or teaching of Polish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.d.iv	make available technical and vocational education in Polish, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Polish or teaching of Polish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Polish				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Polish in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

¹²⁴ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Polish ¹²⁴	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 Polish, 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 Polish 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 Polish 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 Polish 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 Polish in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Polish			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.i v	ensure that users of Polish may submit oral or written applications in Polish to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Polish				=	
10.2.a	use of Polish within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Polish to submit oral or written applications in Polish to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Polish		↗			
10.3.c	allow users of Polish to submit a request in Polish to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Polish to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Polish				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Polish				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Polish				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Polish on a regular basis				=	
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Polish				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Polish • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Polish • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Polish	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Polish are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Polish		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Polish				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Polish in providing facilities and planning cultural activities		↗			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Polish				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Polish is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Polish				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Polish in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Polish in economic and social life				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Polish ¹²⁴	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Polish is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Polish in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
14.b	for the benefit of Polish, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Polish 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

79. Polish is taught at the University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Philosophy. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.h partly fulfilled. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of a bilateral agreement on cultural, educational, scientific, youth and sport co-operation, among others through developing relations to promote Polish (paragraphs 55 and 62), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. Topographical signage is available in Polish in some municipalities in Republika Srpska, such as in Gradiška, Prnjavor or Srbac (paragraph 62), therefore the Committee of Experts considers Article 10.2.g partly fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Polish. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. In Prnjavor, city leaders and/or representatives of the municipality participate and often co-organise cultural events. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 12.1.f partly fulfilled. The municipalities of Prnjavor, Srbac and Gradiška have active twinning programmes with cities in Poland (paragraph 62). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 14.b fulfilled.

2.7.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Polish in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.7.1 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina¹²⁵ 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 steps to develop teaching in/of Polish at all levels, in particular by providing the adequate teacher training and textbooks and inform students and parents directly about the offer and encourage them to make use of it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Polish, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Polish.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Continue to promote study and research of Polish at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Polish.
- f. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Polish as a minority language in the society.
- g. Amend legislation to allow the use of Polish in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- h. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Polish, including programmes for children.
- i. Continue to ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in Polish.

¹²⁵ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.8 Romani

2.8.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Romani ¹²⁶	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 A Romani		=		
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Romani or a substantial part of pre-school education in Romani at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Romani, a substantial part of primary education in Romani or teaching of Romani as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Romani, a substantial part of secondary education in Romani or teaching of Romani as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.d.iv	make available technical and vocational education in Romani, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Romani or teaching of Romani 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 Romani or of facilities for the study of Romani as an university or higher education subject				=
8.1.f.iii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Romani as a subject of adult and continuing education				=
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Romani				=

¹²⁶ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Romani ¹²⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Romani 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 Romani, 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 Romani 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 Romani 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 Romani 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 Romani in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Romani		↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services					
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Romani may submit oral or written applications in Romani to local branches of the national authorities			=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Romani			=	
10.2.a	use of Romani within the framework of the regional or local authority			=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Romani to submit oral or written applications in Romani to the regional or local authority			=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Romani		↗		
10.3.c	allow users of Romani to submit a request in Romani to public service providers			=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Romani to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used			=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Romani			✓	
Art. 11 – Media					
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Romani			=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Romani			=	
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Romani on a regular basis			=	
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Romani			=	
11.1.e.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Romani			=	
11.1.g	support the training of journalists and other staff for media using Romani			=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Romani • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Romani • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Romani		=		
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Romani are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media			=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities					
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Romani		=		
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Romani			=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Romani in providing facilities and planning cultural activities		↗		
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Romani			=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Romani is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Romani			=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Romani ¹²⁶	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 13 – Economic and social life					
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Romani in connection with economic or social activities			↗	
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Romani in economic and social life				=
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Romani is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Romani in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education				=
14.b	for the benefit of Romani, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Romani 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

80. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. Topographical signage is available in Romani in Prnjavor, and basic information is available on the municipality's website in Romani, therefore the Committee of Experts considers Article 10.2.g partly fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. In Prnjavor, city leaders and/or representatives of the municipality participate and often co-organise cultural events. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 12.1.f partly fulfilled.

2.8.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Romani in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.8.1 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina¹²⁷ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

¹²⁷ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. **Establish studies of Romani at university and provide for the training of teachers of Romani.**
- b. **Take steps to develop the teaching in/of Romani at all levels, including by providing adequate teacher training and textbooks.**
- c. **Promote training and exchange of Romani teachers through multilateral co-operation.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Inform students and parents directly about the offer of teaching in/of Romani and encourage them to make use of it.
- e. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Romani.
- f. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Romani as a minority language in the society.
- g. Amend legislation to allow the use of Romani in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages and provide for certified court interpreters in this context.
- h. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Romani, including programmes for children.
- i. Take steps to protect and promote Romani through cross-border co-operation between regional or local authorities.
- j. Include and/or enhance the protection and promotion of Romani through bilateral and multilateral agreements.
- k. Continue to ensure the adoption of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in Romani.

2.9 Romanian

2.9.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Romanian

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Romanian ¹²⁸	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 Romanian 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 Romanian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Romanian				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Romanian, 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 Romanian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Romanian at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Romanian to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Romanian at universities or equivalent institutions				=
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Romanian		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Romanian			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romanian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romanian among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Romanian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Romanian		=		
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Romanian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Romanian at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Romanian, a substantial part of primary education in Romanian or teaching of Romanian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Romanian, a substantial part of secondary education in Romanian or teaching of Romanian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.d.iv	make available technical and vocational education in Romanian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Romanian or teaching of Romanian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Romanian				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					

¹²⁸ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Romanian ¹²⁸	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Romanian 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 Romanian, 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 Romanian 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 Romanian 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 Romanian 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 Romanian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Romanian			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.i.v	ensure that users of Romanian may submit oral or written applications in Romanian to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Romanian				=	
10.2.a	use of Romanian within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Romanian to submit oral or written applications in Romanian to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Romanian				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Romanian to submit a request in Romanian to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Romanian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Romanian				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Romanian				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Romanian				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Romanian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Romanian				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Romanian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Romanian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Romanian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Romanian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Romanian		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Romanian				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Romanian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities				=	
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Romanian				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Romanian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Romanian				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Romanian in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Romanian in economic and social life				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Romanian ¹²⁸	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Romanian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Romanian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
14.b	for the benefit of Romanian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Romanian 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

81. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of a bilateral agreement on cultural co-operation (paragraphs 55 and 66), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Romanian. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled.

2.9.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Romanian in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.9.1 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina¹²⁹ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

¹²⁹ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. **Take steps to develop teaching in/of Romanian at all levels, in particular by providing the adequate teacher training and textbooks and inform students and parents directly about the offer and encourage them to make use of it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Romanian, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Romanian.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Promote study and research of Romanian at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Romanian.
- f. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Romanian as a minority language in the society.
- g. Amend legislation to allow the use of Romanian in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- h. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Romanian, including programmes for children.
- i. Take steps to protect and promote Romanian through cross-border co-operation between regional or local authorities.
- j. Ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in Romanian.

2.10 Ruthenian

2.10.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Ruthenian

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Ruthenian	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of Ruthenian 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 Ruthenian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Ruthenian				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Ruthenian, 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 Ruthenian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Ruthenian at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Ruthenian to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Ruthenian at universities or equivalent institutions				=
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Ruthenian				=
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Ruthenian			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ruthenian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ruthenian among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Ruthenian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Ruthenian		=		
Part III of the Charter (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Ruthenian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Ruthenian at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Ruthenian, a substantial part of primary education in Ruthenian or teaching of Ruthenian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Ruthenian, a substantial part of secondary education in or teaching of Ruthenian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.d.iv	make available technical and vocational education in Ruthenian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Ruthenian or teaching of Ruthenian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Ruthenian				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Ruthenian 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, Ruthenian shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Ruthenian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Ruthenian	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Ruthenian 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 Ruthenian 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 Ruthenian 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 Ruthenian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Ruthenian			↗	
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services					
10.1.ai v	ensure that users of Ruthenian may submit oral or written applications in Ruthenian to local branches of the national authorities				=
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Ruthenian				=
10.2.a	use of Ruthenian within the framework of the regional or local authority				=
10.2.b	possibility for users of Ruthenian to submit oral or written applications in Ruthenian to the regional or local authority				=
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Ruthenian				=
10.3.c	allow users of Ruthenian to submit a request in Ruthenian to public service providers				=
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Ruthenian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Ruthenian				✓
Art. 11 – Media					
11.1.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Ruthenian				=
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Ruthenian				=
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Ruthenian on a regular basis				=
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Ruthenian				=
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ruthenian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ruthenian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Ruthenian		=		
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Ruthenian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities					
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ruthenian		↗		
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Ruthenian				=
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Ruthenian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities				=
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Ruthenian				=
12.2	In territories other than those in which Ruthenian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Ruthenian				=
Art. 13 – Economic and social life					
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Ruthenian in connection with economic or social activities			↗	
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Ruthenian in economic and social life				=
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Ruthenian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of A Ruthenian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education				=

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Ruthenian	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
14.b	for the benefit of Ruthenian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Ruthenian 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

82. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Ruthenian. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled.

2.10.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Ruthenian in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.10.1 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina¹³⁰ 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. | Provide appropriate forms and means for the promotion of use of Ruthenian, in co-operation with the speakers. |
| b. | Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Ruthenian as a minority language in the society. |

II. Further recommendation

- c. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Ruthenian.

¹³⁰ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.11 Slovak

2.11.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Slovak ¹³¹	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of 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		=		
Part III of the Charter (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.iii	make available pre-school education in Slovak or a substantial part of pre-school education in Slovak at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Slovak, a substantial part of primary education in Slovak or teaching of Slovak as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in Slovak, a substantial part of secondary education in A Slovak or teaching of Slovak as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Slovak, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Slovak or teaching of Slovak as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Slovak				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Slovak in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

¹³¹ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Slovak ¹³¹	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 Slovak, 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 Slovak 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 Slovak 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 Slovak 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 Slovak in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Slovak			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiv	ensure that users of Slovak may submit oral or written applications in Slovak to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Slovak				=	
10.2.a	use of Slovak within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Slovak to submit oral or written applications in Slovak to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Slovak				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Slovak to submit a request in Slovak to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Slovak to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Slovak				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Slovak				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Slovak				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Slovak on a regular basis				=	
11.1.eii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Slovak				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Slovak • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Slovak • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Slovak	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Slovak are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Slovak		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Slovak				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Slovak in providing facilities and planning cultural activities		↗			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Slovak				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Slovak is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Slovak				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Slovak in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Slovak in economic and social life				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Slovak ¹³¹	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Slovak is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Slovak in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
14.b	for the benefit of Slovak, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Slovak 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

83. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of a bilateral agreement on cultural co-operation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Slovak Republic (paragraphs 55 and 68), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Slovak. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. In Prnjavor, city leaders and/or representatives of the municipality participate and often co-organise cultural events. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 12.1.f partly fulfilled. Cross-border co-operation, including through supporting of related activities of the Alliance of National Minorities of Republika Srpska were facilitated by the authorities, including with Slovakia. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 14.b partly fulfilled.

2.11.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Slovak in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.11.1 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 Bosnia and

Herzegovina¹³² 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 steps to develop teaching in/of Slovak at all levels, in particular by providing the adequate teacher training and textbooks and inform students and parents directly about the offer and encourage them to make use of it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Slovak, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Slovak.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Promote study and research of Slovak at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Slovak.
- f. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Slovak as a minority language in the society.
- g. Amend legislation to allow the use of Slovak in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- h. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Slovak, including programmes for children.
- i. Ensure the adoption and use of traditional form of place names and make it possible to use family names in Slovak.

¹³² [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.12 Slovenian

2.12.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Slovenian ¹³³	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter (Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of 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 (Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Slovenian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Slovenian at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Slovenian, a substantial part of primary education in Slovenian or teaching of Slovenian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Slovenian, a substantial part of secondary 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.d.iv	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.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Slovenian				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	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				=

¹³³ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Slovenian ¹³³	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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.b.ii	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.c.ii	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				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Slovenian			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Slovenian may submit oral or written applications in Slovenian to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Slovenian				=	
10.2.a	use of Slovenian within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Slovenian to submit oral or written applications in Slovenian to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Slovenian				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Slovenian to submit a request in Slovenian to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Slovenian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Slovenian		=			
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Slovenian				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Slovenian				=	
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Slovenian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.e.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles 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 • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Slovenian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Slovenian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Slovenian		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Slovenian				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Slovenian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities		↗			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Slovenian				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Slovenian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Slovenian				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Slovenian in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Slovenian in economic and social life				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Slovenian ¹³³	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Slovenian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Slovenian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↑		
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

84. Slovenian is taught at the University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Philosophy. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.h partly fulfilled. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of a bilateral agreement on cultural and educational co-operation, among others through promoting Slovenian (paragraphs 55 and 69), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Slovenian. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. In Prnjavor, city leaders and/or representatives of the municipality participate and often co-organise cultural events. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 12.1.f partly fulfilled. The authorities supported a cross-border project of the Slovenian association “Triglav”. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 14.b partly fulfilled.

2.12.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Slovenian in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.12.1 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina¹³⁴ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

¹³⁴ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. **Take steps to develop teaching in/of Slovenian at all levels, in particular by providing the adequate teacher training and textbooks and inform students and parents directly about the offer and encourage them to make use of it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Slovenian, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Slovenian.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Continue to promote study and research of Slovenian at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Slovenian.
- f. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Slovenian as a minority language in the society.
- g. Amend legislation to allow the use of Slovenian in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- h. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Slovenian, including programmes for children.
- i. Ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names in Slovenian.

2.13 Turkish

2.13.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Turkish

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Turkish ¹³⁵	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 Turkish 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 Turkish	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Turkish				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Turkish, 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 Turkish • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Turkish at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Turkish to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Turkish at universities or equivalent institutions		↗		
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Turkish		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Turkish			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Turkish among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Turkish among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Turkish • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Turkish		=		
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.iii	make available pre-school education in Turkish or a substantial part of pre-school education in Turkish at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Turkish, a substantial part of primary education in Turkish or teaching of Turkish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient		=		
8.1.civ	make available secondary education in Turkish, a substantial part of secondary education in Turkish or teaching of Turkish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient		↗		
8.1.div	make available technical and vocational education in Turkish, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Turkish or teaching of Turkish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient		↗		
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Turkish				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.iii	guarantee the accused the right to use Turkish in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

¹³⁵ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Turkish ¹³⁵	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 Turkish, 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 Turkish 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 Turkish 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 Turkish 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 Turkish in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Turkish			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Turkish may submit oral or written applications in Turkish to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Turkish				=	
10.2.a	use of Turkish within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Turkish to submit oral or written applications in Turkish to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Turkish				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Albanian to submit a request in Turkish to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Turkish to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Turkish				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Turkish		↗			
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Turkish				=	
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Turkish on a regular basis				=	
11.1.e.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Turkish				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Turkish • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Turkish • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Turkish	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Turkish are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Turkish		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Turkish				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Turkish in providing facilities and planning cultural activities				=	
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Turkish				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Turkish is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Turkish				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Turkish in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Turkish in economic and social life				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Turkish ¹³⁵	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Turkish is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Turkish in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
14.b	for the benefit of Turkish, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Turkish 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

85. Turkish can be studied at the University of Tuzla and the University of Zenica. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 7.1.h partly fulfilled. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of several bilateral agreements between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Türkiye, among others on co-operation in the field of education to promote Turkish (paragraphs 55 and 70), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. According to the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit, Turkish is taught at secondary level in public schools, as well in vocational education as foreign language for two hours per week (paragraph 70). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 8.1.civ and 8.1.div partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. Turkish is available on public television through the co-operation with the European Broadcasting Union, in the framework of which numerous TV series were broadcast in the current monitoring cycle (paragraph 70). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 11.1.iii partly fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Turkish. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled.

2.13.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Turkish in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.13.1 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina¹³⁶ 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. Increase the teaching in/of Turkish at all levels and adapt the curriculum to ensure that the history and culture of Turkish as a minority language is reflected in it.**
- b. Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Turkish, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Turkish.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Continue to promote study and research of Turkish at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Turkish as a minority language in the society.
- f. Amend legislation to allow the use of Turkish in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- g. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Turkish, including programmes for children.
- h. Take steps to protect and promote Turkish through cross-border co-operation between regional or local authorities.
- i. Ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in Turkish.

¹³⁶ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.14 Ukrainian

2.14.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Ukrainian

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Ukrainian ¹³⁷	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 Ukrainian 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 Ukrainian	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Ukrainian				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Ukrainian, 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 Ukrainian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		=		
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Ukrainian at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Ukrainian to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Ukrainian at universities or equivalent institutions				=
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Ukrainian		↗		
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Ukrainian			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ukrainian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ukrainian among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Ukrainian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Ukrainian		=		
Part III of the Charter <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Ukrainian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Ukrainian at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Ukrainian, a substantial part of primary education in Ukrainian or teaching of Ukrainian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				✓
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Ukrainian, a substantial part of secondary education in Ukrainian or teaching of Ukrainian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.d.iv	make available technical and vocational education in Ukrainian, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Albanian or teaching of Albanian as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				=
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Ukrainian				=
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Ukrainian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				=

¹³⁷ 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Ukrainian ¹³⁷	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 Ukrainian, 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 Ukrainian 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 Ukrainian 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 Ukrainian 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 Ukrainian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				=	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Ukrainian			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Ukrainian may submit oral or written applications in Ukrainian to local branches of the national authorities				=	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Ukrainian				=	
10.2.a	use of Ukrainian within the framework of the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Ukrainian to submit oral or written applications in Ukrainian to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Ukrainian		↗			
10.3.c	allow users of Ukrainian to submit a request in Albanian to public service providers				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Ukrainian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Ukrainian				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Ukrainian				=	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Ukrainian				=	
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Ukrainian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.e.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Ukrainian				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ukrainian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ukrainian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Ukrainian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Ukrainian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				=	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ukrainian		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Ukrainian				=	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Ukrainian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities		↗			
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Ukrainian				=	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Ukrainian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Ukrainian				=	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Ukrainian in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Ukrainian in economic and social life				=	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Ukrainian ¹³⁷	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Ukrainian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Ukrainian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↗		
14.b	for the benefit of Ukrainian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Ukrainian 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

86. Bearing in mind the information detailed in the fourth periodical report and the additional information received from the authorities during and after the on-the-spot visit regarding the existence of a bilateral agreement on co-operation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine in the field of education and culture, among others through developing relations to promote Ukrainian (paragraphs 55 and 71), the Committee of Experts considers the implementation of Articles 7.1.i and 14.a partly fulfilled. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. Ukrainian is not available in public education, only in extra-curricular optional classes, therefore the Committee of Experts considers Article 8.1.biv not fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. Topographical signage is available in Ukrainian in some municipalities in Republika Srpska, such as in Laktaši, Prnjavor or Srbac (paragraph 71), therefore the Committee of Experts considers Article 10.2.g partly fulfilled. It is only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the entry of a personal name in the birth registers for persons belonging to national minorities may be made in the language and script of the national minority to which they belong, if the person so requests. However, representatives of speakers met during the on-the-spot visit informed the Committee of Experts that the use of surnames in minority languages is not possible, or very inconsistently applied, due to also the software in place and/or technical issues in the registry offices (orthographic differences in Latin and Cyrillic script) even for those living in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (paragraph 39). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 10.5 not fulfilled. The authorities at state, entity and municipality-level support the production and dissemination of cultural works also financially, including in Ukrainian. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. In Prnjavor, city leaders and/or representatives of the municipality participate and often co-organise cultural events. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 12.1.f partly fulfilled. A twinning programme exists between Prnjavor and Zhydachiv (Ukraine), from where members of the Ukrainian national minority living in the municipality of Prnjavor originate. The Committee of Experts therefore considers Article 14.b fulfilled.

2.14.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Ukrainian in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered

“fulfilled” (see under 2.14.1 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina¹³⁸ 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 steps to develop teaching in/of Ukrainian at all levels, in particular by providing the adequate teacher training and textbooks and inform students and parents directly about the offer and encourage them to make use of it.**
- b. **Develop and implement a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to Ukrainian, in co-operation with the speakers.**
- c. **Establish a scheme for financing activities and facilities relating to the promotion of Ukrainian.**

II. Further recommendations

- d. Establish a chair and promote study and research of Ukrainian at university and equivalent institutions.
- e. Ensure teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Ukrainian.
- f. Increase the awareness of the Charter amongst the speakers and all authorities responsible for the implementation, as well as of Ukrainian as a minority language in the society.
- g. Amend legislation to allow the use of Ukrainian in court proceedings free of charge for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, even if they are able to speak one of the official languages.
- h. Make adequate provision so that public broadcasters offer programmes in Ukrainian, including programmes for children.
- k. Continue to ensure the adoption and use of traditional forms of place names and make it possible to use family names in Ukrainian.

¹³⁸ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

2.15 Yiddish

2.15.1 Compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Yiddish

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Yiddish ¹³⁹	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled no conclusion
Part II of the Charter					
(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)					
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles					
7.1.a	recognition of Yiddish 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 Yiddish	=			
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Yiddish				=
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Yiddish, 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 Yiddish • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups				✓
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Yiddish at all appropriate stages				=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Yiddish to learn it				=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Yiddish at universities or equivalent institutions				=
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Yiddish				=
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Yiddish			↗	
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Yiddish among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Yiddish among their objectives				=
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Yiddish • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Yiddish		=		
Part III of the Charter¹⁴⁰					
(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)					
Art. 8 – Education					
8.1.a.iii	make available pre-school education in Yiddish or a substantial part of pre-school education in Yiddish at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				✓
8.1.b.iv	make available primary education in Yiddish, a substantial part of primary education in Yiddish or teaching of Yiddish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				✓
8.1.c.iv	make available secondary education in Yiddish, a substantial part of secondary education in Yiddish or teaching of Yiddish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				✓
8.1.d.iv	make available technical and vocational education in Yiddish, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Yiddish or teaching of Yiddish as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient				✓
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Yiddish				✓
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities					
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Yiddish in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				✓

¹³⁹ 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).

¹⁴⁰ See para. 87 of this report.

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Yiddish ¹³⁹	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
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 Yiddish, 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 Yiddish 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 Yiddish 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 Yiddish 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 Yiddish in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations				✓	
9.2.c	not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in Yiddish			↗		
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.a.i.v	ensure that users of Yiddish may submit oral or written applications in Yiddish to local branches of the national authorities				✓	
10.1.c	allow the national authorities to draft documents in Yiddish				✓	
10.2.a	use of Yiddish within the framework of the regional or local authority				✓	
10.2.b	possibility for users of Yiddish to submit oral or written applications in Yiddish to the regional or local authority				✓	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary, in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Yiddish				✓	
10.3.c	allow users of Yiddish to submit a request in Yiddish to public service providers				✓	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Yiddish to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				✓	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Yiddish				✓	
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Yiddish				✓	
11.1.bi	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one private radio station in Yiddish				✓	
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Yiddish on a regular basis				✓	
11.1.e.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the weekly or daily publication of newspaper articles in Yiddish				✓	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Yiddish • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Yiddish • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Yiddish			↗		
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Yiddish are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				✓	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Yiddish		↗			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Yiddish				✓	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Yiddish in providing facilities and planning cultural activities				✓	
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Yiddish				✓	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Yiddish is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Yiddish				✓	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Yiddish in connection with economic or social activities			↗		
13.1.d	facilitate and/or encourage the use of Yiddish in economic and social life				✓	

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	Undertakings of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning Yiddish ¹³⁹	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges					
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Yiddish is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Yiddish and in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education				✓
14.b	for the benefit of Yiddish facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Yiddish and 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

87. The Committee of Experts has no information on the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the Bosnia and Herzegovina using Yiddish, nor on establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups, therefore it considers Article 7.1.e as “no conclusion”. Article 2 of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina prohibits discrimination against any person or group, including on the basis of language or association with a national minority, in both the public and private sectors, including in economic and social activities (paragraph 53). The Committee of Experts therefore considers Articles 7.2 and 13.1.c formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts understands that relevant legislation does not restrict the validity as between parties of legal documents in a regional or minority language, therefore it considers Article 9.2 formally fulfilled. There is no legal restriction to the freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Yiddish, neither do the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Yiddish. They equally ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Yiddish. The fourth periodical report does not provide any information concerning this aspect. However, it seems that terrestrial broadcasts do not exist in neighbouring countries in Yiddish. The Committee of Experts considers Article 11.2 formally fulfilled. Production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works are also encouraged by the authorities in Yiddish. The Committee of Experts considers Article 12.1.a partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts interprets the repeated lack of information regarding all other undertakings under Part III as an indication that those undertakings are not fulfilled.

2.15.2 Recommendation by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Yiddish in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Committee of Experts encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.15.1 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina¹⁴¹ remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

¹⁴¹ [CM/RecChL\(2013\)6](#); [CM/RecChL\(2016\)4](#); [CM/RecChL\(2022\)4](#).

I. Recommendations for immediate action

- a. **Take immediate steps to increase the awareness of Yiddish language and culture, particularly for all authorities responsible for the implementation of the Charter for Yiddish as a minority language in Bosnia and Herzegovina.**
- b. **Promote study and research of Yiddish at university and equivalent institutions, also through multilateral co-operation.**

II. Further recommendations

- c. Develop collaboratively a strategy to provide appropriate forms and means for the revitalisation of Yiddish.
- d. Ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Yiddish.

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

The Committee of Experts, while acknowledging the efforts of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina have undertaken to protect the regional or 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina on 21 September 2010;

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

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

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

1. implement the Charter irrespective of the numerical thresholds in domestic legislation;
2. establish a structured policy and take flexible measures facilitating the application of the Charter for all regional or minority languages;
3. provide appropriate forms and means for the teaching in/of regional or minority languages at all levels of education, including teacher training;
4. expand schemes to allow adequate and sustainable long-term funding for cultural activities and facilities for all regional or minority languages;
5. make adequate provisions so that public broadcasters offer programmes in all regional or minority languages;
6. nominate, with no further delay, candidates for the election of an expert in respect of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with Article 17.1 of the Charter.

The Committee of Ministers invites the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to submit with no further delay their fifth periodical report which was due on 1 June 2026 in accordance with the Committee of Ministers decisions adopted on 28 November 2018.

Appendix I: Instrument of Ratification



Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 21 September 2010 - Or. Engl.

In accordance with Article 1, paragraph b, of the Charter, Bosnia and Herzegovina declares that the term 'territory in which the regional or minority languages are used' refers to areas in which regional or minority languages are in official use in accordance with the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Period covered: 1/1/2011 -

The preceding statement concerns Article(s): 1

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 21 September 2010 - Or. Engl.

In accordance with Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Charter, Bosnia and Herzegovina declares that, the following provisions shall apply to the Albanian, Montenegrin, Czech, Italian, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Polish, Romanian, Rysin, Slovak, Slovene, Turkish, Ukrainian and Jewish (Yiddish and Ladino) languages:

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

The following articles, paragraphs and sub-paragraphs shall apply to the Romani language:

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

Period covered: 1/1/2011 -

The preceding statement concerns Article(s): 2

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 21 September 2010 - Or. Engl.

In accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Charter, Bosnia and Herzegovina declares that, it shall apply the Provisions of Part III of the Charter in relation to the following languages: Albanian, Montenegrin, Czech, Italian, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Polish, Romani, Romanian, Rysin, Slovak, Slovene, Turkish, Ukrainian and Jewish (Yiddish and Ladino).

Period covered: 1/1/2011 -

The preceding statement concerns Article(s): 3

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

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

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

www.coe.int/minlang

www.coe.int

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