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**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

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

**Montenegro**



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**DIRECTORATE FOR HUMAN AND MINORITY RIGHTS**

# SIXTH REPORT OF MONTENEGRO ON THE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL AND MINORITY LANGUAGES

Podgorica, July 2022

## Introduction

The Constitution of Montenegro, laws and other regulations adopted in accordance with the Constitution, guarantee the highest level of compliance with international standards in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms. Montenegro is constitutionally defined as a civil, democratic, ecological and socially just country, based on the rule of law. The bearer of sovereignty is a citizen who holds Montenegrin citizenship. Article 79 of the Constitution of Montenegro entitles members of minority nations and other minority national communities to the rights and freedoms that they may enjoy on a unilateral basis and in association with others, and one of these rights is the right to use their language and script in private, public and official use. Paragraphs 9 and 10 of Article 79 guarantee to minorities the right to authentic representation in the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro and in local self-government bodies in which a minority represents a significant part of the population, in accordance with the principle of affirmative action, as well as the right to adequate representation in public services, state and local self-government bodies.

The active participation and representation of members of minority nations and other minority national communities in the political and public life of Montenegro is one of the most important segments of the integral integration of Montenegrin society. Without the presence of representatives of the minority nations and other minority national communities at important places in the system of state and local power, at places where policy and decisions are made, there can be no unambiguous implementation of the established and guaranteed rights. Under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to which Montenegro acceded on 6 June 2006, we committed to implement the principles contained in this international document, while by the Law on Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Montenegro determined that it refers to the use of the Albanian and Romani languages. In the 2011 amendments to the law governing education in the mother tongue, the subject "mother tongue" was renamed to "Montenegrin, Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian languages".

Data from the Institute of Statistics (MONSTAT) in Montenegro show the nature of the following languages: the Serbian language is spoken by 265,895 or 42.88% of the population, the Montenegrin language is spoken by 229,251 or 36.97% of the population, the Albanian language is spoken by 32,671 or 5.27% of the population, the Bosnian is spoken by 33,077 or 5.33% of the population, the Romani language is spoken by 5,169 or 0.83% of the population, and the Croatian language is spoken by 2,791 or 0.45% of the population.

Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro 031/06 as of 12 May 2006, 051/06 as of 04 August 2006, 038/07 as of 22 June 2007, Official Gazette of Montenegro, 002/11 as of 12 January 2011, 008/11 as of 04 February 2011, 031/17 as of 12 May 2017) defines a minority as a group of citizens of Montenegro, numerically smaller than the prevailing population, which has common ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics, different from the rest of the population, is historically tied to Montenegro and is motivated by the desire to express and preserve national, ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity. The latest amendments to the Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms define certain concepts more precisely, so words "significant part" are replaced by the words "at least 5%", that is, in local self-government units in which members of minority nations and other minority national communities constitute the majority or 5% of the population, according to the results of the last two consecutive censuses, the language of those minority nations and other minority national

communities is also in official use. Article 33 of the Law defines that a minority nation or other minority national community and its members, in order to improve their national identity and to exercise their freedoms and rights, may establish a society of minority nations or other minority national communities. In this regard, in June 2014, the Cooperation Agreement was signed between the then Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the Directorate for Human Resources and six national councils of minority nations and other minority national communities (Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Muslim, Roma and Serbian) in order to further develop minority rights and freedoms, for adequate representation of members of minority nations and other minority national communities in public services, state authorities and local self-government bodies, affirming the Constitution of Montenegro and legal framework aimed at the advancement of minority rights and freedoms, putting an emphasis on the importance and contribution of issues of common interest.

The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination<sup>1</sup>, as the base law on the prevention of discrimination, recognises, *inter alia*, national origin and affiliation with a minority nation or a minority national community as the basis for discrimination. To this regard, Article 2 of this Law prohibits any form of discrimination including based on language, religion or belief.

In the Strategy for Minority Policy 2019-2023, one of the defined objectives is to ensure authentic political representation and participation of members of the minority nations and other minority national communities in the political life of Montenegro. The Strategy for Minority Policy 2019-2024 with an action plan for 2021 and 2022 is also in place, in line with international standards. The Strategy defines the measures, method and dynamics for the implementation of measures aimed at protecting and improving the living conditions of minority nations and other minority national communities as a whole, and which state bodies are obliged to implement it during the implementation period of the document in order to achieve the full integration of minorities in Montenegrin society.

Members of the Parliament of Montenegro who have Albanian nationality are allowed to use their mother tongue. Pursuant to Article 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament, a Member whose language is not the official language of the Parliament shall have the right to speak in his or her own language at the Parliament meeting, and shall be obliged, if he or she wishes to avail himself or herself of this right, to inform the Secretary-General of the Parliament in a timely manner of the need to arrange for an interpretation into the official language. The Parliament plans to appoint a translator for the Albanian language in the coming period. The Law on Local Self-Government (Official Gazette MNE 2/18), which is a basis for local self-government, stipulates that when implementing their duties local self-government bodies are obliged to protect the rights and legal interests of the local population and legal persons, and that the municipality ensures conditions for the protection and exercise of minority rights.

Valid legal framework has created prerequisites for obtaining relevant and reliable data on the national structure of civil servants and state employees. The Human Resources Management Authority, in accordance with Article 151 of the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees, keeps the Central personnel register on civil servants and state employees, which, in addition to other information, also contains personal data (name and surname, nationality and mother tongue, address and unique master citizen's

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<sup>1</sup> (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro, 046/10 as of 06 August 2010, 040/11 as of 08 August 2011, 018/14 as of 11 April 2014, 042/17 as of 30 June 2017)

number - JMBG, etc.). In this way, the Law also provides for the obligation to keep personnel records which also contain information on the minority aspect of employees.

In Montenegro, in addition to the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, the protection of minority rights and the improvement of the position of minorities is also the responsibility of a number of institutions and bodies, such as the Centre for preservation and development of minority culture, the Fund for the protection and preservation of minority rights, the councils for minority nations and other minority national communities, Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms - established as a permanent working body in the Parliament of Montenegro, the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, which also acts as an independent institution, as well as a number of high-quality and active non-governmental organisations which deal with the protection and promotion of the rights of minority nations and other minority national communities and their integration into Montenegrin society. In May 2021, the then Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights issued an Information on the representation of minority nations and other minority nationalities in local self-government bodies, companies and public institutions, the main beneficiary of which is Capital City, Old Royal Capital or the Municipality. The main objective of the Information is to compile accurate and detailed data on the national structure of the employees in the institutions in question, in order to use the data obtained for planning and initiating activities that need to be further developed in order to ensure the full implementation of the relevant constitutional and legal guarantees. It is important to point out that the collected data were used only for the mentioned purposes, that they were not misused, and the entire process took place in accordance with the legal framework on the confidentiality of personal data.<sup>2</sup>

Out of a total of 3780 questionnaires completed in 224 bodies that were included in this Information, employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 1930 (51,1%), Serbian 711 (18,8%), Muslim 76 (2,0%), Bosniaks 537 (14,2%), Albanian 242 (6,4%), Roma 45 (1,2%), Egyptian 10 (0,3%), Croatian 31 (0,8%), Yugoslavian 6 (0.2%), Macedonian 4 (0.1%), Hungarian 1, Russian 1, Slovenian 1, undeclared 72 (1.9%), no data 96 (2.5%), other nationalities 13 ( 0.3%), regional affiliation 4 (0.1%).

In the Municipality of Andrijevica, out of a total of 114 respondents, in national terms, the employees declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 64 (56.1%), Serbian 42 (36.8%), Russian 1 (0.9%), Yugoslavian 1 (0.9%), other nationalities 2 (1.8%), undeclared 3 (2.6%), no data 1 (0.9%).

In the Municipality of Berane, out of a total of 527 employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 87 (16.5%), Serbian 382 (72.5%), Muslim 18 (3.4%), Bosniaks 10 (1.9%), 26 (4.9%) were undeclared, 2 (0.4) did not have any data, 2 (0.4%) were other nationalities.

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<sup>2</sup> Taking into account that the preparation of this Information was planned for 2019, in accordance with the above mentioned documents, the then Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and the Human Resources Management Authority determined the Questionnaires for conducting research and during second half of 2019 delivered them to the coordinators from local self-government bodies which were obliged to deliver the same to all officials in local self-government bodies, companies and public institutions whose founder is the Capital City, the Capital or Municipality in order to anonymously declare their nationality. The situation caused by the global pandemic of COVID19 and the measures adopted to prevent its spread caused the delay in the collection and, therefore, the processing of the necessary data for the creation of this Information, which is why its adoption is foreseen in the Work Programme of the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights for 2021.

In the Municipality of Bijelo Polje, out of a total of 157 employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 82 (52,2%), Serbian 17(10,8%), Muslim 17(10,8%), Bosniaks 30 (19,1%), Yugoslavian 2 (1,3%), 8 (5,1%) were undeclared, and 1 (0,6%) declared to have other nationalities.

In the Municipality of Budva, out of a total of 32 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 19 (59,4%), Serbian 11 (34,4%), 1 (3,1%) provided no data, 1 (3,1%) declared as other nationalities.

In the Municipality of Danilovgrad, out of a total of 207 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 189 (91,3%), Serbian 8 (3,9%), Hungarian 1 (0,5%), Macedonian 1 (0,5%), Muslim 2 (1%), Roma 1 (0,5%), no data 4 (1,9%), undeclared 1 (0,5%).

In Golubovci, the Municipality within the Capital City, out of a total of 33 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 32 (97.0%), Serbian 1 (3%).

In the Municipality of Gusinje, out of a total of 50 employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Albanian 12 (24.0%), Bosnian 38 (76.0%).

In the Municipality of Herceg Novi, out of a total of 153 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 34 (22,2%), Serbian 51 (33,3%), Muslim 1 (0,7%), Roma 3 (2,0%), Albanian 1 (0,7%), Bosniaks 2 (1,3%), Croatian 3 (2.0%), Yugoslavian 1 (0.7%), no data 51 (33.3%), undeclared 2 (1.3%), other nationalities 1 (0.7%), regional affiliation 3 (2.0%).

In the Municipality of Kolašin, out of a total of 49 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 32 (65,3%), Serbian 13 (26,5%), no data 3 (6,1%), other nationalities 1 (2,0%).

In the Municipality of Nikšić, out of a total of 544 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 490 (90,1%), Serbian 28 (5,1%), Muslim 1 (0,2%), Roma 4 (0,7%), Egyptian 6 (1,1%), no data 3 (0,6%), undeclared 11 (2,0%), other nationalities 1 (0,2%).

In Municipality Pljevlja, out of a total of 187 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 48 (25,7%), Serbian 106 (56,7%), Muslim 12 (6,4%), Bosniaks 7 (3,7%), no data 8 (4,3%), undeclared 6 (3,2%).

In the Capital city of Podgorica, out of a total of 826 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 691 (83,7%), Serbian 31 (3,8%), Muslim 13 (1,06%), Roma 21 (2,5%), Albanian 33 (4,0%), Bosniaks 16 (1,9%), Croatian 2 (0,2%), Yugoslavian 2 (0,2%), Macedonian 3 (0,4%), Slovenian 1 (0,1%), no data 7 (0,8%), undeclared 6 (0,7%).

In the Municipality of Rožaje, out of a total of 461 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 2 (0,4%), Bosniaks 427 (92,6%), Serbian 4 (0,9%), Muslim 9 (2,0%), Albanian 11 (2,4%), no data 3 (0,7%), undeclared 5 (1,1%).

In the Municipality of Šavnik, out of a total of 45 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 44 (97,8%), Serbian 1 (2,2%).

In the Municipality of Tivat, out of a total of 148 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 91 (61,5%), Serbian 14 (9,5%), Croatian 26 (17,6%), Roma 1 (0,7%), Muslim 2 (1,4%), no data 13 (8,8%), regional affiliation 1 (0,7%).

In the Municipality of Tuzi, out of a total of 33 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 3 (9,1%), Albanian 23 (69,7%), Bosniaks 7 (21,2%).

In the Municipality of Ulcinj, out of a total of 197 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 6 (3,0%), Albanian 162 (82,2%), Serbian 1 (0,5%), Egyptian 4 (2,0%), Roma 15 (7,6%), Muslim 1 (0,5%), no data 3 (1,5%), undeclared 1 (0,5%), other nationalities 4 (2,0%).

In the Municipality of Žabljak, out of a total of 28 respondents, the employees have, in national terms, declared themselves to be: Montenegrin 26 (92.9%), Serbian 2 (7.1%).

From the obtained data, it can be concluded that the share of minority nations and other minority national communities in local self-government bodies, companies and public institutions is greater in comparison to the previous period, but work still needs to be done in order to implement in practice what is foreseen by the legal framework that regulated the representation of minority nations and other minority national communities.

The active participation and representation of members of minority nations and other minority national communities in the political and public life of Montenegro is one of the most important segments of the internal integration of Montenegrin society. In order to rightfully implement the constitutional and legal guarantees in regards to the proportionate representation of minority nations and other minority national communities, a multidisciplinary approach and a strong commitment to upholding the above-mentioned constitutional principle on the part of all relevant entities are essential.

When calculating the plans for the necessary number of employees and filled positions, in addition to the prescribed general and special conditions for a specific position, heads of relevant bodies are also required to take into account the constitutional and legal guarantees on the adequate representation of minority nations and other minority national communities in public services, state authorities and local administrations.

In order to create the conditions for the above-mentioned guarantees, it is important to continue and/or advance the implementation of long-term activities aimed at education and training of a certain number of personnel belonging to minority nations and other minority national communities, using government financial support.

## **Education**

The Ministry of Education organises bilingual education, in Montenegrin and Albanian languages, at all levels:

Pre-school education: Public Pre-School Institution (PPI) "Dječji vrtić" in Plav, PPI "Đina Vrbica" in Tuzi, PPI "Vukosava Ivanović - Mašanović" in Bar and PPI "Solidarnost" in Ulcinj. The pre-school education system has 393 children (M 203 - F 190).

- Primary education: in Ulcinj – Primary School (PS) "Marshal Tito", PS "Marko Nukulović" and PS "Boško Strugar"; in Tuzi – PS "Mahmut Lekić"; in Plav – PS "Hajro Šahmanović" and in Gusinje – PS "Džafer Nikočević". The Primary education includes 2,612 students (M 1,338 - F 1,274).

- Secondary education: Tuzi – General combined secondary school "25. maj", Ulcinj – general combined secondary school "Bratstvo i jedinstvo" and Plav – general combined secondary school "Bećo Bašić". The Secondary School includes a total of 810 students (M 420-F 390).

There are 183 students (M 75 – F 108) in the Albanian language music schools, which include the Primary music school in Ulcinj and the Secondary music school "Vasa Pavić" in Tuzi.

The primary school education in Albanian language is provided at 6 primary schools: PS "Đerđ Kastrioti Skenderbeg" in Bar; PS "29 November", PS "Jedinstvo" and PS "Đerđ Kastrioti Skenderbeg" in Tuzi; PS "Bedri Elezaga" in Ulcinj, and PS "Daciće" in Rožaje.

The secondary education is provided in Albanian language in private gymnasium "Drita" in Ulcinj.

Study programme for the Albanian language teacher exists in higher education in Podgorica. In the academic year 2021/2022, 62 students are enrolled in the Albanian Language Teachers' Programme (M 37 - F 25). Four scholarships were awarded to students who were educated for occupations in demand in Albanian language.

In pre-school education and training, in September 2021, there were 192 RE children (M 99 - F 93). In primary schools from I to IX grade there were 1.856 RE children (M 960 - F 896).

In secondary schools in September 2021, there were 207 secondary school students (M 115 - F 92).

The number of students from the Roma and Egyptian nationality who applied to enrol in higher education in the academic year 2021/2022, according to the final ranking list, were 12 (M 7 - F 5).

The Ministry of Education has set the norm for the involvement of an associate for social inclusion of RE in education. This practice has proven to be extremely useful for the inclusion of the children from RE population in the education system, as well as for reducing drop-out. Twenty-two mediators are engaged in primary schools: in Podgorica, Nikšić, Bar, Berane, Ulcinj, Herceg Novi and Tivat.

#### *Police Academy*

Bearing in mind the obligation regarding the protection of national minorities and with the aim of promoting affirmative action and preventing all forms of discrimination, improving the position of members of minority nations through the principles of partnership, transparency and responsibility, the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Police Academy:

- In the period from 01-31 December 2019, at the Police Academy, organised one training on the topics "Procedure with asylum-seekers with specific focus on vulnerable groups" (26 police officers) and "Working with vulnerable groups" (10 police officers). Human Resource Management Authority organised one training on the topic "Prohibition of discrimination", which was attended by four police officers;
- In 2020, the Directorate for Human Resources organised a training on "Prohibition of Discrimination", which was attended by 18 police officers;
- In 2021 three police officers attended a CEPOL seminar on the topic "Approach to asylum procedures and identification of vulnerable groups" (22 June), while five police officers attended the seminar on "Hate crime-hate against Muslims", also organised by CEPOL (the CEPOL training is organised in cooperation with the contact person from the Police Academy). Human Resource Management Authority has organised a training on "Prohibition of discrimination", which was attended by three police officers;



- From 01 January of this year to the present day, at the Police Academy, the implementation of the Training for Trainers begun on the topic "Hate crime" (08-10 March), which was attended by 16 police officers, and which, among other topics, also deals with the topic of anti-discrimination against minority nations. It was planned that upon the completion of the training, the police officers would cascade the knowledge to their colleagues on this topic. At the same time, in cooperation with the Centre for Roma Initiatives within the project "Reducing discrimination against Roma and Egyptian communities", under the financial support of the U.S. Embassy to Podgorica, a training on "Reducing discrimination against Roma and Egyptian communities" was organised on 02 March in CB Berane, which was attended by 23 police officers. The organisation of two more events on this topic was planned, on 09 March at CB Nikšić and on 16 March at CB Podgorica. In the same period, Human Resource Management Authority organised the "Prohibition of Discrimination" event, which was attended by three police officers.

The Police Academy does not have brochures printed in the languages of the minority nations. Various activities for cadets are organised at the Police Academy in cooperation with representatives of NGOs working for the protection of members of the Roma population in the context of the Roma Day celebrations. At the same time, affirmative action in relation to members of minority nations is launched when cadets enrol at the PA.

### **Roma language and culture**

The roots of the Romani language are derived from Sanskrit, one of the oldest languages spoken between 1500 BC and 500 BC. The Romani language is an Indo-Aryan language, and is considered to be a group of 500 related languages spoken outside India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and in other South Asian countries. The Romani language is one of the most important elements of the national and cultural identity of Roma. Therefore, negating or suppressing the Romani language in any form is negating and suppressing the identity of Roma.

In order to promote inclusiveness and protect the culture of Roma and Egyptians in 2020, the Public Call for Proposals "Creating an Inclusive Approach for Roma and Egyptians " has been launched to fund projects/programmes in the area of Protection and promotion of human and minority rights - protection of Roma and Egyptians. The total amount of funds available for the above-mentioned Call for Proposals is EUR 136,000.

The Government of Montenegro, at its sessions held on 24 September 2020, gave its consent to the adoption of the Decree on the standard of the coat of arms, flag and national anthem of the members of the Albanian, Croatian and Roma nations of Montenegro. The Roma Council in Montenegro has decided that members of the Roma community can use the blue-green Roma flag with the Roma wheel, and that the national anthem of the poem "Đelem, đelem" (I went, went), which was adopted by the 1971 World Roma Congress, should use the red wheel as the coat of arms. The National Day of Roma in Montenegro is 8 April - the World Day of Roma, also proclaimed at the 1971 World Congress of Roma.

The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights (MHMR), in cooperation with the Regional Council for Collaboration (RCC), on 16 October 2020 held a meeting on the socio-economic status of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro. The research agency DeFacto Consultancy conducted research for the needs of

the Ministry of Justice in order to evaluate the results so far in the process of social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians, but also to provide the necessary data for the creation of new public policies<sup>3</sup>.

The project "Social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians with assistance of associates for social inclusions" is also presented. The project, with a total value of EUR 500,382.05, is financed by the European Union, the Government of Montenegro, and the German organisation "Help". The project that was presented refers to the support of social inclusion of the Roma and Egyptian population in Montenegro through the model of associates for social inclusion in the fields of health, employment and social protection.

The activities were aimed at teaching the skills of associates for social inclusion, and the project was carried out in 11 Montenegrin municipalities: Bar, Berane, Bijelo Polje, Budva, Cetinje, Herceg Novi, Nikšić, Pljevlja, Podgorica, Ulcinj and Tivat.

Pursuant to Article 32ž of the NGO Act (Official Gazette of MNE 39/11, 37/17) and the Decree on financing of projects and programmes of non-governmental organisations in areas of public interest (Official Gazette of MNE 013/18 as of 28 February 2018), and in connection with the Public Call for proposals no. 056-4/20-26 as of 27 February 2020 for financing projects/programmes of non-governmental organisations that contribute to social inclusiveness, protection and promotion of human rights of Roma and Egyptians, Commission for the allocation of funds for financing projects and programmes of non-governmental organisations in the field of "Protection and promotion of human and minority rights, protection of Roma and Egyptian rights" adopted the Decision on the allocation of funds for the financing of 14 projects/programmes of non-governmental organisations in the area of protection and promotion of human and minority rights, protection of the rights of Roma and Egyptians for 2020 with a total amount of € 136.000.00.

Roma Integration Action Team of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) organised the fifth meeting of the Working Group of Roma Integration Project, which is being implemented in the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey under the auspices of the European Union and the Open Society Foundation. Country representatives in the Working Group are invited to improve collaboration with national statistical institutes to collect data relevant for measuring the impact of policies on Roma integration and to assess progress towards the goals set in the Poznan Declaration. It is agreed that the participating countries will align their national strategic documents for Roma integration with the EU framework and the objectives set out in the Poznan Declaration. During the meeting, the participants agreed that there is a widespread need in the region to fight against antigypsyism, a special form of racism directed towards the Roma, because it is the root of the problems and discrimination that the Roma face every day. The meeting was attended by the national contact persons for Roma from the governments of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, the Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey; two representatives of the Roma civil society from the enlargement region, representatives of the European Union, the Open Society Foundation and the Committee for Regional Collaboration.

As for the education of Roma and Egyptian children during the pandemic, it can be stated that the competent institutions acted in an organised manner. The Ministry of Education in cooperation with Red Cross, UNICEF and HELP have launched an action for all vulnerable Roma and Egyptian children without

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<sup>3</sup> The complete version is available at this link:

<https://mmp.gov.me/ResourceManager/FileDownload.aspx?rid=417447&rType=2&file=Socioekonomski%20poloz%CB%87aj%20Roma%20i%20Egipc%C2%B4ana%20u%20Crnoj%20Gori.pdf>

the internet, television and mobile applications to receive school materials once a week. RE leaders and school intermediaries had the task to ensure relevant delivery. Help is extended from the purchase of school materials, mobile phones, food, hygiene products, to the care for their health. The Ministry of Education has allocated 3 000 euro for tablets for students in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades, and thanks to the programmes of the Roma Education Fund and the European Commission, in cooperation with the NGO Young Roma, additional 60 tablets have been delivered to students with value of EUR 5,500. The equipment was delivered to 40 secondary school students in the upper grades and 20 children in primary schools of the eighth and ninth grades who do not have the equipment to participate in the long-distance learning. The Ministry of Education prepared a special video application for the Public call for the Roma and Egyptian population, which was available on the social media for enrolment in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, so that the enrolment procedure was considerably facilitated and coordinated with the epidemiological situation.

In 2021, the Decision on the implementation of the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians 2016-2020 was adopted.

On 29 July 2021, in the organisation of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights - Directorate for Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians, in cooperation with the Montenegrin National Theatre, 2 August, the International day of remembrance of the Roma victims of the Holocaust was marked. The event was attended by a large number of participants, including ministers of the Government of Montenegro, the chairpersons of the parliamentary clubs of Montenegro, representatives of the diplomatic and consular missions in Montenegro, representatives of the councils of minority nations in Montenegro, representatives of international organisations in Montenegro, representatives of NGOs, citizens and the media. The two-hour programme included a movie on the Roma and Sinti Holocaust and a digital exhibition of photographs.<sup>4</sup>

The Government of Montenegro, at its 37<sup>th</sup> session held on 2 September 2021, adopted the Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2021-2025 with an Action Plan for 2021. The vision of the new strategic document is seen in the need for full affirmation and inclusion of the Roma and Egyptian community in the social, economic, cultural and political life of Montenegro. In this respect, at the level of overall public policy, the main strategic objective is defined: the improvement of the socio-economic and legal situation of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro, through the construction of an inclusive and open society based on the fight against and elimination of all forms of discrimination, antigypsyism and poverty. The document stresses that in order to achieve the strategic objective, adequate systemic solutions must be put in place at all levels of society, which will allow for a more inclusive approach in the areas where members of the Roma and Egyptian communities are most at risk.<sup>5</sup>

The Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights - Directorate for Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians under the auspices of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), in Podgorica, on 07 October 2021, organised the "Donors' Conference on the Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro". The conference is organised with the aim of providing financial resources for the implementation of the Roma and Egyptian inclusion policy in our country. The donors' conference was attended by representatives of

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<sup>4</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/obiljezen-medunarodni-dan-sjecanja-na-romske-zrtve-holokausta>

<sup>5</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/strategija-socijalne-inkluzije-roma-i-egipcana-u-crnoj-gori-2021-2025>

diplomatic and consular missions working in Montenegro, representatives of the EU Delegation to Montenegro, the Council of Europe, UNHCR, UNICEF, and representatives of other national and international institutions and organisations. The organisers took the opportunity to present the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2021-2025, which defines the activities for which donor support is necessary. The following topics had special focus: centralised collection of data on the position of Roma and Egyptians, legalisation of Roma settlements and the civil status and personal documentation of Roma and Egyptians.<sup>6</sup>

The Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights, Directorate for Roma and Egyptian Inclusion has organised activities under the Action Plan for 2021. The activities included education of parents of students of the majority population on how to reduce negative social attitudes (ethnic distance) towards Roma and Egyptian children and adults, and the promotion of positive examples of coexistence and the organisation of educational visits to schools with a dominant majority population in order to raise awareness, understanding and respect for the students of the Roma and Egyptian communities and the challenges they face. The above education was organised on 18 October 2021 in Bijelo Polje in Primary School "Pavle Žižić" and Berane Primary School "Vuk Karadžić", and on 19 October 2021 at Primary School "25. maj" in Rožaje. The above mentioned education was attended by 76 people, out of which 15 were male and 61 were female. Four directors of primary schools, pedagogues, psychologists, teachers, members of councils of parents of the school, and parents of the majority population attended the education. The lecturers were employees of the Directorate for Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians from the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights.<sup>7</sup>

The Constitutive Meeting of the Commission for monitoring of implementation of the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2021-2025, formed by a decision of the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights, was held in Podgorica on 21 February 2021. The Commission is composed of representatives of the institutions identified as carriers of the activities set out in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, and has a total of 22 members. Also, aside from the representatives of the mentioned institutions, the Commission includes a representative of the Committee of Roma community in Montenegro, as well as 3 (three) representatives of non-governmental organisations<sup>8</sup>.

On 26 October 2021, the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights - Directorate for Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians organised a webinar on "Social equality of Roma and Egyptian community members - the fight against antigypsyism" for representatives of local self-governments, educational institutions, centers for social work, centres and directorates for security and Border Police Sector. A total of 55 participants were involved in that education, and the lecturer was Mr Mirko Đuković, Associate Professor

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<sup>6</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/u-podgorici-odrzana-donatorska-konferencija-o-inkluziji-roma-i-egipcana-u-crnoj-gori>

<sup>7</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/edukativne-radionice-u-cilju-smanjenja-etnicke-distance-prema-romskoj-i-egipcanskoj-zajednici>

<sup>8</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odran-prvi-konstitutivni-sastanak-komisije-za-pracenje-sprovođenja-strategije-socijalne-inkluzije-roma-i-egipcana-u-crnoj-gori-2021-2025>

at the Chinese University of Political Science and Law and PhD student at the Central European University in Budapest<sup>9</sup> .

On 28 October 2021, online education was held on the topic "Recognition and prosecution of criminal offences committed out of hatred towards members of the Roma and Egyptian community, with a special focus on the application of Article 42a of the Criminal Code of Montenegro" for judges and state prosecutors in Montenegro. The education for judges and state prosecutors was held by the Judge of the Appellate Court of Montenegro, Milenka Žižić<sup>10</sup> .

The Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights - Directorate for Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians, organised a two-day education on the topic "Reporting about Roma - the contribution of the media in the fight against antigypsyism", which lasted from 11 to 12 November 2021. The lecturers, apart from the Head of the Directorate for the Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians, were a professor from the University of Donja Gorica, the editor of the portal "Romanet" and the editor of the broadcast show "Načisto" (TV Vijesti). The training was attended by a total of 16 journalists from the print and online media, as well as TV and radio stations from Pljevlja, Petnjica, Herceg Novi, Ulcinj, Tivat, Nikšić and Podgorica. The present journalists and editors actively participated in the discussion and showed great interest in the topic and their willingness to contribute to the process of inclusion of Roma<sup>11</sup> .

The second phase of the joint programme of European Union and Council of Europe "Promoting good governance and empowerment of Roma at local level" (ROMACTED) was presented in Podgorica. This is the continuation of the programme and of its completed first phase, in which Montenegro was involved, and which run from 2017/2018 to 2020. The second phase of the programme will be implemented from 2021 to 2024. Both phases of the programme include (included) the Capital city of Podgorica and 7 other municipalities: Bar, Berane, Bijelo Polje, Herceg Novi, Nikšić, Tivat and Ulcinj. The objectives of the second phase of the Programme are aimed at improving local democracy, accountability, inclusiveness and responsiveness to Roma citizens. The two new components of the Programme, in comparison to the first phase which was implemented from 2017 to 2020, will focus on mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 virus on Roma communities and on budgeting responsibly towards Roma. As part of the event, the representatives of the above-mentioned municipalities signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights and the Council of Europe<sup>12</sup> .

On 26 November 2021, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights - Directorate for Roma and Egyptian Inclusion organised a ZOOM meeting on the topic: Ending statelessness of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro. The meeting is organised in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), UNHCR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the NGO Walk with us - Phiren amenca. The meeting discussed the possibility for all relevant actors and key institutions of the system to take action to end the statelessness. At the meeting, an overview of the services provided by state institutions or relevant entities as support in achieving this goal at the national and regional level was given. The conclusion was

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<sup>9</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzana-onlajn-edukacija-drustvena-jednakost-pripadnika-romske-i-egipcanske-zajednice-borba-protiv-anticiganizma>

<sup>10</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzana-onlajn-edukacija-za-sudije-i-drzavne-tuzioce>

<sup>11</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzana-dvodnevna-edukacija-na-temu-izvjestavanje-romima-doprinos-medija-u-borbi-protiv-anticiganizma>

<sup>12</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/podrska-inkluziji-romske-i-egipcanske-zajednice-u-opstinama-u-crnoj-gori>

that members of the Roma and Egyptian population are given a new chance and that they are again invited through organised campaigns to bring forward members who do not have resolved legal status to start the procedure for resolving their legal status. It is aimed that by the end of 2025 no person will be without a legal status.

On 3 December 2021, the Ministry, in cooperation with the Municipality Bar, organised an education on "Social equality of the Roma and Egyptian community - the fight against antigypsyism" for representatives of all the secretariats and services of the Municipality Bar, educational institutions and local institutions in the territory of the Municipality. The education was attended by 22 participants and the lecturer was Mr Sokolj Beganaj, Head of the Directorate for Roma and Egyptian Inclusion<sup>13</sup>.

In addition to this activity, the Ministry, in cooperation with the Public pre-school institution "Naša Radost" in Herceg Novi, organised an education on "The Character of Pre-School Education for the Roma and Egyptian Population" for the educators of pre-school institutions and teachers of secondary schools. The education was attended by 11 participants<sup>14</sup>.

On 2 December 2021, the Ministry organised a meeting at the premises of the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights for the implementation of the activity "Training for the Programme of education for gaining the key skills of Romology", which is foreseen in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians 2021-2025. It is agreed at the meeting that the first module titled "Roma Identities and Identity Dilemmas" will be implemented in the first quarter of 2022 with the support of The Regional Committee for Collaboration (RCC) and Institute for foreign languages Podgorica. It will be based on the Programme of education for gaining the key skills of Romology which will be led by Dr Hedina Tahirovic – Sijercic that is adopted by the National committee for education. The second module will be implemented in the second quarter of 2022, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport. The aim of this programme is to develop and preserve the awareness of their own origin, identity, language, literature and culture within the Roma community itself. In addition, the goal is for all those who work in any way with the Roma community to become familiar with the mentioned aspects, but also to break down prejudices and stereotypes towards the Roma in the wider community and develop awareness of their identity, language and culture. The structure of the Program consists of four modules: Roma identities and identity dilemmas, Roma culture, Roma language and culture, and Roma literature. The first two modules will be implemented in 2022 for 15 participants. In addition to the representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights, the meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport as well as Prof. Dr Igor Lakić, member of the Committee of Experts on Regional and Minority Languages in Council of Europe in Strasbourg<sup>15</sup>.

The second meeting of the Commission for monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians 2021-2025 was held in Podgorica on 16 December 2021. The meeting

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<sup>13</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzana-edukacija-drustvena-jednakost-pripadnika-romske-i-egipcanske-zajednice-borba-protiv-anticiganizma-u-baru>

<sup>14</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzana-edukacija-na-temu-znacaj-predskolskog-obrazovanja-za-djecu-romske-i-egipcanske-populacije>

<sup>15</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzana-sastanak-u-vezi-realizacije-obuke-za-program-obrazovanja-za-sticanje-kljucnih-vjestina-romologija>

discussed the level of implementation of the activities set out in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for 2021, as well as the planned activities for the next period<sup>16</sup>.

Based on the Public call for proposals no 01-056/21-9824 from 27 September 2021 under the title "Let's support the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro", the Commission for the distribution of funds for the financing of projects and programs of non-governmental organizations in the area of protection and promotion of human and minority rights, protection of the rights of Roma and Egyptians in 2021 has allocated 320,000 euros to support the projects of non-governmental organizations.<sup>17</sup>

The Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights in cooperation with the NGO Centar za romske inicijative (Centre for Roma Initiatives) has implemented a project entitled: " Together we act against domestic violence and child arranged marriages" This project focused on sensitizing and strengthening the capacity of representatives of relevant institutions to convey messages to the community and point out the importance of public action, as well as to increase the level of knowledge and inform the Roma and Egyptian community about the forms and harmful effects and legal proceedings on gender-based violence as well as the consequences of child arranged marriages, which will contribute to the suppression of family violence and arranged child marriages in the Roma and Egyptian community through direct work in the community in three Montenegrin cities: Nikšić, Podgorica, Berane.

**The main achievements of the project are:**

- 42 representatives of relevant institutions (Police, Centre for social action, schools in Podgorica, Bar and Tivat) are familiarized with the specific problems related to violence and arranged child marriages, at least 20 employees are sensitised to the problem of violence and arranged child marriages and have reacted adequately in cases of violence and arranged child marriages.
- 57 employees of the Border Police Department from South, North and Central region (9F 48M) are familiarized with the accredited course "Basic training for professional workers, professional associates and members of multidisciplinary teams for the prevention and suppression of arranged child marriages".
- 16 professional associates from the private institution children' centre "Mladost"- Bijela, the Centre for Social Work and Municipality Herceg Novi, as well as the public institution Day centre for children with developmental disabilities and difficulties in Herceg Novi acquired basic knowledge through accredited training entitled "Basic training of professional workers, professional associates and members of multidisciplinary teams for the prevention and suppression of arranged child marriages", and the same received a certificate of completed training from the Institute for Social and Child Protection of Montenegro.
- About 600 members of the Roma and Egyptian population in Nikšić, Podgorica and Berane are directly informed about the consequences of domestic violence and arranged child marriages and the importance of reporting to speak up and start reporting, through oral and direct communication using propaganda material with the slogan "LET CHILDHOOD LAST!" (mugs,

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<sup>16</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzan-drugi-sastanak-komisije-za-pracenje-sprovođenja-strategije-socijalne-inkluzije-roma-i-egipcana-u-crnoj-gori-2021-2025>

<sup>17</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odluka-o-raspodjeli-sredstava-za-finansiranje-projekata-programa-nevladinih-organizacija-u-oblasti-zastita-i-promovisanje-ljudskih-i-manjinskih-prava-zastita-prava-roma-romkinja-i-egipcana-e>

keychain and sticker) on which this message is engraved together with the phone number of the on duty staff of the Roma Initiatives Centre.

- 58 services are provided to 23 persons (21F 2M), 10 cases of violence (9F 1M) and 13 cases of child abuse (12F 1M), services of use of trusted person when visiting institutions and organisations, legal services, and the processing of cases within responsible institutions.
- 3 two-hour workshops were held in Podgorica, Bar and Tivat, where 42 representatives of relevant institutions from 7 Montenegrin cities (Herceg Novi, Kotor, Tivat, Podgorica, Bar, Ulcinj and Bijelo Polje) took part on the topic of violence against women and arranged child marriage.
- from 24 – 28 September 2021, through 3 one-day seminars in Podgorica, Bijelo Polje and Bar, 57 employees of the Border Police Department from the South, North and Central regions (9F 48M) were introduced to the contents of the shortened version of the accredited training "Basic training of professional workers, professional associates and members of multidisciplinary teams for the prevention and suppression of arranged child marriages".

During 2022, intensive activities were carried out with the aim of improving the situation of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro. On March 10, 2022, the third meeting of the Commission for monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro was held, and the meeting discussed the activities proposed in the draft Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians 2021 - 2025 for the period 2022 - 2023, as well as the draft of the Decision on the implementation of the Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians 2021-2025<sup>18</sup>.

On 14 March 2022, a meeting was held with representatives from the RCC office, the Council of Europe and the organisation Help Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe on the topic "Integration of Roma and Egyptians"<sup>19</sup>.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the project "Campaign on early/forced/arranged marriages, domestic violence and begging" is held on 8 March in Podgorica. The project is implemented by P.R.A. public relation agency d.o.o. within the Sector Operational Programme for Employment, Education and Social Policy 2015-2017 (SOPESS), and financed by the European Union through national co-financing from the Budget of Montenegro. Project implementation started on 28 February 2022 and will last 10 months, with a budget of EUR 259.000,00. The aim of the project is to increase the awareness of members of the Roma and Egyptian community, civil servants and the general public on the following issues: early/forced/arranged marriages, domestic violence and begging, as well as to improve knowledge about these problems and to improve communication between the state, local authorities and the media and the Roma and Egyptian communities in Montenegro. Also, one of the objectives is to reduce barriers between members of the Roma and Egyptian communities and public institutions<sup>20</sup>.

On 24 May 2022, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, the Ministry of Education, the Institute of foreign languages Podgorica, in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) launched the first module of Romology, which consists of four modules: Roma Identities and Identity Dilemmas, Roma

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<sup>18</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzan-treci-sastanak-komisije-za-pracenje-sprovođenja-strategije-socijalne-inkluzije-roma-i-egipcana-u-crnoj-gori>

<sup>19</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzan-sastanak-na-temu-inkluzije-re-sa-predstavnicima-kancelarije-integracija-roma-rcc>

<sup>20</sup> More information at: <https://www.gov.me/clanak/odrzan-prvi-sastanak-upravnog-odbora-projekta-u-okviru-sopess-2015-2017>



Culture, Roma Language and Culture, and Roma Literature. The first module, "Roma Identities and Identity Dilemmas", is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Gymnasium "Slobodan Škerović" and will run from 24 May 2022 until 7 June 2022, while the second module will be implemented in the third quarter. The first two modules will be implemented in 2022, while the third and fourth modules will be implemented in 2023.

### **Job market**

The sector of job market and employment in Montenegro is governed by a set of laws which cover labour law, social dialogue, the protection of workers in the event of unemployment, health and safety in the workplace, employment and unemployment protection, professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities, employment and work of foreign nationals. In Montenegro, a legislative, strategic and institutional framework for the employment and social inclusion of persons in an unfavourable position (people with disabilities, Roma and Egyptian populations, youth, women, etc.) has been put in place.

The Employment Agency of Montenegro has a tendency to develop and implement inclusive services for unemployed persons registered in the unemployment register, with a particular focus on vulnerable and hard-to-employ groups. The inclusive labour market that we strive to enables access to the labour market for the able-bodied population, regardless of gender, religion, nation, ethnic or other affiliation, age, disability, etc. The condition for the inclusiveness of the labour market is that the services provided by public employment services are free, accessible and adapted to everyone, that they are provided on a non-discriminatory basis and that they promote gender equality and equal opportunities.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Mediation to Employment and Rights during Unemployment, exercise of rights on grounds of unemployment is based on the principles of non-discrimination, gender equality, affirmative action aimed at special vulnerable groups of unemployed persons, impartiality in performing tasks related to employment. The main aim and position of the Employment agency of Montenegro is to be "the service of all citizens". Its operation is directed at problem solving in the area of employment and unemployment and is carried out in the public interest.

One of the services offered by the Employment Agency is information for its users: employers, employee candidates, employees and school children. Information services are free of charge. In the offices of the Employment Agency, there are bulletin boards on which information is clearly presented and regularly updated, and which is available in Montenegrin language, which is the official language, or which is easily understandable to people who speak Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian languages (languages which are also used as official). In the offices in Ulcinj and Tuzi staff includes advisors who know Albanian language and who conduct informative interviews in this language and assist correspondents who do not speak Montenegrin language well.

The informative material clearly indicates the Employment Agency's commitment to promote inclusiveness and the existence of measures intended for marginalised and most vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, Roma and Egyptians, women, youth...). The visual images on the informational material reflects diversity - they show people with disabilities and Roma; women are equally represented on the propaganda material. It can be said that the visual images fully represent the diversity of unemployed persons who contact the employment service.

The Employment Agency complies with the regulations of the Personal Data Protection Act. In accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act, the conditions for the collection and processing of personal data, the rights of persons and the protection of the rights of persons whose data are collected and processed, the limitations of the protection of personal data are prescribed. Bearing in mind the provisions of the Law, only the information which is relevant for active job seeker can be requested from an unemployed person. Any voluntary provision of other data on the part of an unemployed person is imported and recorded.

In the records of the Employment Agency, out of a total of 46,250 registered unemployed persons, 2.6% are of the Roma and Egyptian population, which means 1,198 persons (644 women) have declared themselves to be Roma and Egyptians. Out of the total registered Roma and Egyptian population, 1,162 people, out of whom 626 women, have the first or second level of education, and 34 people, out of whom 15 women, have the third or fourth level of education. According to the Employment Agency's records, two women of the Roma population have the seventh level of education classification.

One of the measures to achieve the goal of improving the quality of services and increasing the number of Roma and Egyptians engaged in programmes for active employment policy is to introduce an assistant for the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in the employment sector (associate for employment) into the system. The engagement of an on-site employment mediator, in the community itself, should enable the RE population to be better informed about the labour rights, about the role of the Employment Agency, its character and the way to apply to the registry of unemployed persons. In addition, the tasks of the Roma mediator refer to the provision of direct assistance to users when registering in the Directorate's records, when joining the APZ and other programmes, ensuring the promptness and regularity of registration in the records, providing direct assistance in the process of job search, then during the preparation of documentation for applying for an advertised vacancy, etc.

As a special target group covered by the Employment Agency 's financial resources, unemployed persons who declare themselves to be members of the Roma and Egyptian population are singled out. For this target group there are planned measures to encourage the inclusion of these people in adult education and training programmes, public works and other programmes aimed at increasing employability and employment. The involvement of these people depends on their level of education, marketable knowledge, ability and skills, their attitude towards labour and employment, the way in which they use their knowledge and skills, and the social context in which they live.

In 2020, the Directorate for Employment implemented active employment policy programmes for 1,402 unemployed persons, out of whom 28 (4 women) belonged to the Roma and Egyptian population.

In 2021, the Directorate for Employment implemented active employment policy programmes for 1,222 unemployed persons, out of whom 22 (10 women) belonged to the Roma and Egyptian population.

The inclusion of unemployed persons, in the current year, in programmes of active employment policy is ongoing, and after the start of the implementation of the programme, we will have the data on the participation of persons from the Roma and Egyptian population.

### Administrative authorities and public services

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having regard to the fact that the right to use regional and minority languages in private and public life is a non-objectionable right which is in accordance with the principles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in line with the spirit of the European Convention for the Protection of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe, "the legislative regulation from its jurisdiction has prescribed 'that members of minority nations and other minority national communities have the right to self-determined and free national identity, the right to free choice and use of a personal and family name and the name of their children, and the right to have those names written in the civil registers and in documents in their own language and script, in accordance with the human rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Montenegro.

In the period from 2019, ending with 2021, for Montenegrin citizens who use the Montenegrin, Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian or Croatian languages in their official work, the information on the identity card is in one of these languages, and the name and surname are recorded in the language of the applicant only. For the same period, at the request of the applicant, the data about name and surname are recorded in the passport at the applicant's request in one of the official languages, as shown in the tabular overview:

Tabular overview of documents issued in 2019, 2020 and 2021 in the applicant's language:

Year	Document	Language	Number of documents
2019	Identity card	Albanian	1596
2019	Identity card	Bosnian	305
2019	Identity card	Montenegrin-Latin	87157
2019	Identity card	Montenegrin-Cyrillic	1148
2019	Identity card	Croatian	142
2019	Identity card	Serbian	3778
2019	Passport	Albanian	2001
2019	Passport	Bosnian	457
2019	Passport	Montenegrin-Latin	80723
2019	Passport	Montenegrin-Cyrillic	557
2019	Passport	Croatian	133
2019	Passport	Serbian	2134
2020	Identity card	Albanian	872
2020	Identity card	Bosnian	148
2020	Identity card	Montenegrin-Latin	72942
2020	Identity card	Montenegrin-Cyrillic	1009
2020	Identity card	Croatian	75
2020	Identity card	Serbian	3261
2020	Passport	Albanian	922
2020	Passport	Bosnian	377
2020	Passport	Montenegrin-Latin	49804
2020	Passport	Montenegrin-Cyrillic	370
2020	Passport	Croatian	45
2020	Passport	Serbian	1440

2021	Identity card	Albanian	938
2021	Identity card	Bosnian	301
2021	Identity card	Montenegrin-Latin	95842
2021	Identity card	Montenegrin-Cyrillic	1529
2021	Identity card	Croatian	59
2021	Identity card	Serbian	6298
2021	Passport	Albanian	1144
2021	Passport	Bosnian	316
2021	Passport	Montenegrin-Latin	56755
2021	Passport	Montenegrin-Cyrillic	510
2021	Passport	Croatian	40
2021	Passport	Serbian	2075

Article 187 paragraph 5 and Article 272, paragraph 7 of the Law on Road Traffic Safety regulates that the driving licence is printed in Montenegrin and English languages, and filled-in using Montenegrin-Latin language, as well as that the name of the Montenegrin citizen in the driving licence shall be written in the language and alphabet in which it is written in the civil register of births, the full name of the foreign citizen in the language and alphabet which is entered in the register of foreign citizens to whom a temporary or permanent residence permit has been granted in Montenegro, and the full name of the person to whom international or temporary protection has been granted in Montenegro in the language and alphabet which is used for the register of asylum-seekers and parties under subsidiary or temporary protection.

#### Driving licences

<b>Language</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Albanian	379	485	50
Bosnian	40	69	7
Montenegrin-Latin	412	469	63
Croatian	51	54	5
Serbian	1245	1682	222
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4147</b>	<b>4780</b>	<b>2369</b>

The Law on Civil Registry prescribes that the civil registers are filled-out and extracts and certificates are issued in the Montenegrin language. Personal name of a member of a minority nation or other minority national communities shall be entered in the civil registers in his or her own language and alphabet, in accordance with the law. The legal personal name of a foreign citizen shall be written in the language of the applicant in Latin alphabet. Personal name in the registry may be written in one language and alphabet only. Exceptionally, the surname acquired during the marriage is entered in the language of the person whose surname is taken or joined, whereby the new personal name must be entered using one script only. Data on the place, municipality and country related to a member of a minority nation or other minority national communities are entered in the language and alphabet of that minority nation or other minority national communities, in accordance with the law.

Extracts and certificates from the civil registers for members of a minority nation or other minority national communities shall be issued in the language and script of that minority nation or other minority national communities, in accordance with the law.

For the implementation of this norm, a birth certificate, a death certificate and a certificate of Montenegrin citizenship shall be issued at the applicant's request, using the following forms:

- Montenegrin language - Latin alphabet;
- Serbian language – Cyrillic alphabet;
- Bosnian - Latin alphabet (bilingual);
- Albanian language - Albanian alphabet (bilingual);
- Croatian - Latin alphabet (bilingual);

The term "bilingual" is used to mean writing in the Montenegrin language using Latin alphabet, as official language, and writing in one of the other service languages.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has in all municipalities in Montenegro its own organisational units, regional offices and branch offices which apply, amongst others, the laws listed above.

Administrative procedure is conducted in the Montenegrin language, which means the public law body shall conduct a procedure in the language which is prescribed by the Constitution as the official language of Montenegro.

In accordance with the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, the new Law on Administrative Procedure as of 2017 stipulates that "if a party, i.e. participant in an administrative procedure does not understand the Montenegrin language, the public law body is obliged to provide a translation of the course of the procedure into their language or a language that they understand, as well as the delivery of invitations and other documents in their language and alphabet is obliged." It is undoubted that in the matter of language or the alphabet, it is a question of integral right, i.e. the principle of using language and alphabet in the procedure. In this sense, the obligation of the public law body is mandatory. A party can use this right for part of the procedure or the entire procedure.

The Parliament of Montenegro, in order to support activities aimed at the preservation and development of the national and ethnic specificities of minority nations and other minority national communities and their members in the field of national, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, established the Fund for the Protection and Exercise of Minority Rights in 2008.

In May 2020, a Decision on allocation of EUR 1,128,315.60 for 196 projects was adopted. Due to failure to meet the requirements of the public call, 84 projects were rejected, and 68 projects were evaluated with an insufficient number of points. There were 19 complaints on the Decision on the allocation of funds which the Fund's Steering Committee rejected as unfounded.

Supported project promoters: 95 legal entities, 253 natural persons; coordinators: 111M, 85F. National communities to which the projects relate: Albanian 12% of the projects; Bosnian 26% of the projects; Croatian 4% of the projects; Muslim 5% of the projects; Roma 9% of the projects; Serbian 3% of the projects, while multinational 41% of the projects.

Municipality	Allocated funds in € in 2020	Allocated funds in € in 2021
Andrijevisa	8,500.00	-

Bar	57,415.60	58,400.00
Berane	48,000.00	33,800.00
Bijelo Polje	114,760.00	117,600.00
Cetinje	7,700.00	11,000.00
Gusinja	24,800.00	-
Herceg Novi	4,000.00	4,500.00
Kotor	28,200.00	40,800.00
Nikšić	11,200.00	11,000.00
Petnjica	19,000.00	7,000.00
Plav	18,000.00	5,000.00
Spit	4,000.00	18,500.00
Podgorica	345,340.00	459,150.00
Roses	232,200.00	130,750.00
Tivat	60,600.00	28,000.00
Tuzi	34,700.00	39,900.00
Ulcinj	109,900.00	100,600.00
Total	1,128,315.60	1,066,000.00

In 2020, 32 projects with a budget of € 264.700,00 (23% of the total budget) were supported for the publication of the material in minority languages, while €114.100,00 (10% of the total budget) was allocated for the publication of 27 books. For the publication of the material in minority languages in 2021, from the media sector, 33 projects with a budget of € 216,200.00 (20% of the budget) were supported, while € 69,900.00 (7% of the budget) was allocated for the publication of 18 books.

In October 2021, a Decision on allocation of € 1.066.000,00 for 185 projects was adopted. 71 projects were rejected due to the lack of eligibility for the public call, and 51 projects were evaluated with insufficient number of points. There were 3 complaints to the Decision on the allocation of funds, which were rejected by the Fund's Steering Committee as unfounded.

Project promoters were: 51 legal entities, 134 natural persons; coordinators: 119M, 66F. National communities to which the projects relate: Albanian 13% of the total; Bosnian 18% of the total; Croatian 4% of the total; Muslim 4% of the total; Roma 7% of the total; Serbian 7% of the total, while multinational 47% of the total.

### **Accessibility of the media**

The public service, in line with its regular program, regularly reports and publishes on current affairs in the field of culture, traditions, history, languages of the minority nations and other minority national communities in Montenegro. Special attention is paid to the promotion of creators and their works from the minority communities living in Montenegro, as well as to the regional cooperation in the field of information sharing with the public media in the countries of origin of the minority nations, often exchanging shows with various topics that concern the minority communities.

Radio and Television Montenegro has regularly broadcast programming regarding minority nations in 2019 and 2020, as in previous years, with slightly better content or broader targeted programming:

- 365 shows Lajmet (TV) in 2019 and 345 in 2020
- 45 show Mosaics (TV) in 2019 and 41 in 2020

Lajmet - is a daily news bulletin in Albanian language, which informs the Albanian population in their native language. The editorial policy of this show is in line with the editorial policy of TVCG with a focus on events affecting Albanian population in Montenegro and the region;

The Mosaic is a 60-minute show, in Albanian language and of the mosaic type. The show is devoted to the life of Albanians in Montenegro, with contributions by journalists from various spheres of life; politics, education, economy, culture and sport. The show covers weekly events in the fields of culture, science, education, tourism, sport and entertainment in the territory of Montenegro, where Albanians live. It also covers cultural manifestations, symposia, literary evenings and the most significant events in the country. Each show includes up to 5 (five) inserts of different forms, from reportage, chronicle, interview and discussion, combined with music.

- 45 shows Mostovi (Bridges) (TV) in 2019 and 35 in 2020.
- 20 shows Savore (TV) in 2019 and 13 in 2020.

Mostovi - is a show of the mixed content which is broadcast once a week for at least 30 minutes and covers themes from other minority communities, Bosniak, Muslim and Croatian communities. The programme promotes culture, traditions, history and education, as well as social issues of these communities in Montenegro.

Savore - is a Romani-language broadcast that is broadcast once every two weeks, with a duration of 25 minutes. The show is translated from official to Romani or from Romani to official language, depending on the interviewee. It deals with the life of the Roma and Egyptian communities in Montenegro, the promotion of culture and education and the social status of the community.

- 215 radio shows Lajmet e mëngjesit (Morning news) (Radio)
- 265 radio shows Ditari (news in Albanian) (Radio)
- 52 radio shows Ne fund të javës (At the end of the week) (Radio)

Lajmet e mëngjesit (up to 5 minutes, show time from 7.50 to 7.55) and Ditari (up to 30 minutes, show time from 17.30 to 18)- which are broadcast on weekdays, are daily news programs in Albanian language that deal with informing the Albanian population in their native language, but also contain inserts of daily events in municipalities in Montenegro where Albanians constitute the majority or a significant part of the population.

Në fund të Javës is a 55-minute, Albanian-language, informative-musical show. The show is devoted to the life of Albanians in Montenegro, with contributions by journalists from various spheres of life: politics, education, economy, culture and sport. In each show, 5-6 inserts of different forms are published, ranging from reportage, chronicles, interviews and discussions, and which are combined with music.

Current state in the area of education, employment, culture and freedom of expression in the municipalities with multi-ethnic diverse communities is shown below.

### **The Municipality of Gusinje**

As far as education in Gusinje is concerned, the Primary school "Džafer Nikočević", is known as a school where bilingual education takes place, i.e. there is an Albanian language school and a school with a Montenegrin, Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian language. Out of a total of 60 school employees, 26 teach in Albanian and 34 teach in the official language. The total number of enrolled children is 271, out of whom 104 are taught in Albanian and 169 in Montenegrin. Also at the "JPU Dječić vrtić Plav", Gusinje sub-district, one group of children is taught in Albanian. Municipality Gusinje has adopted a Decision on scholarships for students and, in accordance with the Decision, has granted 10 scholarships to students of Albanian nationality for the period 2021/2022.

Members of the Albanian nation are placed in high-ranking positions (the President and Secretary of the Assembly of Gusinje are of Albanian nationality, as are the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary of the Secretariat). The Assembly uses the Albanian language, and the Assembly's material is delivered in two languages, Albanian and Montenegrin, to the members of the Assembly, which is in line with a threshold for the use of the minority language in Montenegro of 5%. A translator for the Albanian language has also been engaged, which greatly facilitates the ability of citizens to communicate requests, complaints and other documents, and to receive answers in their own language - Albanian.

Toponyms in the city, as well as inscriptions on the institutions and on the main doors of the Municipality, are bilingual.

### **The Municipality of Tivat**

In order to affirm and improve the rights of Roma and Egyptians, the Municipality of Tivat adopted the "Local plan for the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians for the period 2017-2021 in the municipality of Tivat" within the framework of which numerous activities are carried out on an annual basis that contribute to more effective social inclusion of this community. In addition, financial support is provided to RE assistants and mediators in classes for participating in seminars and conferences related to improving the quality of education and other aspects of the life of the RE population. By the end of 2021, a Decision on the implementation of the draft Local Action Plan for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in the Municipality of Tivat for the period 2022-2026 was adopted, which will constitute a local policy platform for all issues of concern to the Roma and Egyptian community. The local public broadcaster Radio Tivat broadcasts a program dedicated to the RE population "Trag duše - Drom ko ilo" on a monthly basis. A journalist from this institution, whose founder is the Municipality of Tivat, participated in a one-day seminar on sensitive reporting on the Roma and Egyptian populations in the fight against antigypsyism. The Municipality of Tivat has, during the past years, supported the award-winning project "RE assistant and mediator in the classrooms", which is being implemented with the support of the Council of Europe, through the engagement of one RE assistant and one RE mediator in the classrooms at the "Drago Milović" Primary School (from the school year 2020/2021, the Ministry will engage these associates). Also, the Municipality has participated in the implementation of the first phase of the ROMACTED programme, which is co-financed by the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Justice, Human and Minority Rights and seven Montenegrin municipalities. The programme is being implemented in seven countries and sixty municipalities, with the aim of increasing the capacity and interest of



representatives of local self-government who are working on Roma inclusion issues, and also to increase the capacity of members of the Roma community to express their needs and address the problem in an appropriate way. Within this phase, an access road (550 m<sup>2</sup>) is asphalted in the informal settlement of Lovanja, where Roma and Egyptians live. In November 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed within the second phase of the ROMACTED project.

The Municipality of Tivat provides space for the NGO "Hrvatska krovna zajednica - Dux Croatorum", which is, in accordance with the Decision of the Assembly of the Municipality of Tivat, assigned to use and manage the Culture centre in the area of Donja Lastva, and for many years in the past has financed the organisation of the "Fešte od rogača" (Feast of the Hornbill), a manifestation organised by the above-mentioned NGO. From the side of the Municipality of Tivat, the NGO "Galaxy", as well as the NGO "Udruženje Egipćana Tivat" (Association of Egyptians Tivat) for the projects "Poruke rodne ravnopravnosti" (Messages for gender equality) and "Zajedno za rodnu ravnopravnost" (Together for Gender Equality) also received financial support for launching the project activities linked to the identity of Bosniaks and Muslims; the NGO "Udruženje Egipćana Tivat" also received funding. In 2021, new funds are also identified for the organisation of the "Srpskog sabora" by the Sokol Society of Krtoli and the local community with the same name.

### **The Municipality of Pljevlja**

The Municipality of Pljevlja has adopted the Local Plan for Social and Child Protection for the period 2021-2025. The annual budgets for the period 2019-2021 continuously allocated funds for transfers to religious institutions, for the implementation of their religious activities, the renovation of religious facilities, and the organisation of cultural programmes on the occasion of significant religious dates.

Statute of the local public broadcaster Radio Television Pljevlja as well as the contract on the provision of public services between the Municipality of Pljevlja and the Local Public Broadcaster RTV Pljevlja, which was signed in December 2020, stipulates the duty to provide public information, production and broadcasting of radio or television programs with informative, cultural, educational and scientific, children, entertainment, sports and other program contents, which unify the exercise of the rights and interests of citizens and other entities in the field of information. Public services refer to the independent production of programs and broadcasting intended for segments of society without discrimination, especially taking into account specific social groups such as children and youth, members of minority nations and other minority national communities, persons with disabilities, socially and health-impaired. Through the informative programs of RTV Pljevlja, regular activities are followed during the visit of the Red Cross to the Roma settlement in Trlica, visits by various donors, as well as activities related to the celebration of the Roma Day. The Commission for the complaints of listeners and viewers has not yet received a single case of discrimination on either a minority or a national basis.

### **The Municipality of Bar**

The Municipality of Bar constantly promotes human and minority rights and freedoms in accordance with the Laws, decrees and recommendations of the relevant Ministries and other state and international institutions. The use of the Albanian language in the Municipality of Bar is traditionally present. Public documents and official records are issued in Albanian (bilingually). When issuing official documents, the name and surname shall be written in the language of the addressee. For townships where minority nationalities have a larger number of residents, the election material shall be printed and distributed in

the language of the minority (Albanian). The names of the authorities which exercise public powers, the name of the local self-government unit, the names of towns, squares and streets, institutions, businesses and other companies and toponyms shall also be written in the language and alphabet of the minority nations and of other minority nationalities and minority national communities.

A translator/interpreter is mandatory in court proceedings when a party to the proceedings claims that he or she does not understand the official language.

The public health institution Health Centre Bar employs medical staff that speak Albanian language, as does the general hospital "Blažo Orlandić" in Bar.

The public institution Primary School "Đerđ Kastrioti Skenderbeu" in Ostros, located on the territory of the municipality of Bar, provides education in Albanian language. For the school year 2021-2022, 71 students are enrolled. Also at the "Bratsvo-Jedinstvo" Primary School in Đuravci, the Albanian language is represented as a non-primary language for two classes a week, from first to ninth grade. The school has a total of 5 students. In Ostros, pre-school education in the Albanian language is organised as a special department of the public education institution "Vukosava Ivanović - Mašanović" under the name "Lulet e jetes", which has a total enrolment of 12 students. Also at the public institution Primary School "Blažo J. Orlandić" a RE Office is opened and an education associate is employed that provides direct assistance to RE children, among others, in terms of overcoming language barriers. In all primary schools in Bar there are 78 students from the RE communities.

The National Library "Ivo Vučković", as a single organisation of the Bar Cultural Centre, has a branch office in Ostros which has a solid fund of books in the Albanian language. This fund of books is constantly being increased, in accordance to financial possibilities and various donations. The Municipality of Bar and TO Bar (Tourist Municipality Bar) constantly support and financially participate in the organisation of events and other promotional activities that affirm the diversity and cultural identity of minorities.

Radio Bar and the Municipality of Bar have signed an Agreement on the provision of public services i.e. the programs under the contract include broadcasts and shows in Albanian language, with a duration of 45 minutes.

### **The Municipality of Tuzi**

In Tuzi, Albanian and Bosniak languages are used alongside the official Montenegrin language. Since the establishment of the Municipality of Tuzi in 2019, all documents are translated into the above languages. Also, all meetings are held in Albanian, with a translation into Montenegrin. Public debates are held in both languages.

In this municipality, on all signs, a bilingualism is used, and it can be stated that the law on the use of regional or minority languages is being implemented in full. The municipal police in their uniforms and cars have inscriptions in both languages. The Tourist Board of Tuzi has published a Tourist Map and put up an info-table in Albanian and Montenegrin languages. The Tuzi municipality's website publishes all its information in both languages. According to the law, the election material has been printed on a bilingual basis since the beginning of the election process in the Municipality of Tuzi on 03 March 2019. The Registry Office of the Municipality of Tuzi uses bilingualism in all documents and in the marriage procedures. The limited liability companies founded by the municipality, such as: Water Management company, Markets,

Public Utility Company and Cultural Information centre Malezija, also use bilingualism in all their documents, vehicles, uniforms and info-boards.

As far as pre-school education in Tuzi is concerned, there are two active pre-school institutions: "Dina Vrbica", which teaches in two languages, Albanian and Montenegrin, and "Majka Tereza", which teaches only in Albanian. The Municipality of Tuzi has a nine-grade primary school "Mahmut Lekić", which has two languages, Albanian and Montenegrin. The other three nine-grade primary schools, namely "29 Novembar", "Gjergj Kastrioti - Skënderbeu" and "Bashkimi-Jedinstvo", are in Albanian only. The Combined Secondary School "25. Maj" in Tuzi, has education in two languages, Albanian and Montenegrin. Also, "Medresa" as a secondary school, is taught in Albanian and Bosnian languages.

Television Bojn is the public broadcaster in the Municipality of Tuzi, with all of its programming in Albanian. As for portals, there are several: [www.malesia.org](http://www.malesia.org), and [www.malesia.me](http://www.malesia.me) which is dedicated to politics, culture, sports and other events. And [www.kallnori.org](http://www.kallnori.org) is a portal only for literature, history and culture. These portals publish only in Albanian.

As part of cultural events, the Municipality of Tuzi financed conservatory measures and archaeological research, international book day, international museum day, artist colony for painters, book promotions, book fair, literary evening, handicraft exhibition, promotion of artists of Malesija, open theatre, "Xhubljeta Entropia" showcase, Albanian women's folklore costume, sculpture showcase with national and historical elements of the sculptors from Albania.

### **The Municipality of Rožaje**

On the territory of the Municipality of Rožaje, the Albanian language is used for official purposes, and the possibility of official communication with the municipality's authorities and services is guaranteed by law. The use of Albanian language in local self-government is present to a large extent in the municipality of Rožaje, which has a large number of employees of Albanian nationality who can process oral and written requests in the Albanian language, and the responses to those requests can be in the Albanian language if a client prefers.

In the territory of the Municipality of Rožaje, education in the Albanian language is organised in the Primary School "Daciće", which has 25-30 students in all 9 grades. When it comes to the pre-school education in the same school, in the early periods, a pre-school education was held for 10 children of Albanian nationality, but due to a fire in one part of the school, the classroom which was used for the pre-school children is no longer in use, as it suffered a serious damage in the fire. The Municipality of Rožaje, by means of the Decision on the award of scholarships for the academic year 2021/2022, is providing scholarships to 3 students of Albanian nationality. No proceedings in Albanian language has been initiated in the Local Court in Rožaje during the past year.

The following news outlets are broadcast on the local public broadcaster RTR Rožaje in Albanian language:

- Radio Rožaje: broadcasts in Albanian language at 08:00h and 20:00h, Albanian music is broadcast in the period 16:30-17:30h.
- Television Rožaje: broadcasts at 20:00h, hosted by prominent Albanian national community members, cultural events in Albanian language.

### **The Municipality of Kotor**

In the Municipality of Kotor, members of the RE population, the Croatian and the Italian national minorities are recognised as minority nations and other minority national communities.

The first step in systematically addressing the problem of the RE population in the Kotor municipality is the formation of the Department for Social and Child Protection, the Department for Youth and Vulnerable Social Groups, and the appointment of two advisers to protect the rights of minorities within the Secretariat for Culture, Sport and Social Activities. In this way, the concrete problems of the RE population can be addressed and a systemic approach can be taken to solving them through work plans, activation, delegation of activities, all with the aim of improving the situation of the RE population in the society. A census of members of the RE population in Kotor was made and it was established that the Roma population in the municipality of Kotor is not numerous, but there is still plenty of room for improving the situation regarding the rights and living conditions of Roma. The RE population lives in the following locations: Lovanja (Kotor part), Trojica and Kavač, Dobrota (Prvoborac settlement), Kamp, Risan.

The Municipality of Kotor promotes the Croatian language in the territory of the Municipality Kotor. The local public broadcasting service Radio Kotor broadcasts all information about the activities of the Croatian civil society and presents the magazine "Hrvatski glasnik" (Croatian herald), which is published monthly. Also, since 01 January 2018, it has been broadcasting the "Multiculture" show. Since 2003, the NGO Hrvatsko Građansko Društvo Crne Gore (Croatian civil society of Montenegro) from Kotor has been publishing the newspaper Hrvatski glasnik (Croatian herald), which is published monthly with a circulation of 800 copies. 178 issues have been produced so far. The newspaper is financed in one part by projects under the Fund for the Protection of Human and Minority Rights, and in another, larger part, by sales and donations. The Croatian Herald covers the way of life, customs and culture of the citizens of Boka Kotor and other areas in Montenegro where Croats live. Also, a very important activity when it comes to the preservation and support of Croatian culture, language and traditions is the continuous education of Croatian language and culture in Kotor and Tivat since 2004. This is part of the Croatian Teaching Abroad project, which is under the competence of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia, and has been implemented in cooperation with Primary School "Njegoš" in Kotor and Primary School "Drago Milović" in Tivat for 17 years, in a way that schools provide space for teaching, and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Croatia employs a teacher, i.e. a teacher who teaches classes for several groups of students once a week. The groups are adapted to the age and interests of their participants. In the school year 2020/21, the Croatian school was attended by about 50 students, and successfully completed by 45 students, 16 of them from Kotor. The students of the Croatian schooling successfully participated in the international projects "Bajke i legende zavičaja" (Fairy tales and legends of homeland) i "Velikani hrvatske povijesti" (Important names of Croatian history) and started a YouTube channel – Croatian education in Boka. Their activities are also visible on the same Instagram profile (hrvatska\_nastava\_u\_boki).

The local public broadcaster "Radio Kotor DOO" streamed during 2020 and 2021 in its regular daily informative broadcasts (Vijesti i Kotorska hronika) and thematic broadcasts (Multicultura - show devoted to national minorities, and Katareo - show devoted to cultural issues), followed all current events related to the culture, tradition and history of life of the Croatian national minority in the area of Boka Kotorska and the municipality of Kotor.

Community of Italians of Montenegro was founded in January 2004 in Kotor with the aim to include in its membership all Italians in Montenegro, and to promote national, cultural and linguistic identity. By the

end of the year, it has recruited 630 members, out of which 438 are from the native population with an Italian background and 192 are lovers of Italian language and culture. Among its activities in the field of education, the most significant is the organisation of free of charge Italian language courses in Montenegro. This initiative of informative character started more recently after the establishment of the ZICG. More than 270 free of charge Italian language courses have been organised in Montenegro in the period of 16 years. These courses have been attended by around 6400 students. In 2020, Community, through the funds of the FVG Region, will receive € 25,000.00 for the organisation of free courses throughout Montenegro.

### **The Municipality of Plav**

Within the public pre-school institution "Dječiči" Plav (used for the municipalities of Plav and Gusinje), one educational group is organised in Plav and Gusinje, where activities and education are conducted only in Albanian. At the public pre-school institute Dječičić Plav, pre-school education and training is carried out on a bilingual basis (Montenegrin-Serbian, Bosnian and Albanian). In the educational group in Plav, in the school year 2021/2022, kindergarten was attended by 19 children, while in the educational group in Gusinje it accommodates 21 children. At this moment, there is an educational staff to implement pre-school culture and education in the Albanian language.

The primary school education in Albanian language is organised in the territories of Plav and Gusinje within 2 primary schools, namely "Hajro Šahmanović" Primary School in Plav and "Džafer Nikočević" Primary School in Gusinje. The education in these schools is organised in Montenegrin (-Serbian and Bosnian language), while there is a section where education is conducted only in Albanian language. Within the public institution Primary School "Džafer Nikočević" Gusinje in villages of Vusanje, Martinoviće and Višnjevo there are educational groups taught in Albanian language only. Number of students in the 2021/2022 school year, who attend classes in the Albanian language in the mentioned schools, for primary education is as follows:

-At the public institution Primary School "Hajro Šahmanović" Plav, the education in Albanian language is organised for all 9 grades of the primary school, i.e. there are 9 sessions (one session for each year from I to IX grades) with a total of 77 students.

-At the public institution Primary School "Džafer Nikočević" Gusinje, education is conducted in the school in Gusinje in Albanian language for all grades (from 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade), so that the education from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade is organised through 2 combined groups (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade together and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade together), in which 11 students attend. From fifth to ninth grades, there are separate groups for each grade with a total of 66 students. In the villages of Vusanje, Martinoviće and Višnjevo, classes are organized only from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grades, with the fact that classes in Vusanje and Martinović are conducted only in the Albanian language, while in the regional department, courses are conducted in both languages, in the official and in the Albanian language. In these regional departments (Vusanje, Martinoviće and Višnjevo), teaching in the Albanian language is limited to 2 combined groups (total of 6 classes) with a total of 29 students.

The education in Albanian language for secondary education is organised in the territories of Plav and Gusinje in the framework of the public institution General Combined Secondary School "Bećo Bašić" in Plav. The school is bilingual (Albanian and Montenegrin). Albanian-language textbooks are also used for the grammar school and for expert and theoretical subjects. The number of students in the 2021/2022

school year, who attended the classes in Albanian language in this combined secondary school, is as follows:

- In the classical gymnasium, there were 4 classes from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade with a total of 61 students.
- In secondary vocational education, there is only education for merchandiser's department in the Albanian language with a total of 2 classes and 9 students.

In the municipality of Plav, the organisational units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are staffed by employees who speak the Albanian language and who can also provide services in Albanian language, and those who use Albanian language can receive oral requests and respond in that language. In this municipality, on some signs, a bilingual script is used, but the current administration is working to ensure that the law on the use of regional or minority languages is implemented fully in practice. The election materials have been printed in the official language and Albanian language since the beginning of multi-party system in 1990 up to the present day.

The Civil Library of the public institution Centre for Culture "Bećo Bašić", Plav, does not have a sufficient collection of books in Albanian. Radio-television Voice of Plav which started working in 1998, stopped working 7 years ago, and Radio Luna Plav also stopped working, so now there is no electronic media (radio and TV) in the area of the municipality of Plav through which it would be possible to disseminate information in minority languages.

### **The Municipality of Herceg Novi**

The largest part of the Roma and Egyptian population in the territory of the Municipality of Herceg Novi lives in the settlements of Meljine, Drenovik and Bajkovina. It is important to note that all the mentioned settlements are not predominantly inhabited by Roma and Egyptians, but the majority population also lives in them.

During the school year 2018/2019, the number of enrolled Roma and Egyptian children in different age groups of the "Naša radost" JPU there were 16 children in total. Out of these, 6 attended the older group and enrolled in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade of elementary school in September 2019. The number of enrolled Roma and Egyptian children for the school year 2019/2020 is 10, out of which 4 enrolled in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade of primary school. During the school year 2020/21, 25 children from the Roma and Egyptian population were included in the education. During the school year 2021/22, 18 children from the Roma and Egyptian population were educated. All Roma children were divided into educational groups, depending on their age. Their stay in kindergarten during the school year is free of charge. A team was formed at the level of the Municipality, which includes representatives of the Centre for Social Work, the Health Center and the Secretariat for Culture and Education. During the school year, the coordinator and team members attended trainings organised by the Ministry of Education.

The show devoted to the position of the RE population has been broadcast on Radio Herceg Novi for more than a decade. The program is broadcast twice a month from January 1 to June 15 and from September 15 to December 31. The pause is in place only during the summer period when there is a regular summer programming schedule. Current affairs, problems related to the RE population, in addition to the above-mentioned show, are always discussed in central news shows. The situation of the RE population in Montenegro, or in Herceg Novi, is discussed in the shows. The topics are devoted to education, housing,

culture, employment, health and social status. The show was hosted by a member of the Roma population for two occasions during the period of ten years.

### **The Municipality of Ulcinj**

In the Municipality of Ulcinj, all parties may submit questions to the municipality's authority/public service in Albanian and receive reply in the same language. Bilingual forms of invoices for public services, forms for the application process, marriage certificate, etc. are available in the local administration bodies of the Municipality of Ulcinj. Decrees adopted by the Assembly of the Municipality of Ulcinj are also printed and published in the Albanian language.

In practice, in most cases, the right to write in the language and alphabet of the minority is exercised, i.e. in the Albanian language in the Municipality of Ulcinj, the name of the local self-government unit, the names of the authorities and public services that exercise public powers, and the names of businesses and other companies. The Municipality of Ulcinj's multilingual web page is available in Albanian, Montenegrin and English.

The Municipality of Ulcinj has, for the first time, adopted a Decision on the implementation of the Local Plan for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians for the period 2020-2023 on 30 December 2019. The decision was adopted by the Advisory Group for the elaboration of the Local Action Plan for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Ulcinj for the period 2020-2023 with 10 members, one of whom is from the Council of Europe, one from the NGO "Balkan Egyptians", as well as other representatives of the relevant bodies in the territory of Ulcinj. In December 2019, the Assembly of the Municipality of Ulcinj adopted the Local Action Plan for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Ulcinj Municipality for the period 2020-2023.

In September 2020, the Municipality of Ulcinj in cooperation with the NGO Help - Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.g., the Capital City Podgorica and the Municipality of Berane started the implementation of the project "Social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians with the intervention of inclusion associates" based on the grant scheme Social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians financed from IPA II funds (2015-2017). The goal of this project is to contribute to the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in local communities in Montenegro, as well as to improve the support system for the RE population in order to exercise their rights to health, employment and social protection. On the basis of this project, two mediators were employed in the territory of the Municipality of Ulcinj.

Also, the Municipality of Ulcinj has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Europe on the framework for the implementation of the "ROMACTED I" and "ROMACTED II" programmes, which will serve to consolidate and extend efforts to improve the integration of the Roma population in the Municipality of Ulcinj by taking part in the creation of local policies and the launching of local actions.

### **National Councils in Montenegro**

The activities of the National Councils in Montenegro are pending.

### **Serbian national council in Montenegro**

The Serbian National Council is the only organisation of the Serbian people registered with the Government of Montenegro to address the needs and problems of its people through the institutions of the system. In spite of the numerous difficulties it has faced over the past years, and also in 2021, the Serbian national council, in cooperation with the recognised organisations that are responsible for the protection of the identity of the Serbian people in Montenegro, has managed to implement a series of very significant projects, that have the vital interest in the protection of the Serbian national, cultural, linguistic and religious identity. The Serbian media in Montenegro - the "Srpske novine CG" (Serbian herald MNE) portal, Serbian radio, the "Srpske novine" (Serbian herald) magazine and Serbian television - have set up planned dynamics to publish and broadcast their content.

Serbian radio broadcasts its program through eleven outlets and covers the whole of Montenegro. The programming of Serbian radio is based on a broad spectrum of "voice programming", by which the medium is recognised in the broadest area of Montenegro, as stated by the Agency for Electronic Media of Montenegro. In addition to the morning program, service information and inclusions, Serbian Radio also broadcasts five short-form "News" programs (up to 5 minutes), as well as two longer-form News programs of up to 30 minutes, which contain the most important information from Montenegro, the region and the world. In addition to this, Serbian radio, as part of its program, also broadcasts the extremely popular "Bisernica" (Pearls) five times a week, in which, in two-hour programs, the most important social events, traditions, culture, art and everything else of importance not only to the members of the Serbian nation, but also to all citizens of Montenegro, irrespective of national or religious affiliation, are discussed. Serbian Radio produces also special broadcasts from the field of government, culture, art, social issues, politics, international relations... Serbian radio successfully carries out live broadcasts and exchanges programmes with other radio stations, such as Radio Beograd, Radio Novi Sad, Sputnjik... Serbian Radio broadcasts a program 24 hours a day.

The magazine "Srpske novine" (Serbian herald) is published once a month on "luxurious" (kundzruk) paper, and runs to 72 pages in colour. More recognisable as a renowned publication, the magazine has retained its well-deserved reputation and is represented in all the most important library collections in Montenegro, Serbia and Republic Srpska, as well as in a number of libraries in the region. The authors of the magazine "Srpske novine" (Serbian herald) are the most prominent scientific, cultural and public figures, as well as the most active journalists from all spheres of social life in Montenegro, the regional and other. The magazine "Srpske novine" (Serbian herald) thematically covers areas of interest for the widest readership: society, economics, internal and foreign policy, culture, art, events, sport, reportage, fiction, trivia, humour. With its content, "Srpske novine" (Serbian herald) is not only aimed at members of Serbian nationality, but also at all other citizens, regardless of their ethnic, cultural or religious affiliation. The 12 issues of the magazine "Srpske novine" (Serbian herald) have been published in 2021.

Serbian Television broadcasts daily programme of 24 hours. In addition to the informative programme, the program schedule of Serbian television also includes documentaries, cultural, pictorial, entertainment, as well as contact programs, interviews and other programs characteristic for the preservation and improvement of the Serbian national, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, and programs dedicated to the members of all nations and national communities in Montenegro. The program of Serbian Television is broadcast by three cable operators and can be viewed throughout the whole territory of Montenegro. Judging by the reactions of the viewers, Serbian Television has already taken one of the leading roles among domestic broadcasters of television programs. Serbian Television's program has more than 20 percent of its own production in the total daily program, and it consists of News



programs (up to 5 minutes five times a day), Novosti (News) (up to 30 minutes two times a day), Week plus magazine (up to 30 minutes one day a week), "Na srpskom stanovištu" ("On the Serbian standpoint") (up to 60 minutes once per week), and the contact programme "Neskriveno" ("Undisguised") (up to 60 minutes once per week), the issue "Stavovi i dileme" (Opinions and dilemmas) (up to 60 minutes once per week), "Ogledalo" (Mirror) (up to 60 minutes once per week), "Sretanja" (Meetings) (up to 60 minutes once per week), "Pljevaljska scena" (Pljevlja scene) (up to 30 minutes once per week), as well as a number of other shows, special and extraordinary editions related to the most important events in Montenegro and the region. Serbian Television has a well-developed network and shares its programming with RTV Vojvodina, RTS, TV Hram, TV Ras, the Dunavsk media network, the Sputnik agency, and others.

Publishing activity - The Serbian National Council has a well-developed relationship with the Literary Cooperative of Serbian National Council, as one of the most productive and innovative publishers in the Serbian-speaking area. The publications of the Literary Cooperative, which are produced in cooperation with the Serbian National Council, have been awarded the Podgorica Book Fair Prize, Belgrade Book Fair Prize, Novi Sad Book Fair Prize, Andrićgrad Book Fair Prize and Herceg Novi Book Fair Prize. Among them, the Literary Cooperative has been awarded the "Marko Miljanov", "Jovan Dučić", "Mihailo Lalić", "Jelena Bašić", "Petar Kočić", "Dušan Kostić", "Momo Kapor", "Miodrag Ćupić", "Golden Pen of Russia" prizes, Seal of the Sremskokarlovac Heroes, Branko Prize, Prize "Branko Ćopić", prize "Nemanjin zig" (Nemanja's Stamp) of the Association of Literature of Montenegro, two Vuk Prizes and other prestigious awards and prizes for literature and publishing. In the course of the last year, in cooperation with the Serbian National Council, cooperative published more than 50 new titles, thus surpassing the figure of 400 published works and more than 250,000 books. Thanks to the Serbian National Council, a library of Serbian publishers is open in Podgorica, where the most important literary works from the Serbian-speaking region can be found. The library features publications of the Podgorica Literary Cooperative, the Belgrade Serbian Literary Cooperative, the Serbian motherland - Novi Sad, the Republika Srpska-based SPKD "Prosvjeta" (Education), the Belgrade-based Globosin, and the Belgrade-based Katena mundi. The following titles, *inter alia*, are published in the current year: Dušan Kostić "Izabrane pjesme" (Selected poems), Dimitrije Bogdanović "Old Serbian biographies", Predrag Vukić "Extracts for history of Montenegro", Milutin Mićović "Torches in the darkness of Montenegro", Milo Lompar "Njegoš and modern", Stojan Novaković "History of Serbian literature", Jovan Ćetković "Unification of Montenegro and Serbia", Đorđe Natošević "Why our nation decays", Dejan Tomić "Montenegrin Serbian defenders", Dragan Radević "Kominternu", Dejan Tomić "Apoeteoza Nj.V. King Petar I Karađorđević", Group of authors "That's what our ancestors used to say", Dragan Jakovljević "Stories from the Mirror", Milica Bakrač "God we are not cold", Duško Pevulja "Literary history and national philosophy", Gordana Jović Stojkowska "Building of the Sun", Miodrag Perunović "Travels", Lazar Biorac "Starting of a fire", Ljiljana Bralović "True fairy-tale", Ljiljana Habjanović Đurović "Mother Angelina" (Albanian translation), Slavomir Gvozdenović "In Temišvar, understanding of a poem", Dr Novak Ražnatović "Montenegro and Berlin Congress", Momčilo Krajišnik "Stronger than force and destiny", Đorđe Brujić "Photographs of 82 poets", Miloš Kovačević "Serbian language and Serbian languages", Miloš Čepić "A well", Mileta Bulatović "the Delusion of Defiance", Savo Vuletić "Articles and discussions", Slobodan Milić "Searching for a world", Radinko Krulanović "Silent orators", Olivera Doklešić "My thoughts call for sleeplessness", Group of authors "Until Christ's victory", Blagoje Baković "Manuscript", Janko Jelić "Dramas", Nešo Stanić "Collection of examples and lessons", Nešo Stanić "Memoir of shadows of Serbs from Podgorica", Duško Babić "Njegoš's nationalism", Ivan Negrišorac "Njegoš's resistance movement", Petar Rmuš "Singing to Mokra", Vojislav Karadžić "With open eyes", Vasko Šćekić "Poems of love and life", Todor Živaljević "Book of delusions and illusions", Ivan

Grbović "Dark vilayet", Ranko Rajković "Who is writing a diary", Dejan Tomić "Apotheosis of the Serbian Guslams" (second edition), Dragan Rosandić "Korona Montenegrina".

Due to numerous cases of discrimination, the Serbian National Council, through law firms, has continuously provided extensive legal protection and professional representation to members of Serbian nationality in Montenegro whose rights are under threat. In addition to providing legal protection to the Serbian citizens, the Serbian National Council has also provided legal and legal-technical assistance to the principal bodies that contribute to the affirmation of national values in Montenegro. The Serbian National Council has provided legal protection through the representation and support through legal council specifically for cases of violations of human rights and freedoms with elements of discrimination.

The Serbian National Council, with the assistance of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, has purchased, renovated and equipped the Serbian House in Pljevlja, in which a number of Serbian national organisations, whose primary activity is the protection and preservation of the national, cultural and linguistic values of the Serbian people in Montenegro, operates with great success. The premises of the Serbian House are also equipped with the editorial and journalistic offices of the Serbian Radio Television from this town and municipality.

### **National Council of Albanians**

The National Council of Albanians is aware of the importance Albanian language plays to the identity of Albanians in Montenegro. Albanians are an indigenous people in Montenegro and the Albanian language has no similarities with other languages spoken in Montenegro. The Albanian language is an Indo-European language, which itself is one of the languages from this group. Since this language is not part of the Slovene language family, it must be preserved in order for Albanian national community in Montenegro can use their language in schools, administration and public institutions.

In Montenegro, education in Albanian language is organised in 12 primary schools and 5 secondary schools. But in these schools the Albanian language is not taught to other non-Albanian children. In order to improve communication, all parties must be involved in order to achieve the same goal.

Textbooks on subjects such as history, geography, music and visual arts are translated from Montenegrin. Often the translations are not of good quality, and in addition Albanian children are not taught about the history of their nation, their origins, the important figures from their culture, etc., which is considered unacceptable. In 2014, the Council held a seminar on this issue and the recommendations from the seminar were sent to the Ministry of Education, but the Ministry did not react.

It is also considered unacceptable that Albanians in Montenegro do not have the opportunity to continue higher education in the Albanian language and must study outside Montenegro in order to be educated in the Albanian language (in Albania, Kosovo) or to continue their studies in Montenegro in the Montenegrin language, which is a challenge for Albanians.

The National Council of Albanians has had a series of activities in the previous five years aimed at improving the position of Albanians in the field of education.

- The National Council of Albanians has distributed a unique school book - the Abecedarium (Aberate) to schools, which has been donated to Albanians in Montenegro for the past eight years by the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Republic of Kosovo.
- The Council has informed the students about application deadlines and application procedures at public universities in the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Kosovo. As usual, a survey of Albanian high school graduates in Montenegro has been carried out on their preferences for higher education, so that these can be used to communicate with relevant education institutions. In 2020 and 2021, the survey has been conducted online using a platform specifically designed for high-school graduates on the Council's web-page.
- In 2021, a two-day "Training for Young Leaders" was held, and it was attended by at least 30 participants.
- The National Council of Albanians has addressed the Parliament of Montenegro in 2021 in order to create a Department for translation from Montenegrin to Albanian and vice versa within the Parliament of Montenegro. This department would be used for the translation of all normative acts, laws, amendments to laws, decrees, orders of public institutions...
- In 2020, the National Council of Albanians celebrated Teachers' Day on 7 March, where it organised a Theatrical performance "Dear Teacher" in cooperation with the Centre for Culture - Ulcinj, performed by the Youth Theatre from Tirana.
- The list of the necessary education resources has been made and sent to the Directorate for Textbooks and Educational Resources, and the information is collected from all schools which teach in Albanian language.
- Council has distributed books, which it has received as a donation from "Alsar" Foundation from Albania, to schools which teach in Albanian language in 2020.

Since 2015, the National Council of Albanians has published the weekly "Koha javore", the only Albanian-language newspaper in Montenegro financed by the Parliament of Montenegro. The weekly was published regularly in 2021, and hence the 49<sup>th</sup> issue of "Koha javore" (944-993) has been published.

The National Council of Albanians has regularly informed the public about the main activities of the Council through its web-site [www.knsh.me](http://www.knsh.me) and social media.

The Council is not satisfied with the programming and editorial policy of the RTCG (Radio Television Montenegro), considering that not enough time is devoted to the promotion of culture, traditions, customs, cultural monuments and other content for Albanians in Montenegro. Given that the Public Service is financed from the Budget of Montenegro, all of its peoples have the right to proportional representation. In Montenegro, Albanians are informed in the Albanian language through private televisions, such as RTV Teuta in Ulcinj and TV Boin in Tuzi.

In the course of the year 2021, the National Council of Albanians has implemented various cultural activities: the promotion of the book by the Albanian author Ridvan Dibra, which took place in Plav on 28 June 2021, the publication of the monograph "Albanian medical workers in Montenegro", which was prepared by Dr Gani Karamanaga.

The National Council of Albanians, together with associations, NGOs and others, has organised and supported various activities: promotion of the book "Hana" by Asllan Bisha, "Çinari i moçëm" by Gani Karamanaga, publication of literary and scientific works (Nikollë Berishaj - "Gjurmë që (nuk) heshten",

Ismail Doda - "Balada popullore të Shqiptarëve në Malin e Zi (Përmbledhje, Vëllimi I)" Ruzhdi Dervishi - "Shërbimi hotelierik"), publishing of the school newspaper "Shkëndijat" of the Primary School "Bedri Elezaga" - Ulcinj, the organisation of the scientific conference "Shqiptarët në Malin e Zi gjatë tri dekadave të fundit (1990-2020)" organised by the "Art Club" Association, the financial support for the implementation of the traditional cultural activity "Ora e Maleve" in Rožaje, the organisation of the traditional cultural event in Vusanje - Gusinje in cooperation with the NGO "Maja e Karafilit".

On the occasion of 28 November - Flag Day, the Council organised a round table on the topic "The cultural heritage of Malesia, the preservation and development of folklore" held in Tuzi, and opened a display with archival documents of the distinguished person "Hasan Prishtina".

On the occasion of 28 November - Flag Day, the National Council held a cultural event, a concert in Ulcinj, and the most important activity for 2021 for the National Council of Albanians was the opening of the "Ulqini" bookstore in Ulcinj, the only one in Montenegro with books in the Albanian language, implemented with the financial assistance of the Republic of Albania.

In 2020, the National Council of Albanians, together with associations, NGOs and others, has organised and supported various activities:

- promotion of the book "Një shqiptar në CIA" by the Kosovo author Bashmir Xhemaj;
- publishing literary and scientific works (Asllan Bisha - "Hana", Ali Gjeçbritaj - "Shkolla në Krajë 1929-2019", Qani Osmani - "Identiteti përballë nënshtrimit", Hajrullah Hajdari - "Pronat dy-palëshe në të dyja anët e kufirit Shqipëri-Mali i Zi", Gazmend Çitaku - "Udhëtim nëpër kështjellat ilire", edition of the newspaper "Buzuku";
- the preservation of the cultural heritage (supported the participation of the association "Globus Art" at the fair);
- the implementation of the project "Culture and Identity" by the NGO ALB Progress;
- a scientific conference and other activities on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the birth of the writer Basri Çapriqi, organised by the "Art Club" Association;
- the implementation of the traditional cultural activity "Carnivals of the Korets" in Malesija;

### **Croatian National Council in Montenegro**

The Croatian nation is enshrined in the Constitution of Montenegro, the Croatian language is in official use, and personal identification documents can be issued in the Croatian language. An issue that is crucially important for the Council is the status and position of minority national parties and nations, especially since the Croatian Union no longer has representatives in the Parliament of Montenegro, the changes to the election legislation are needed, in respect to census, registration and support for minority political parties and lists, in order to avoid the situation that the Croatian nation no longer has representatives in the Parliament of Montenegro which was the case in the past elections.

The Council representatives are members of several bodies and advisory groups in Montenegro that are working on minority legislation and its implementation: the Strategy for Minorities, monitoring within the implementation of the Framework Convention and the Convention for Regional and Minority Languages, the Management Committee of the Fund for the Protection and Preservation of Minority Rights of Montenegro, the Management Committee of the Centre for the Study and Development of Minority Culture, the Commission for Programming in the Albanian Language and the Languages of Other Minority Nations and Other Minority National Communities, the Advisory Group for the Analysis and Proposal for educational Programme in the Croatian Minority Language in Montenegro, which was formed by the

Ministry of Education of Montenegro, specifically the Directorate for the Education of the Minority nations, as well as the Committee for collaboration with expatriates within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro and Committee for Croatians outside of the Republic of Croatia.

Continuously, in cooperation with the Human Resource Management Authority, with which a Memorandum is signed, and which is also included in the Strategy for Minorities, the Council is working on increasing the number of members of minority nations (Croatian in this case) represented in public and state administration, and in judicial bodies.

The Council considers that the representatives of minority nations in the management boards of relevant institutions (the Fund, CEKUM, RTCG, public institutions) should have a more important role in terms of deciding which projects are important for a given minority community.

There are several Croatian NGOs in Montenegro, 11 of them, including the Croatian umbrella organisation "Dux Croatorum", which is also the owner and promoter of the first electronic media in Montenegro - Radio Dux. The Croatian Civil Association of Montenegro-Kotor has been active for fifteen years and is, among many other activities, also the owner of the Croatian printed media "Hrvatski glasnik" (Croatian Herald) and the Mandolin Orchestra, "Tripo Tomas". It is important to mention the HKUD "Tomislav" and "Stadjuni of culture" as well, which includes a children's band and adult band. In Bar, the HKD "Sveti Jeronim" is active, and in Podgorica, the "Zajednica Hrvata i prijatelja Crne Gore" (Community of Croatians and friend of Montenegro) is established. In Herceg Novi, there is the "Zaljev hrvatskih svetaca", in Tivat the "Gjurgjevo Brdo", and there is also a branch of the Croatian motherland in Boka. There is also the NGO Boka Kotorska, which publishes its own newsletter. The HNV's amateur theatre section is also active, and actively produces performances, is a participant in several programmes, seminars, zoom workshops, and the Jadran klapa, which is under the auspices of the Council.

In the Kotor municipality, the Croatian minority constitutes a significant part of the population, and the local self-government has a reputation for working with non-governmental organisations that promote the Croatian language and culture, such as the NGO "Hrvatsko građansko društvo", with which the municipality implemented the project "Learning the Language of the Croatian National Minority – Croatian Herald newspaper" in the course of the last year. The project is financed by the Council of Europe, through the programme Promotion of Human Rights and Protection of Minorities in South East Europe, and 5 promotional events of the project have been held in Kotor.

In addition, the Municipality of Kotor has financed projects of the above-mentioned association through the NGO Competition, and the latest project to be financed in this way is "Djeca za jubilej". The project was approved on the basis of the priority area Creating opportunities for young people to create cultural content themselves (organise literary or poetic evenings, start a magazine, create scenarios themselves and be the authors of plays themselves, etc.), with an emphasis on the innovative aspect of the projects (which is provided by the Cultural Development Program of the Municipality of Kotor)."

In the municipality of Tivat, the local self-government undertakes activities aimed at protecting the Albanian, Croatian and Bosnian language and culture in the following ways: The Croatian national minority is supported through various forms of financial assistance by providing the space for activities. It refers to the assignment for a five-year period of the "Josip Marković" Cultural Centre in Donja Lastva to the Croatian umbrella community "Dux Croatorum" (which was originally built as a Croatian reading room), within which the Croatian National Council of Montenegro has its premises, and where the Croatian library "Ljudevit Gaj" is located and where the theatre section within the HNV operates. The Centre is used by up

to a hundred users a day, given that numerous sports and other association use this space, and the Croatian community takes care of the Centre in the manner of a host, taking care that all overhead costs are paid and repairs are done on time, for which reports are submitted quarterly to the competent municipal services.

It is important to note that the Latin alphabet is one of the official alphabets in Montenegro, that the Croatian nation and the Croatian language are enshrined in the Constitution of Montenegro (Preamble) and that the Croatian language is one of the languages in official use in Montenegro, in which members of the Croatian nation have the legal right to be issued personal documents, a right which they enjoy, as well as the possibility of issuing documents in the Latin alphabet. Still, the Council regrets that, in communication with the authorities at local and national level, there could be supportive or less supportive attempts to discouraging the use of the Croatian language in official correspondence because it would "require a translation into the Montenegrin language, which complicates and slows down the procedure and takes time and effort from the officials who have to do it".

Although it is not an obligation of Montenegro according to the Charter and the Convention, there is a need for a notary public, that is, a notary or a court interpreter for the Croatian language in accordance with the provisions of the law in this regard, and because such an institute exists in the Republic of Croatia for the Serbian and Montenegrin languages, so it would be about reciprocity. However, the legal provision that the Croatian language is the language in official use in Montenegro, and the fact that the members of the Croatian people in Montenegro understand and use Montenegrin and other regional languages in official use, renders the request for an interpreter meaningless.

Here, a public appeal has been issued by the authorities for some time, but this issue is not yet addressed. It is also suggested by the NGO sector that in elections, especially local ones, it should be possible to print the ballot papers in Latin alphabet and in Croatian language. It is believed that the criterion of the intelligibility of the language helps members of Croatian nation to use the Croatian language in certain private and public spheres and situations in comparison to members of the Roma or Albanian populations (members of the Croatian people do not have to have an interpreter for their language when speaking in parliament, whether state or local, and in court proceedings or when pronouncing rights in misdemeanour and criminal proceedings, as well as in the private sphere at the doctor's or similar, which greatly facilitates the state procedure and reduces costs), but this same criterion of comprehensibility greatly compensates when it is mediated by highlighting and emphasizing the feeling of belonging to the Croatian people and the Croatian language and in emphasizing the uniqueness of the Croatian language as part of the national and cultural identity of the members of the Croatian people in Montenegro, so the process of assimilation and self-assimilation of Croats in Montenegro is promoted in this way, of whom there are only 0.97 percent of the total population of Montenegro, and the declared Croatian speakers are even less - only 0.47 percent, because they do not recognise their mother tongue as an important determinant of the uniqueness of Croatian people and the identity of the Croatian people. For the members of the Croatian people, the Croatian language is a matter of national and cultural identity and uniqueness and a very important "tool" in the fight against assimilation, and therefore the Council welcomes the efforts of the Montenegrin authorities regarding its protection as the regional language under the Charter on Regional and Minority Languages.

There are no textbooks in Croatian, for general education, or for supplementary education. The Council believes that within the regular teaching of the M/S/C/B language, not enough teaching content is

devoted to linguistics, and above all to literature from the Croatian speaking area. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the local community, prerequisites have been created for the possibility that children, as part of supplementary or additional activities at school, attend classes of Croatian language and culture three times a week for one hour, which is related to content from the home country. Additional Croatian language school - teaching Croatian language and culture in Montenegro is an additional Croatian language school in Montenegro that is not included in regular classes in primary and secondary schools in Montenegro, but is an additional elective course, which is not intended only for members of Croatian nationality, but there were also students of other nationalities. The teacher, who is employed for a term of four years, is financed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia. For teaching, space is provided free of charge in primary schools in Tivat and Kotor (or at least this has been the case for the past 16 years that the Teaching has been operating), technical means and aids for teaching in two classrooms in primary schools in Tivat and Kotor, while teaching aids and materials are from the Republic of Croatia, i.e. they are designed by the teacher of Croatian education, with content related to the Croatian language, literature, history, culture, tradition, art, sports, etc., and also includes field trips in the Republic of Croatia, depending on which region or the county of the Republic of Croatia is studied that year. As for the financing of the winter and summer school, i.e. field trips for the students of the Additional Croatian language school, they have not been financed directly by the Montenegrin authorities, but through projects and from the funds of the Croatian community in Montenegro, which must be justified, and through sponsorships.

In connection with the open educational content in the primary and secondary schools in Montenegro, which concerns the language and culture of the minority Croatian people, an advisory group has been formed in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, and two textbooks which could be used as reference books have been prepared. This is in regards to the Advisory Group for the Analysis and Preparation of a Programme for the Education in the Language of the Croatian Minority in Montenegro, which was formed by the Ministry of Education of Montenegro, and the Directorate for the Education of the Minority. In the framework of this advisory group, changes to the curriculum and to the Plan and Programme have been submitted, in order to integrate the information on the history, language, culture and traditions of the members of the Croatian nation in Montenegro into the curriculum and the Plan and Programme, and more content (20 percent of the total material in primary schools) so that certain textbooks and content could be specifically included in the Plan and Programme in local areas where a significant number of members of the Croatian people live (Tivat and Kotor), but also in the education of guides and tourist employee and accreditation in the Directorate for Education of Montenegro. It is about the implementation of certain contents of the Croatian cultural heritage of Boka Kotorska and other characteristic areas of Montenegro where Croats have been active in and from Montenegro.

Also, in order to develop and promote multiculturalism and tolerance, it is essential to introduce the Civil education, subjects related to ethics and subjects related to the EU and humanitarian law into primary and secondary education. This is especially because textbooks for this already exist.

Given that, due to technical, financial and logistic-capacity reasons, there is currently no possibility of establishing a higher education Chair or Department for Croatian language and literature, and therefore certainly no study programmes for Croatian language and literature or in the Croatian language in Montenegro, we should try in the next period to examine the possibilities of establishment at faculties in Montenegro, especially at the Faculty of Philology in Nikšić, as well as to conduct a feasibility study.

In terms of studies and students, it is certainly recommended that the issue of scholarships for students attending studies in deficit professions that benefit the Croatian minority community - history of art, archives, archaeology, history, journalism, Croatian language and literature, linguistics and other related humanistic disciplines should be systematically resolved.

In accordance with the memorandum signed with the Police Academy in Danilovgrad, a certain number of members of the Croatian nation in Montenegro were enabled to enrol in the Academy on the basis of affirmative action. The Croatian Community grants scholarships to 20 pupils and students studying in the Republic of Croatia and Montenegro, out of which the Council provides six.

The digitisation project of the poetry of Croats from Boka, by HNV member Dijana Milošević, Prof., is a crucial part of the teaching of language, literature and culture in the mother tongue, which includes the production of a DVD/CD that will be presented in several cities in the Republic of Croatia and in Boka, as well as the presentation of the publishing work of the Croatian community, which has been the case up to now.

The Croatian Library "Ljudevit Gaj" is located in the Cultural Centre in Donja Lastva and contains over 6000 titles, half of which are related to the Croatian language and literature, while the rest are from all national communities of Montenegro.

The exchange of pupils, students and teachers should be further supported in the education sector. In this sense, the HNV is still in need of substantial donations of books for the Croatian Library "Ljudevit Gaj" in Donja Lastva from relevant institutions in the Republic of Croatia and the Montenegro.

Since 2003, the NGO Croatian Civil Society in Montenegro in Kotor has been publishing the newspaper Hrvatski Glasnik (Croatian Herald), which has a circulation of 800 copies per month. 135 issues have been produced so far. The newspaper is financed in one part by projects under the Fund for the Protection of Human and Minority Rights, and in another, larger part, by sales and donations.

Hrvatski Glasnik (Croatian Herald) is an introduction to the way of life, customs and culture of the citizens of Boka Kotor and other areas of Montenegro where Croats live. The quality of this newspaper is that it is not a political newspaper, but objectively presents current events in the fields of culture, education, sport and other significant events in Montenegro and Croatia. It promotes the rich cultural heritage and presents the cultural and historical specificities of Croats in Montenegro. The articles and contributions are original, written from the side of a journalist, a correspondent from Boka Kotor, Montenegro and the region. The texts are proofread in the literary Croatian language, with the aim of enhancing the language identity, and one part of the series is written in the local, Boka dialect.

Radio Dux has a national concession, problems with the modernisation of equipment (which is not state-of-the-art) and profitability, which is understandable because it is recognised as the radio of the Croatian minority in Montenegro, but as such it is less interesting to other local or national stations and brands, and is not commercially attractive. For its regular functioning it needs about EUR 50,000 at the local level, out of which most funds received through public competitions (EUR 22,000) are returned to the budget by way of the PAM fees for copyright, to the Agency for Electronic Media, the Radio Diffusion Centre, for staff fees, taxes and contributions, etc. The programme is broadcast 24 hours a day.

Hrvatski glasnik (Croatian Herald) has an Editorial Board, editors, proof-readers and columnists, permanent or temporary, who write pro bono.



From the media sector, the issue of financing and marketing of media on the Croatian language in Montenegro is of great importance for the Croatian community. Institutionalising the issue of the existence and continuity of media in the Croatian language and their systemic financing is an issue of crucial importance for the Croatian National Council. To date, there is no procedure in place for the permanent resolution of the issue of the permanent source of funding for the only radio of the Croatian minority in Montenegro - Radio Dux - and for the only printed newsletter of Croats in Montenegro - Hrvatska glasnik (Croatian Herald), which is exclusively financed by donations and advertising (Glasnik) and by applying for projects in public calls (both media).

Given that the Croatian language is one of the languages in official use in Montenegro, and that according to the criterion of intelligibility in certain areas it is equal to the Serbian, Montenegrin and Bosnian languages, which also has the consequence of the fact that the media, i.e. the Public Broadcasting Service, above all, taking into account the financial and technical possibilities, currently has no capacity to establish a newsroom in the Croatian language, i.e. the production of special broadcasts in the Croatian language. On the Public Broadcasting Service, i.e. Television of Montenegro, the half-hour weekly show "Mostovi" (Bridges) is broadcast, which covers creative content from all minority nations in Montenegro. It is important to note that the journalists who are members of the Croatian nation or speak the Croatian language do not participate in the creation of the content of the show, as the organisational chart of RTCG does not yet allow for a journalist from the Croatian nation to be employed in the public service. There is no rule on informative shows in the Croatian language on the public service, RTCG, or on the news and current affairs from the Croatian media, which is always provided in an objective and professional manner. The show "Mozaik" (Mosaic), edited by Mirsad Rastoder, is broadcast on Radio Montenegro, which publishes news according to the same concept as the show "Mostovi" of Montenegro Television and the show "Spona" (Connection), edited by Žarko Božović.

Members of the Croatian nation, despite occasional cases of provocations on a national basis by individuals, generally do not feel that they are discriminated against on the issue of national affiliation in the private sphere, i.e. when declaring their national affiliation and freely practicing their national, religious and cultural traditions, ethnic or linguistic identity in the private sphere, as well as with regard to the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, association, expression of freedom of thought and belief.

In order to keep youth together, but also in a spirit of understanding, tolerance and in accordance with the principles of good neighbourliness, friendly relations and friendship between countries, apart from cultural projects and cultural exchange, the Council is assisting more on the trans-border negotiations between the coastal municipalities of the Republic of Croatia and Montenegro on how to develop economic and trans-border relations through joint trans-border projects, which would help to ensure that the members of the Croatian community do not leave the place where they are indigenous people. (IPA PROJECTS).

### **Bosnian National Council in Montenegro**

The Bosnian National Council traditionally celebrates the 21st International Mother Language Day by organising events, seminars, educational roundtables and workshops.

In the reporting period, the Council gave scholarships to students and in this way helped youth who is studying at the faculties of Bosnian language and literature outside of Montenegro, because there are no

such faculties in Montenegro. The representative of Bosnian National Council actively participated in the Working groups that were responsible for drafting the Strategy for Minority Policy. One of the proposals was to create a Department for the Bosnian language at the faculty in Nikšić, or, if the first possibility is not feasible, to introduce the Bosnian language as a special or elective subject. The proposals have been included in numerous plans of the Strategy, but are not included in the Strategy adopted by the Government of Montenegro.

The Council has its own website which is accessible to the world, and information is updated on a regular basis. In addition to the website, the Council is also present on social media, which have a tendency to replace traditional media in the near future.

In the course of 2019, the Council, in cooperation with the Employment Agency of Montenegro, has implemented the project "Journalists without borders". The project is attended by six PWDs who have gained practical knowledge in the field of journalism and professional photography. At the end of the project, two participants of the training have been employed in the Council. Their mission is to write for the bosnjak.me portal on topical issues that concern not only Bosnians but also members of other nations. The Bosnian National Council hopes that by educating a certain number of journalists, it will contribute to better information sharing among members of the Bosnian national community.

The Bosnian National Council has organised book promotions, photo exhibitions, poetry evenings, concerts of traditional music, celebrations of national holidays and dates significant for the Bosnians, etc. in the past.

The following activities were carried out during the reporting period:

- On 20 March 2019, the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro in cooperation with the Yunus Emre Institute and Municipality Rozaje organised a photo exhibition and a screening of the documentary film "From the Balkans to Çanakkale. The exhibition of photographs and the screening of the documentary film were organised in honour of the Battle of Çanakkale.
- On 4 April 2019, awards were given to the most active readers of the Bosnian Library. The variety of contents and themes attracted close to two hundred visitors, and the most active ones received modest tributes of gratitude and recognition that the reading community is growing and that there is a growing number of lovers of the written word.
- In the completely occupied Hall of the KIC Budo Tomović on 07 November 2019 promotion of the VIII and IX volumes of the Bosnian Language Dictionary written by Prof. Dr Dževad Jahić, was organised by the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro, under the patronage of Mr. Rafet Husović, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Montenegro.
- The book "Godine borbe za slobodu, čast i dostojanstvo" (Years of fighting for freedom, honour and dignity) by Ramiz Salkić is promoted in the organisation of the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro. The promotion was held in the hall of the National Library in Rožaje on 8 November 2019.

- On 22 February 2021, the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro signed an agreement at the meeting with the President of the Bosnian Cultural Association "Preporod" (Rebirth), Prof. Dr Sanjin Kodrić. The Agreement between the Bosnian Cultural Association and the key institution of culture of the Bosnian people also provides for the arrangement and springing the mutual assistance and support in the implementation of various projects, programmes and activities in which we jointly participate and provide mutual assistance and support in the areas of cultural, linguistic, educational, scientific and social projects, programmes and activities.
- The Round Table "Bosnians and Current Processes in Montenegro and the Region" was held on 17 July 2021, organised by the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro in Bijelo Polje.
- On 3 February 2022, the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro organised the promotion of the book "Islamic Epigraphic Memorials" in the Tuzi Assembly Hall. The book was presented by the archaeologist, Burhan Čelebić, and the following speakers spoke: Prof. Dr Sait Šabotić, Prof. Dr Nada Tomović, Enis ef. Burdžović and moderator Mirza Luboder.
- Celebrating 21 February, the International Day of the Mother Tongues, the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro organised in Podgorica on 19 February 2022, a promotional and educational forum "JEZIČKA TRADICIJA BOŠNJAKA" (BOSNIAN LANGUAGE TRADITION), which pointed out the importance of respecting the basic human right that provides the possibility to use our mother tongue on all occasions and cherish the linguistic culture of the people we belong to, as an important part of the general culture of diversity in Montenegro.
- In February 2022, Bosnian National Council in Montenegro published the book "Pravo na ime" (The Right to a Name) by Rifat Rastoder.
- The Bosnian National Council in Montenegro traditionally celebrates significant dates for the Bosnians, and in this way promotes historical events of significance for the Bosnian nation and is committed to a healthy development of the national identity. The following important dates and national holidays of Bosnians are celebrated in abundance during the current period:
- On 21 February 2018, the Bosnian National Council organised the "Bosnian language and Bosnians - the realities and perspectives in Montenegro" seminar in Bijelo Polje on the occasion of the International Mother Tongue Day.
- On 27 February 2018, a delegation from Bosnian National Council laid a wreath at the "Sat zivota" (Life hour) memorial to the victims of the massacre in Bijelo Polje, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the crime in Štrpca.
- On the occasion of Bosnian Day in Montenegro in March 2018, the event Bosnian Days of Culture was organised in many towns.
- The celebration of the Flag Day for Bosnians was held on 11 May. As part of the celebrations on 11 May 2018, a ceremony was held and the Bosnian flag was raised in front of the offices of Bosnian Council in Rozaje. The first Bosnian National Library, which was established by the Council, was inaugurated at the ceremony.
- Visit to Srebrenica. The Council organised a visit to Srebrenica for forty people on 11 July 2018. The President of the Council participated to the main part of the commemoration for the genocide in Srebrenica.

- On 23 February 2019, on the occasion of the Mother Tongue Day, a seminar for teachers and professors, "Bosnian language in Montenegro and the region – experiences from education systems ", was held in Petnjica, organised by the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro.
- On 27 February 2019, a delegation from the Bosnian Council laid a wreath at the "Sat zivota" (Life hour) memorial to the victims of the Bijelo Polje massacre, marking the 25th anniversary of the crime in Štrpca.
- On the occasion of the celebration of Bosnian Flag Day, 11 May, which occupies a special place in Bosnian celebrations, the Bosnian Council in Montenegro organised a celebration for the guests and friends of the Council. The Bosnian national flag was raised on a large flagpole to the tune of "Ode to Joy". The ceremony was followed by a riotous iftr for all participants. The ceremony took place on 11 May 2019 in Rožaje.
- On 11 July 2019, Bosnian National Council in Montenegro organised a series of activities to mark the 24th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. The delegation of the Bosnian Council laid a wreath on the Memorial of the Mass at Pobrežje in Podgorica. As a sign of remembrance of the victims of the Srebrenica genocide, more than a hundred Srebrenica flowers were given to the citizens.
- In Skoplje, the Day of the Bosnians, 28 September, is celebrated for the first time on 28 September 2019, the ceremony followed by the highest national officials, organised by the Bosnian National Council of North Macedonia. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Bosnian nation in the region, as well as representatives of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia. One of the organisers of the celebrations is the Bosnian Council's Office for Coordination, of which Bosnian National Council of Montenegro is a member.
- The delegation of the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro, on 20 November 2019 placed a wreath on the memorial plaque in front of the "Tanasije Pejatović" high school in Pljevlja, where the World Anti-fascist committee of the National Liberation of Sandžak was formed in 1943. 20<sup>th</sup> November is one of the most important dates in the national calendar of the Bosnians of Sandžak.
- On the occasion of the International Mother Tongue Day, the Council organised the "Bosnian language - a question of identity" seminar on 22 February 2020. The speaker of the panel was the imported academic Prof. Dr Ferid Muhić
- On 27 February 2020, a delegation from the Bosnian Council laid a wreath at the "Sat zivota" (Life hour) memorial to the victims of the Bijelo Polje massacre, following the commemoration of the crime in Štrpca.
- On the occasion of the 11th of May, the Bosnian National Flag Day, Bosnian Council has purchased billboards in several cities of Montenegro, on which a congratulatory message on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> of May has been displayed. The salute was taken on 11 May 2020.
- The Bosnian Community in Montenegro joined the Ramadan campaign in May 2020, donating 200 iftars for families in social need. In this way, the beginning of Ramazan Holy Months is marked.
- Delegates of the Bosnian Council in Montenegro, laid a wreath on the "Sat zivota" (Life hour) monument in Bijelo Polje and on the Pobrežje monument in Podgorica on 27 February 2021.
- On the occasion of 11 May, the day of the Bosnian flag, large national flags are displayed on the Council building. On the same occasion, modest prizes were awarded to the most active readers

of the Bosnian National Library, whose main beneficiary is the Council. The flags were inaugurated on 11 May 2021.

- On the occasion of the European Day of Commemoration for the Victims of the Genocide in Srebrenica and the Day of Commemoration for the Civilian Victims of the Shooting on the territory of the former Yugoslavia in the period from 1991-2001, Bosnian National Council in Montenegro on 11 July 2021 organised commemoration under the name "Dusom za Srebrenicu" (With the soul for Srebrenica). The programme of the Day of Commemoration for the Victims of Srebrenica began with a poetic-musical recital "Dusom za Srebrenicu" (With soul for Srebrenica). The commemoration of the Day was attended by eight representatives of Bosnian Council, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergej Sekulović, and the Ambassador of Turkey to Montenegro, Songul Ozan, Ambassador of Palestine to Montenegro Rabi Altanhuli, the Mayor of Podgorica Ivan Vuković, the President of the Podgorica City Assembly Đorđe Suhij, representatives of political parties, the non-governmental sector and numerous citizens.
- On the occasion of 21<sup>th</sup> February, the International Day of the Mother Language, the Bosnian National Council in Montenegro organised in Podgorica on 19 February 2022, a promotional and educational forum "BOSNIA LANGUAGE TRADITION", which pointed out the importance of respecting the basic human right that provides the possibility to use our mother tongue on all occasions and cherish the language culture of the people we belong to, as an important part of the general culture of diversity in Montenegro.
- On 27 February 2022, a delegation from the Bosnian Council laid a wreath at the "Sat zivota" (Life hour) memorial to the victims of the massacre in Bijelo Polje, after the commemoration of the crime in Štrpca.

### **Roma National Council**

Year in year out, the Roma Council organises a campaign in the settlements before the deadline for enrolment in kindergartens. The campaign includes visits to settlements in order to raise awareness of the importance of education, but also to inform institutions that it is necessary to enrol Roma children, depending on the possibility, in kindergartens that are not in the area where the Roma population is, in order to prevent segregation. The campaign includes lobbying in the media and initiatives towards relevant ministries. The Roma Council aims to strengthen basic education so that students in the final grades have the opportunity to continue their academic education. Continuous meetings are held with students from the community and guidelines for their further education are provided, along with discussions with parents. Two meetings are held annually with forty students.

An initiative was launched to increase the minimum number of points for the admission of students to secondary education or to restore affirmative action. In recent years, an increased number of students enrolling in three-year education has been noticed due to the lowering of the limit on number of credits. Constant consultations are held at regular meetings with high school students who want to be actively involved in the community. Every year, the stimulation for attending secondary education is enhanced by the purchase of a certain number of sets of professional books worth EUR 800.00 per year.

We noticed a problem which is the increase of children who are outside the educational system. As the Council's activities from previous years are related to functional literacy, the initiatives this year were directed towards the same goal. The Roma Council, in cooperation with "Marko Miljanov" Primary School and the Professional Training Centre, organised a group of 15 students for Functional (elementary) literacy for children who have never been in the education system until now. This cooperation gives good results

and requires further continuation for the Roma community. Through this programme, which lasts for 3 months in September, the children are able to continue their education in the fourth grade with their peers, which further motivates them and returns them to the education system. Children who attend classes are mostly those who were in the process of migration when they were supposed to start school and attend classes, but through this programme they had a chance to be part of the education system. The Roma Council provided them with all the materials and accessories they needed, and provided them with a mediator for easier communication with the teacher and their parents. In the last three years, resources for mediators and accessories in the amount of EUR 1,500.00 have been used for this annually. The show Romski Glas (Roma Voice), a radio show on the Radio of Montenegro, with an informative and entertaining character, was broadcast every other Monday at 18:05 for a duration of 25 minutes. 24 shows were broadcast with the same number of repeats every year except during 2021, when the show stopped broadcasting (in December 2021) due to the inconsistent legal position of the journalist who edited the show. So far, no contract has been signed to hire another person to work on this show.

### **Council of the Muslim People of Montenegro**

The council was formed with the aim to maintain the cultural and historical heritage of Montenegrin Muslims, and to inherit the Montenegrin language as their own, and Montenegro as their mother country. The Council promotes and protects the special rights of the Muslim people of Montenegro, affirms their cultural and national identity, promotes and contributes to the multicultural and multi-ethnic character of Montenegro, tolerance, cooperation and understanding for the benefit of all citizens of Montenegro.

The Council of the Muslim People of Montenegro, in the period 2019-2021, based on the principle of affirmative action and the Memorandum signed with the University of Montenegro, managed to enrol four of its students at two faculties. Bearing in mind the fact that this Council inherits the Montenegrin language as its mother tongue, the intention of this Council should be directed towards the enrichment of school curricula that must point to the persistence of this minority nation in Montenegro, which will also create conditions for protection against the obvious assimilation of members of this minority communities, i.e. their full appreciation and recognition. The Council believes that it is extremely important to establish and improve cooperation with the state administration body responsible for education and other educational institutions in order to make positive progress in the aforementioned area.

Effective participation of minorities in public and political life is one of the basic intentions of international standards. One of the more important goals of the Minority Policy Strategy defines the need for the participation of members of minority nations in the governance of the state and society, as this is an important precondition for the acceptance of Montenegro as its own state. Political-participatory rights are also an important segment of the protection of identity and culture, but also a necessary prerequisite for the active participation of minority peoples in social and political life. The Council does not have detailed information on the basis of research conducted regarding the representation of members of this minority nation in public administration or the public sector, and based on internal research, the Council's position is that in the observed period, the principle of affirmative action was not comprehensively implemented in terms of promoting the employment of members of minority nations or other minority national communities, i.e. there was no increase in the degree of participation of Muslims in leadership positions in the public administration of Montenegro. The Muslims of Montenegro are still not organised

as a political party, and it is obvious that the Councils are not recognised as institutions with which the appropriate competent authorities should have permanent communication, so that on this basis positive legal solutions can be applied regarding the equal employment of members of minority nations and of other minority national communities, according to their professional titles.

Admittedly, a set of media laws (the Law on Media, the Law on Electronic Media and the Law on the National Public Broadcasting Service of Montenegro) regulates the field of information in accordance with the Constitution and at the level of standards contained in international documents on human rights and freedoms (UN, OSCE26, the Council of Europe, the EU). Within the framework of informing members of minority nations and other minority national communities through print media in Montenegro, the Council publishes the magazine "Glas Mrkojevića" (Voice of Mrkojevic), while certain activities are being prepared with the aim of publishing the magazine "Muslim Review of Montenegro". When it comes to the program dedicated to informing the minority nations in Montenegro, their culture, tradition and history, the planned program contents, within the Program for Minorities, did not include the contents that talk about the recognition of this minority nation of Montenegro, but through other information programs a short content about the celebration of the National Day of Muslims of Montenegro was broadcast.

In order to inform the public, the Council regularly updates its activities on its website: <http://www.savjetmuslimanacg.me/>.

In order to achieve greater public representation and information, the Council appreciates that it is necessary to consider the possibility of systemic financing of the media of the Muslim community in Montenegro (Radio Station), as well as the possibility of long-term leasing by the Muslim community.

In the period from the beginning of 2019 to the end of 2021, within the framework of available funds and competences defined by the Statute, the Council helped the implementation of numerous projects in the field of preserving the national and cultural identity of this minority people, among which the following stand out:

Cultural events: a collective exhibition of Darmin Ganić's paintings called "Art Colony of Muslims in Nature" was opened in Rožaje; The Council is the publisher of the Monograph of prominent Montenegrin Muslim painters such as Ismet Hadzic; in the organisation of the Directorate for the Diaspora and the municipality of Bar, the manifestation "Days of the Diaspora-Emigrants" was held in the Castle of King Nikola; On June 20, the National Day of Muslims of Montenegro is celebrated, so that on this occasion, ceremonial sessions were held at which the results of the Council's work were briefly presented and certificates of thanks were awarded to outstanding individuals who made a significant contribution to the preservation of the national, cultural and historical identity of the Muslims of Montenegro;

Improvement, protection and preservation of the national and cultural identity of the Muslim people of Montenegro: In the mentioned period, round tables and forums were held on the topic: "Muslims in NOB" - Bijelo Polje; "Diversities that enriches us" - Ulcinj; "Investment potentials and business zones of Montenegro" - Bar; "Respect for the rights and status of minority nations and other minority national communities in Montenegro" organised by the NGO Centre for Monitoring and Research; "United in diversity", a forum on the topic "Peculiarities of the language and literary creativity of Muslims in Montenegro" (Kemal Musić who spoke about the literary creativity of Muslims in Montenegro, along with

the professor of literature Radoman Čečović and the director of the National Library in Bijelo Polje - Edin Smailović). Also, when it comes to publishing the Council is a sponsor of the magazine "Glas Mrkojevića"; publication of Zvezdan Folić's book "History of Muslims of Montenegro", Senad Karađuzović's book "Bullet from Cherry Pit"; translation from German of the book entitled "Ahmed Javid Pasha about Albania and Montenegro" and similar.

The Council signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Centre for Monitoring and Research - CEMI, the purpose of which is to create a basis on which NGOs will exchange information and jointly work on the improvement of the rights minorities and other minority communities in Montenegro together with the Council of the Muslim People of Montenegro.

In order to create its programme activities and monitor their implementation, the Council regularly holds meetings of the bodies where numerous decisions and guidelines are made regarding the achievement of statutory goals. In this context, the Council allocates significant funds for the implementation of projects that are important for the affirmation of the cultural identity of the Muslims of Montenegro, among which we single out the following: Bihor cultural summer in Petnjica; the evenings of Ibrahim Hadzic and evenings of Sevdah Sreten Vujović, Brah Adrović, Kana Šabotić and others were co-financed. In terms of achieving programme goals, the Council cooperates intensively with representatives of the relevant Ministry, as well as with international organisations and institutions that organise certain thematic meetings and with representatives of the Islamic community.

The Council actively participates in all important events, and submits certain initiatives aimed at protecting this minority from assimilation, all with the aim of preserving the multi-ethnicity and multiculturalism of Montenegrin society.

### **The Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of Minorities of Montenegro**

From the last reporting period to date, the Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of the Minorities of Montenegro largely continued to intensively nurture multiculturalism through its programmes, promote and develop the cultural heritage of minority peoples in their native language and thus promoted the peculiarities of the cultural tradition. One of the main activities of the Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture of Montenegro is the preservation, development and expression of the culture of minority nations in Montenegro, encouraging the spirit of tolerance, intercultural dialogue and mutual respect. Getting to know the culture of others is a prerequisite for a greater level of mutual understanding. One of the most important segments of the Centre's work is the translation of texts, literary works and poetry with the aim of better mutual acquaintance, understanding and affirmation of the literary creativity of minority nations. Below we will highlight some of the programmes implemented by the Centre and related to the application and implementation of the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages.

#### *2019*

The documentary film "Painting as Eternal Love" about Hazbo Nuhanović (1937 - 1992) premiered on TV Montenegro. CEKUM, in co-production with RTCG, recorded and released the documentary film "Painting as permanent love" on Hazbo Nuhanović (1937 - 1992) about the painter from Pljevlja. The film tells about the life and work of a painter who marked a time by his specificity and his artistic work.



The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, in cooperation with the Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture and the Roma Council, marked 8<sup>th</sup> April - World Roma Day with an event called "We are removing prejudices" in Podgorica. Given the importance of this holiday, the participation of CEKUM in the organisation itself is of great importance so that all relevant institutions contribute to the improvement and raising to a higher level the rights of members of the Roma and Egyptian population in Montenegro.

The centre participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Podgorica International Book and Education Fair. In addition to the book and magazine editions of the Centre, at the stand there were books by other publishers and individuals from minority nations in Montenegro. Thus, in one place there were books by members of all the nations in Montenegro in all the languages spoken in Montenegro. This practice proved to be good because all the authors of the minority nations were able to present their works in their mother tongue and include if they had translated editions.

The fifteenth issue of KOD magazine presented writers and poets: Zuvdija Hodžić, Ismail Kadarea; Faiz Softić; |Mimozu Redžvelaj; Tijane Rakočević Braha Adrović; Shpresu Kapisyzmi Rama; Maja Grgurović Pavla Goranović; Rajko Đurić; Dragana Kujović; Hajrulah Kolićija; Gëzima Puka; Draško Došljak, Zuvdija Hodžić; Hasni Muratagić-Tun; Sead Redžepagić; Dzevada Lalosi; Senad Đešević; Rasima Ralet Gutić Filip Došljak. A part of these texts and poetry has been translated.

The first book from the series of edition "Bridges - "Bihorci" by Camil Sijarić was published by the Centre as a co-publisher with the Public Institution National Library of Montenegro "Đurđe Crnojević". The goal of this cooperation is to jointly contribute through mutual cooperation to the enrichment of publishing production in Montenegro, as well as the affirmation of multicultural, i.e. the values of minority nations in Montenegro.

The Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture presented its publishing house, the Sinteze library, which has 24 books, and the KOD magazine for culture, science and art, which has 15 editions, as well as the first book from the Mostovi "Bihorci" Edition by Camil Sijarić. At CEKUM's stand, there were publications of all the peoples living in Montenegro and in all the languages spoken here.

The 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the KOD magazine has been published, in which texts, poetry, literary criticism, essays, heritage and portraits of minority nations in Montenegro are presented, as well as translated texts in the languages of minorities, which aim to bring written works of minority nations closer to the people and to bring together various nations of Montenegro.

The Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture of Montenegro has published a collection of poetry by Dimitrov Popović "BISEDA E BREZAVE" in the Albanian language. Dimitrov Popović is a poet who was born in Shkodër and lives and works in Montenegro. He writes his rich work in two languages.

The Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minorities of Montenegro, as a continuation of cross-border cooperation, published a collection of poems by the poetess from Skadar Mimoza Redžvelaj / Mimoza Rexhvelaj "I da si ljubav" (If you were love). The book is in Montenegrin and Albanian languages, the goal of publishing this book is to get to know poets from the region and their works through the exchange of cultural creativity. The book was promoted in Podgorica and Shkodër.

CEKUM, in co-production with RTCG, created a documentary film about Andrija Zmajević (1624 – 1694) "Noble Poems" about the baroque writer from Perast. The work plan also includes the formation of a team that will work on the film and monitor the production until the end of the documentary. Andrija Zmajević was born in Perast in 1624, one of the most educated people of his time in Boka Kotorska. He

dealt with theology, archaeology, history, poetry and collecting folk songs. The film was broadcast on the Public Service broadcast.

## 2020

The Center for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture of Montenegro published the third, updated edition of Veselin Konjević's book "The Legend of Vrane - Legend of Pava and Ahmet - Between History and Legend". The special moral character of the people of these areas and the interweaving of religious, ethnic and cultural peculiarities, as a necessity of being, helped established the way of life in Montenegro, which we recognise today as multiculturalism and the coexistence of diversity.

The 17<sup>th</sup> issue of the magazine for culture, literature and science "KOD" was published, In memoriam of Derviš Belo Selhanović, long-time director of the Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of Minorities of Montenegro, prominent cultural and sports worker. The chief editor of the magazine is Zuvdija Hodžić, responsible editor is Salko Luboder. This issue contains several texts by authors from Montenegro and the surrounding area, a number of texts have been translated.

The Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture of Montenegro participated as an exhibitor at the sixth International Book Fair in Podgorica, which was organised by the Capital City with the support of the Ministry of Culture. Books by authors Ćamil Sijarić, Zuvdija Hodžić, Brah Adrović, Derviš Selhanović, Ruždija Rusa Sejdović, Senad Karadžuzović, Mimoza Ridžvelaj, Veselin Konjević, Dimitrov Popović and others were exhibited at the Center's fair stand, as well as copies of the "KOD" magazine.

In order to present the authors of minority nations in Montenegro, the book of poetry by Brah Adrović Podgorica "Devil's Cross" was promoted. Draško Došljak PhD and Bogić Rakočević spoke about the book. The moderator of the evening was Neda Papović, and Amela Frljučkoć, an artist on the accordion, performed in the musical part of the program.

In the hall of DODEST of KIC "Budo Tomović", an author's evening was held by the Primarius Dr. Gani Karamanaga, a well-known doctor from Ulcinj, humanist, chronicler and publicist, author of notable professional publications and books that talk about the tradition, culture and way of life of the people of Ulcinj. Academics Zuvdija Hodžić and Dr. Miroslav Marić spoke about his work.

The book "Recorded Montenegro 2", authored by Miomir Maroš, was published by the Public Institution Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of Minorities of Montenegro. It is a book of reports by a well-known television creator, doctor of communication sciences, which were created based on the series of the television show "Zapis".

The book "Dictionary of Upper Bihorian speech" was authored by prof. Dr Draško Došljak. It is a book that contains several thousand words, in which the characteristics of the folk life of the inhabitants of Upper Bihor, their life preoccupations, customs and traditions are reflected.

In December 2020, the Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of Minorities of Montenegro published the 18<sup>th</sup> issue of the magazine for culture, literature and science "KOD". On the occasion of the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth, a new issue of the magazine is dedicated to the writer Zaim Azemović. Also, poetry and literary works of many minority authors in their native language and translated segments in other languages spoken in Montenegro were presented.

## 2021

Organised by the Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture, an evening of poetry was held under the title "Women's Poetic Bonds". Rebeka Čilović, Katlina Hoti, Dijana Sindik and Amra Tahirović recited their verses. The poetry of the Roma author Ruždija Rus Sejdović was spoken by Marija

Ivanova. The aim of the exhibition was to present a panorama of women's poetry that has multinational recognition, marked by variations on universal poetic themes of love, nature, homeland, but also recognisable by waves of recent poetic expression that reflect the spirit of the times in which they live. Poets presented poetry in their own languages.

In anticipation of the celebration of 8<sup>th</sup> April - International Roma Day, the Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture of Montenegro in cooperation with the Roma youth organisation "Walk with us - Phiren Amenca" organised a lecture "Tradition, culture and history of Roma in Montenegro, challenges and perspectives". The speakers were Dr Vesna Rasulić Delić, ethnologist and anthropologist, Senad Sejdović, vice president of the Roma Council in Montenegro and Elvis Beriša, executive director of the Roma youth organisation "Koračajte sa nama - Phiren Amenca".

In Cetinje, the exhibition of national costumes of minority peoples "Synergy of Diversity" was opened, organized by the Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of Minorities of Montenegro and the National Museum of Montenegro. In terms of content, structure and conceptual features, this kind of exhibition was organised for the first time and presented a special cultural, ethnological and social event. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue with costumes and descriptions of folk costumes and other elements.

One of the main projects of the Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of the Minorities of Montenegro is the publication of the Lexicon of Painters of the Minorities of Montenegro "Saga of Light". It is an important publication equipped according to high graphic and design standards, which presents the work of 54 artists of minority peoples who create or have created in Montenegro. The publication of the Lexicon sheds more light on the role and contribution of painters of minority peoples to the overall Montenegrin art and artistic creativity and through this form emphasizes the richness and diversity of artistic expression, which is included in the unique cultural potential of Montenegro. The word of the publisher and the introductory text in addition to ours are given in Albanian and English. The lexicon has so far been promoted in Podgorica, Ulcinj, Tivat, Rožaje, Plav and Pljevlja.

In order to present the authors of minority nations in Montenegro, an author's evening of the writer Kemal Music was held in Podgorica. Radoman Čečović, professor, poet and literary critic, and Nađa Durković spoke about his work. Kemal Music, born in 1972 near Bijelo Polje. He published the novels "Zig", "Something like a full moon", "Unprovable truths of Lamek Ćisum", collections of stories, short stories and reports "Ambush", "Crazy house", "When the wolves are hungry, it will be a harsh winter", "Initials", "Stories about small and large miracles" (with Radoman Čečović), the selection "Ambush and other stories", and a selection from the Montenegrin short story "Zbornno mjesto" (with Bogić Rakočević) and the studio "White Field Jazz Festival" - the potential and development of cultural institution. He is the director of the Public Institution Ratković's Poetry Evening.

The promotion of the poetry collection "Zejna" by Sulejman Beća Kujević was held in Podgorica. The following spoke about the book: academics prof. Dr. Sherbo Rastoder, prof. Dr. Dragan Koprivica and Dr. Amira Redžić. Sulejman Beća Kujević is a valuable custodian of the musical heritage of the Rožaj region, who draws his interest in this kind of music from his family tradition. In one part of the analytical observations, according to critics, a parallel can be made with certain fragments from the work of Meša Selimović.

The dramatic text about Pava and Ahmet - "Our Field of Love" was entered under the number A-2021-33 in the Registry of copyright works and related rights at the Directorate for Intellectual Property of the Ministry of Economic Development. The copyright holder of the deposited work, the dramatic text

(screenplay), is the Public institution Center for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture of Montenegro. The Center for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of the Minorities of Montenegro plans to create this dramatic work based on the text of Nada Bukilić in cooperation with one of the theatre companies. The story is actually an outstanding example of the appreciation of differences and the affirmation of universal human values, which frees up the space of high ethics and the astonishing power of love. It is a paradigm of multiculturalism and an all-time pattern that can still serve as a landmark in social life today.

The Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Croatian National Council of Montenegro, organised the promotion of the poetry collection "Two Thirds" by Adrijan Vuksanović. The book was spoken by: Aleksandra Vuković, MSc, academician Pavle Goranović and the author. The author is a member of Matica Hrvatska, as well as the Society of Independent Writers of Montenegro. His poems were published in "Hrvatski slov", the Croatian literary review "Marulić", "Kod" and other publications. It is represented in the joint collection "Under the plane tree", as well as in the anthology "Croatian pearls of poetry".

The book "King Nikola and the Mohammedans" by Cedo Baćović was published and promoted by the Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture of Montenegro. The book contains thirty-five stories previously recorded and published in various publications. Combined in the book by Čedo Baćović, they represent a comprehensive account of the chivalrous attitude of the Montenegrin sovereign towards members of the Islamic faith in very difficult historical circumstances. The book also published four poems by King Nikola in praise of the Mohammedans, in which he also expresses his respectful attitude towards the members of this denomination.

In the National Library "Radosav Ljumović" in Podgorica, the programme "Literature of Albanians in Montenegro - as far as we know each other" was held, the speakers were: academics Zuvdija Hodži, writer; university professor Dr. Draško Došljak, writer and journalist Dr. Hadži Šabani, writer Anton Gojčaj, M.Sc. and director of the Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of Minorities of Montenegro Salko Luboder. The evening was intended for the Montenegrin public in order to introduce and get to know the literature of Albanians in Montenegro better. The goal of the programme was to obtain answers to the questions: whether and how much the public is aware of who Albanian literary creators are in Montenegro, whether they are sufficiently presented, how many of their works have been translated and whether enough has been done to promote them. Albanians in Montenegro have a rich literature and prominent prose writers and poets. Their creativity is known not only in Albanian-speaking areas, but also more widely. They differ from others in Montenegro only in the language they speak and write.

Participation in Book Fairs in 2021 - The Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of Minorities of Montenegro participated in the Second Book Fair in Tuzi, which took place during August 2021 as part of the "Summer in Malesija" event organised by the Municipality of Tuzi.

The Centre for the Preservation and Development of Minority Culture of Montenegro presented itself with more than twenty titles in its own edition, books by authors of minority nations, magazines and publications, as well as publications that affirm multiculturalism. Certainly, the most important place belonged to the Centre's capital publication - the Lexicon of Painters of Minority Nations "Saga of light" of Montenegro. At the fair stand of the Centre are books by authors Ćamilo Sijarić, Zuvdija Hodžić, Brah

Adrović, Derviš Selhanović, Dr. Draško Došljak, Ruždija Rusa Sejdović, Senad Karađuzović, Mimoza Redžvelaj, Veselin Konjević, Dimitrov Popović, Skender Temalij and others.

The centre had a notable participation in 2 book fairs held in Podgorica: the 15<sup>th</sup> International Podgorica Fair and the 7<sup>th</sup> International Book Fair.

At the fairs, a large number of visitors showed significant interest in the Centre's publishing as well as in the literary works of other publishers dealing with the culture of minority peoples.

It is important to point out that the capital edition of the lexicon of the painters of the minority peoples of Montenegro "The Saga of Light" won the prize for the best equipped work of art at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Podgorica Book Fair.

The Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of Minorities of Montenegro participated in the Second Book Fair in Tuzi, centre had a notable participation in 2 book fairs held in Podgorica: the 15<sup>th</sup> International Podgorica Fair and the 7<sup>th</sup> International Book Fair.

The Centre for the Preservation and Development of the Culture of the Minorities of Montenegro in partnership with the "Karver" bookstore, as part of the International Literary Festival "Odakle zovem" presented the work of Dr Hedina Tahirović Sijerčić - a prominent Bosnian scientist and writer whose creative work is related to the study and presentation of language, culture and Roma traditions. Dr Hedina Tahirović Sijerčić is a member of the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe for the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages. She taught at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. She was the editor of the Roma radio and TV program at Radio-television Sarajevo. For many years she was the head and responsible person for the Romano Lil magazine (Roma Community and Advocacy Centre Toronto, Canada). She is the author and editor of the book Roma Stories (Collection I).

The 19<sup>th</sup> issue of the magazine for culture, literature and science "KOD" was published by the Centre. In this issue, the articles deal with topics of importance for the cultural, linguistic and historical specificities of minority nations in Montenegro. Some of the published texts, works, essays, criticism and poetry are by: Mirsad Rastoder, Kemal Musić, Sead Redžepagić, Maja Grgurović, Aslan Bisha, Ruždija Rusa Sejdović, Đerđ Fišta, Sadik Bejk, Skendera Temali, Frederik Rešpije, Hasnije Muratagić Tune. Miljenko Jergović, Stijep Mijović, Dimitrov Popović, Salko Luboder, Dr Draško Došljak, Filip Došljak and Esko Muratović. The contributions are in the languages used by the authors, and some of them have been translated into the Montenegrin language.