

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 31 May 2021

MIN-LANG (2021) PR 2

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

NETHERLANDS

SEVENTH REPORT FROM THE NETHERLANDS

on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

May 2021

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 3

DEVELOPMENTS 4

 Information provision and regional languages symposium 4

 Information on recognised languages..... 4

 Regional languages symposium 4

 Papiamentu 4

LANGUAGES IN FOCUS 5

 I. Frisian 5

 Developments concerning Frisian 5

 Implementation of Part II of the Charter 7

 Implementation of Part III of the Charter 15

 II. Low Saxon..... 24

 Implementation of Part II of the Charter 24

 III. Limburgish 31

 Implementation of Part II of the Charter 31

 IV. Romanes and Yiddish 37

 Implementation of Part II of the Charter 37

LIST OF ORGANISATIONS..... 40

INTRODUCTION

Over the period 2019-2021 the Netherlands made further efforts to protect and promote the languages recognised under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This report examines the most important developments during this period and the recommendations adopted by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers on 23 September 2020.

In the process of adopting the Charter the Netherlands undertook to apply the provisions of Part II of the Charter to the following regional or non-territorial languages: Limburgish, Low Saxon, Yiddish and the languages of the Romani. The provisions of the Charter entered into force in the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 1 March 1998. Within the Kingdom the European Charter applies only to the European part of the Netherlands.

The Netherlands has undertaken, in accordance with the provisions of article 2, paragraph 2 of the Charter, to apply a minimum of 35 paragraphs or sub-paragraphs chosen from among the provisions of Part III of the Charter to the Frisian language in the province of Fryslân. When adopting the Charter the Netherlands undertook to apply 48 provisions, selected in accordance with government policy on the Frisian language and culture.

The seventh report from the Netherlands has been drafted in collaboration with the provincial authorities of Fryslân, Groningen, Drenthe, Overijssel, Gelderland and Limburg and the municipalities of Weststellingwerf and Ooststellingwerf. In addition, in February 2021 the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations invited several language organisations, including DINGtiid, the advisory body on the Frisian language, to provide input for the report. A list of the organisations concerned with regional languages can be found at the end of this report.

This report is also being submitted to the House of Representatives of the States-General, and published online at www.rijksoverheid.nl.

The next part of the report outlines developments in connection with the regional and minority languages since the sixth report (submitted on 18 June 2019), up to the end of March 2021. The implementation of the Charter is then examined article by article for each language. Finally, a list of organisations concerned with the various languages has been included.

DEVELOPMENTS

Information provision and regional languages symposium

During the period under review the Netherlands took further steps to promote and strengthen the languages recognised under the Charter. A number of general developments are described in brief below.

Information on recognised languages

In 2020 central government made information on the recognised languages more broadly accessible. The website www.erkendetalen.nl offers information on all recognised languages in the Netherlands, as well as the answers to frequently asked questions. The site also lists the relevant legislation, administrative agreements and voluntary agreements pertaining to each language, and has links to documents on the languages shared with the House of Representatives. The possibility of providing the information on the site in the languages concerned is being explored.

Regional languages symposium

The second Regional Languages Symposium took place in Venlo in 2019. The goal of the symposium was to bring together experts in the various regionally based minority languages (Frisian, Limburgish and Low Saxon) to share knowledge and experiences. The main themes were attitudes to the language and language infrastructure. Three sessions on education, image and digital tools gave participants the opportunity to explore the subject of their choice in more breadth and depth. The afternoon programme included the signing of an administrative agreement on Limburgish. The authorities and language organisations involved greatly appreciated the event. The symposium was regarded as a good way of enabling speakers of the various recognised languages to connect and learn from each other. The Ministry of the Interior plans to organise a third Regional Languages Symposium in autumn 2021. The intention is to widen the scope of the symposium to the other recognized languages in the Netherlands.

Papiamentu

On 11 March 2021 the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (jointly on behalf of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education and Media, and the State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations) and island commissioner Nina den Heyer of the Public Body of Bonaire signed the administrative agreement on Papiamentu at an event in Bonaire.¹

The ambition behind this administrative agreement is that, by 2030, all children leaving primary school should not only speak the language but also read and write it. The establishment of a joint organisation to safeguard the quality of the language and culture of Papiamentu is also being explored. The signatories have also undertaken to ensure that civil servants posted to Bonaire have a better command of Papiamentu. The parties will explore a possible route for having Papiamentu recognised under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, also taking into consideration Papiamentu in the European part of the Netherlands.

¹ [Administrative agreement on Papiamentu in Bonaire \(in Dutch\), Rijksoverheid.nl](#)

LANGUAGES IN FOCUS

I. Frisian

Besides the authorities concerned, the following language organisations responded to the request for input from the Ministry of the Interior or Fryslân provincial authority: DINGtiid,² Fryske Akademy/Mercator, Association of Teachers of Living Languages – Frisian Section, Steatekomitee Frysk, Cedin, the Chair of Frisian Language and Literature at the University of Groningen, Jongfryske Mienskip, Ried fan de Fryske Beweging, Stifting Fryske Berne Opfang and Feriening Frysk ûnderwiis. Their input was included either directly or indirectly in the part of this report on the Frisian language. Generally speaking, the organisations' input concerned their own activities relating to Frisian, and their main priorities concerning the language. The advisory body on the Frisian language, DINGtiid, was asked to comment on the draft version of this report drawn up at the end of March. Jongfryske Mienskip chose to respond to the Dutch government's response to the sixth evaluation of the Committee of Experts, expressing criticism of the response and calling for the government to do more for the Frisian language and culture.³

Developments concerning Frisian

Frisian and Dutch are both official languages in the province of Fryslân. In 2019-2021 central government and the provincial authority took further steps to promote and strengthen the Frisian language in the various fields covered by the Charter, thus fulfilling the undertakings in the Administrative Agreement on the Frisian Language and Culture (*Bestjoersôfspraak Fryske Taal en Kultuer 2019-2023*, BFTK). Halfway through the term of the BFTK the House of Representatives and the provincial council will be informed about the implementation of the agreement. This report is expected to be ready towards the end of 2021. The Taalskipper Frysk ('Frisian language captain') role will also be evaluated in 2021.

Current issues associated with Frisian concern education, justice, communications and the visibility of the language. These issues are examined more closely below. Before turning to the implementation of parts II and III of the Charter, we will first briefly outline the current situation as regards Frisian.

Frisian in focus

In 2020 Fryslân provincial authority published a new edition of its survey of the state of the Frisian language (*Fryske Taalatlas*).⁴ The *Taalatlas* gives an idea of the command and use of Frisian by residents and public authorities, and in education and business. Residents were asked in a survey to what extent they are able to understand and use Frisian, and actually do so. All findings are self-reported. As in previous surveys, it was found that almost all residents of Fryslân understand the language (93.3%). The *Taalatlas* points out that the proportion indicating they understand Frisian well to very well (84.1%) has declined by one percentage point since the 2015 survey. The same applies to the proportion of Frisians who say they speak Frisian well or very well (down from 66.6% in 2015 to 64.1% in 2019). The proportion of people able to read Frisian has increased since 2007, and there was also a small increase in 2019. In the 2019 survey, 15.9% of respondents indicated that they could write Frisian well to very well, up from 14.5% in 2015 and 9.5% in 2007. The *Taalatlas*

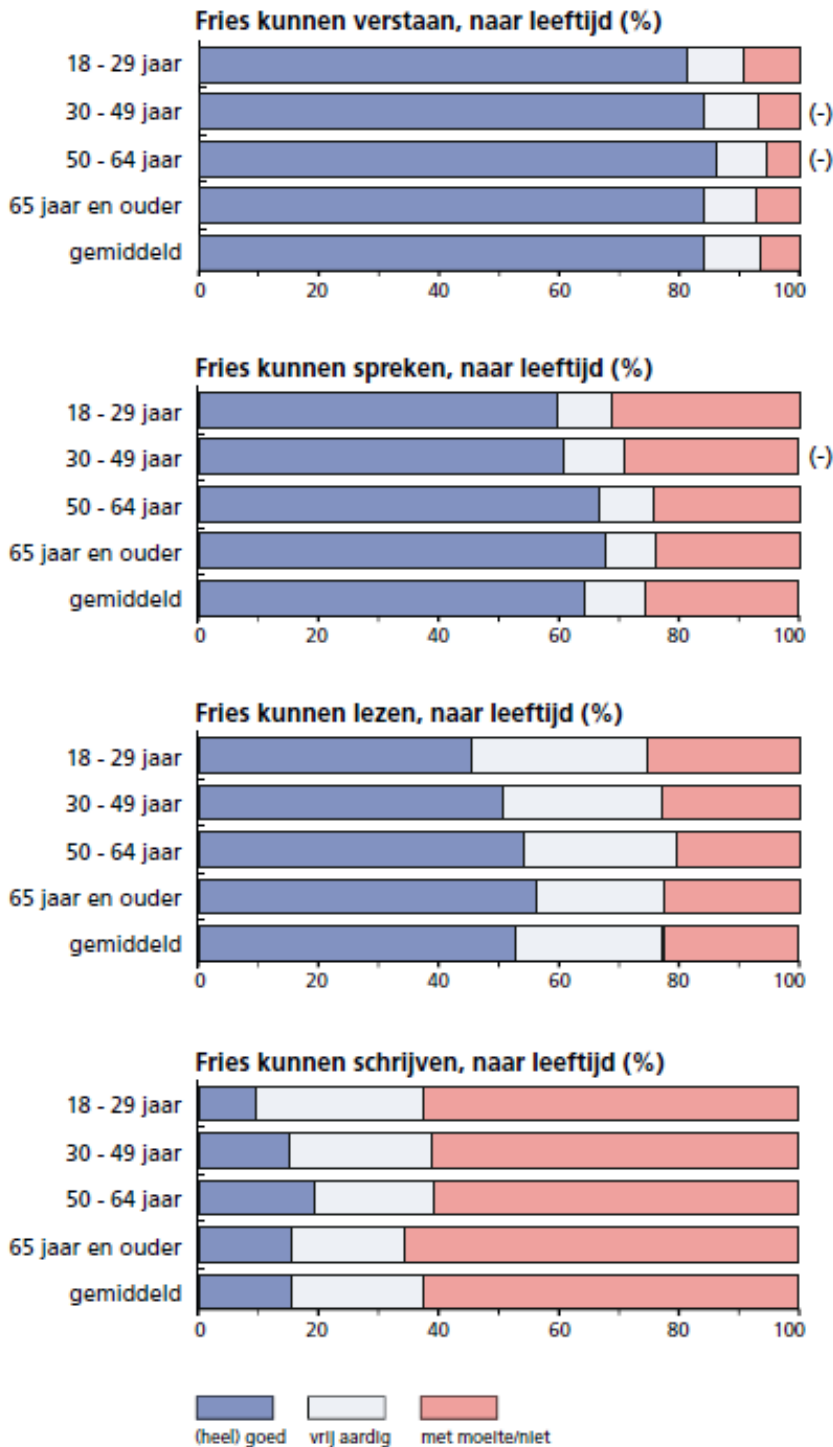
² [Advisory letter on the draft report on the European Charter \(in Dutch and Frisian\), DINGtiid](#)

³ <https://www.e-pages.dk/frieschdagblad/1596/article/1306692/24/3/render/?token=84a7ada732e4916de002339558e8c029>

⁴ <https://friesland.databank.nl/report/Taalatlas%202020%20%28Fries%29.pdf>

concludes that the proportion of Frisians able to read and write the language has increased slightly over the past 12 years. The proportion able to understand and speak Frisian has remained stable.

1.3 ■ Beheersingsniveau Fries in Fryslân (%) naar leeftijd



Command of Frisian: listening, speaking, reading, writing – by age. From: *De Fryske Taalatlas 2020 – Frisian in Focus*.⁵

⁵ [Text in image:]

Implementation of Part II of the Charter

Article 7.1.a recognition of the regional or minority language as an expression of cultural wealth

The sixth report discussed at length the Administrative Agreement on the Frisian Language and Culture.⁶ In mid-2021 central government and the provincial authority will submit to the House of Representatives and Fryslân provincial council an interim report informing them of the implementation of the BFTK. DINGtiid, the advisory body on the Frisian language, will be involved in this evaluation of the agreement in its role as defined in the Use of Frisian Act (*Wet Gebruik Friese Taal*). In 2021 the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations will also commission an evaluation of the *Taalskipper* role, which Fryslân provincial authority undertook in 2017. These two reports will be shared with the House of Representatives, and made available online at www.rijksoverheid.nl.

Article 7.1.b ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language

On 1 January 2019 the Frisian municipalities of Dongeradeel, Ferwerderadiel and Kollumerland and Nieuwkruisland merged to form the municipality of Noardeast-Fryslân. Since then, there have been no boundary changes in the province of Fryslân, which now consists of 18 Frisian municipalities. A number of municipalities such as Noardeast-Fryslân and Dantumadiel do provide public services together as a single administrative unit. Weststellingwerf, Ooststellingwerf and Opsterland municipal councils also collaborate under an arrangement governed by private law, but they have not officially merged their public services. No boundary changes are planned in the near future that may constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the Frisian language. In 2019 Fryslân provincial authority launched a process of administrative reform whereby collaboration is becoming the norm, and in which the various authorities (municipal, Wetterskip (water authority) and provincial) intend to operate as a single entity.⁷

A Mercator study (October 2018) commissioned by DINGtiid revealed that Frisian language policy is more likely to be weakened than strengthened by municipal boundary changes.⁸ The study looked at the role of Frisian in the merger processes in four municipalities (Leeuwarden, Súdwest-Fryslân, Waadhoeke and Noardeast-Fryslân), where Frisian-speaking rural municipalities merged with more

1.3 Command of Frisian in Fryslân, by age

[headings:]

Ability to understand Frisian, by age (%)

Ability to speak Frisian, by age (%)

Ability to read Frisian, by age (%)

Ability to write Frisian, by age (%)

[ages on left]

aged 18-29

aged 30-49

aged 50-64

65 and over

average

[colour coding:]

blue: well/very well

white: reasonably well

pink: with difficulty/not at all

⁶ <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/convenanten/2018/11/30/bestjoersofspraak-fryske-taal-en-kultuer-2019-2023>

⁷ [Discussion paper on democratic renewal](#)

⁸ [De rol van het Frysk bij gemeentelijke herindelingen in Friesland \(The role of Frisian in municipal boundary changes in Fryslân\)](#), Mercator Research Centre (mercator-research.eu)

urban municipalities where Frisian plays a smaller role. All Frisian municipalities that are part of the Frisian language area now have a language policy plan and ordinance to strengthen the position of Frisian, as required under the Use of Frisian Act (2014). All administrators involved in the mergers also signed an administrative agreement on Frisian language policy. The provincial authority is monitoring the implementation of the agreements and will consider how to incorporate this in the existing framework for monitoring municipalities in the coming year.

Frisian may be used at hearings at all locations used by the Northern Netherlands District Court and the Arnhem-Leeuwarden Court of Appeal, provided the person wishing to use Frisian lives, resides or has their registered office in the province of Fryslân.

Article 7.1.c resolute action to promote Frisian

To promote Frisian, Fryslân provincial authority and central government have active policies designed to improve the visibility of the language, as well as to improve the quality of education in Frisian. The provincial authority uses the *Mei-inoar foar it Frysk* financial scheme to promote the use of Frisian and to make the language more visible at municipal level. In response to a 2019 report by DINGtiid, it has also launched talks with implementing organisations in the province on the use of Frisian. In 2021 the provincial authority started working on the basis of a vision for more visibility for Frisian within a bilingual province in 2030. The authority also attaches importance to setting a good example itself as regards decisions to use Frisian.

The House of Representatives and language organisations have recently raised questions about concentrating responsibility for the Frisian language and culture in a single ministry. The government does not believe it would be wise to make one ministry responsible for the different aspects of the Frisian language. Language does not exist in isolation. It is important that policy on Frisian is aligned with developments in, for example, education, culture, healthcare and the justice system. This requires such a level of expertise that it would not be desirable to concentrate responsibility for the Frisian language and culture in a single ministry. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations coordinates the efforts of other ministries in The Hague, and is the first point of contact on the Frisian language both for the ministries concerned and for the provincial authority. The ministries all retain their own responsibilities. The Ministry of the Interior is of course also responsible for helping to implement the BFTK, in so far as the arrangements agreed lie within its area of responsibility. In its advisory letter DINGtiid indicated its endorsement of this position.

In December 2020 the House of Representatives adopted a motion asking the government to enter into an agreement with the provincial authority to enhance the visibility of Frisian. The agreement would be additional to the Administrative Agreement on the Frisian Language and Culture, which also includes arrangements for the visibility of the language. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is currently discussing the substance of the agreement with Fryslân provincial authority. Several organisations concerned with the language have also expressed a desire for Frisian to become more visible.

Over the period in question, Fryslân provincial authority and the Ministry of the Interior have made joint efforts to promote Frisian, in response to signals from the province. During the coronavirus pandemic, a brochure on the new organ donor legislation and register published by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport was translated into Frisian, as were the national coronavirus tracing app and the associated website. As a result, a central government app is now available in both Dutch and Frisian. The organ donor register brochure was distributed both physically and online to all hospitals and GPs in the province of Fryslân. These actions were taken in close consultation with the provincial authority which, along with several organisations involved with the Frisian language, has expressed a

desire for public information to be provided in Frisian on a more structural basis. This will be discussed further in connection with the agreement between the provincial authority and the government on the visibility of the language.

Article 7.1.d facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of the language, in speech and writing, in public life (e.g. education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life and/or cross-border exchange) and private life

The passage on article 7.1.c considers how central government and Fryslân provincial authority work together to make use of Frisian more visible.

As regards making the language more visible in cultural activities, it should be noted that Fryslân provincial authority has established a *Taalproductiehuis* (language production team) in association with Leeuwarden UNESCO City of Literature, as set out in its new Nij Poadium policy document.⁹ The new organisation experiments with the broadest possible range of literary expression in all languages, with a particular focus on Frisian.

To encourage the use of Frisian in economic life, in 2020 Fryslân provincial authority commissioned a study of the economic benefits of the language. Although it is difficult to indicate the specific economic benefit of the use of a language, the study set out to offer potential options for encouraging companies and organisations to use Frisian as a matter of course. The provincial authority will set about implementing the recommendations in the study in the course of 2021. The coronavirus pandemic is causing some delays at this juncture.

Although, as an active partner of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD), Fryslân provincial authority made active efforts in 2019 to establish an exchange programme for young people to promote positive use of Frisian, developments associated with the pandemic have delayed the project. The European Charter Classroom Activities (ECCA) project (www.thisismylanguage.eu), which is co-funded by the NPLD, has not only developed a lesson on the European Charter, but had also planned to launch a youth exchange programme in five NPLD regions to highlight in a positive way the idea of ‘push your boundaries with your own language’. If possible, it will do so with a new group of young people at a later date.

Article 7.1.e maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language [...]; establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages

The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations organised symposiums in 2017 and 2019 to bring together speakers of the recognised languages. It plans to organise another such symposium in 2021, possibly in the province of Fryslân.

In 2019 Fryslân provincial authority organised a *Fryslân dei* (‘Fryslân Day’) in Brussels. Representatives of other European language regions joined in the celebration of the diversity of language with music, poetry and lectures. The King’s Commissioner in the province of Fryslân attended, as well as representatives of the Council of Europe and officials representing the Dutch government.

⁹ Nij Poadium

Article 7.1.f provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages

Language promotion institute Afûk has developed several online learning programmes over the past few years in collaboration with Cedin, with financial support from Fryslân provincial authority. *Spoar 8* is now used to teach Frisian in primary schools, and *Searje 36* is used in secondary schools. Any additions to learning packages are integrated as far as possible, as is also the case with the lessons developed for the ECCA project described above. In 2019 the Inspectorate of Education concluded that schools have gained access to better teaching material in recent years. In response to its 2010 report (*'Tussen wens en werkelijkheid'*), teaching material had been developed that allowed differences in students' skills to be taken into account. Tests were also developed to enable their language development to be monitored. A wide range of in-service training and support for teachers was also made available, much of it free of charge. Nevertheless, the same report concluded that there is not enough high-quality teaching of Frisian in schools. Teachers in primary schools, in particular, could use the material more effectively and more frequently, the Inspectorate concluded.¹⁰

There have been no changes as regards Frisian in childcare since the sixth periodical report. Dutch is the official language used in childcare in the Netherlands. Where Frisian or a regional language is spoken in addition to Dutch, Frisian or the regional language may also be used at daycare centres. Childcare providers are obliged to use at least Dutch (article 1.55 paragraph 1).

Childcare centres, childminders, playgroups and early years education providers are generally commercial operations. Unlike primary schools, they are not public services. The supply of Frisian daycare depends on demand, and the preferences of parents. It would not therefore be logical for the national or local authorities to intervene on this matter. Childcare organisations are of course free to cater for growing demand for daycare centres where Frisian is spoken alongside Dutch. Furthermore, parents are not obliged to send their children to early years education or childcare. The number of children actually using pre-school provision can therefore fluctuate sharply.

Demographic trends also play a key role here. In the province of Fryslân the population is shrinking overall. Childcare and early years education providers are the first to notice this, and the trend is leading to mergers and closures. Over the past few years, however, several local and regional childcare providers have made progress on the provision of bilingual childcare in towns and larger (predominantly Dutch-speaking) population centres in the province of Fryslân, in collaboration with the SFBO (the centre for Frisian-language childcare provision). However, the SFBO has indicated that the supply is still unable to meet the needs of the children growing up there. What is more, in larger population centres, the services are not equally accessible to all parents. Municipal authorities could play a role here by drawing attention to the availability and spread of bilingual childcare in the agreements they make with providers.

Developments in education are examined further in the section on article 8.

Article 7.1.g provision of facilities enabling non-speakers (including adults) of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire

There are various Frisian courses for adults at language promotion institute Afûk. The University of Groningen (RUG) has developed a highly successful Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for Frisian, and is able to provide bespoke Frisian courses on request.¹¹ After consultation with the Welsh

¹⁰ [Goed onderwijs Fries aanbieden blijft lastig | News item | Inspectorate of Education \(onderwijsinspectie.nl\)](#)

¹¹ [Grut nijs! Frisian course starting at the Language Centre | News item | Language Centre | University of Groningen \(rug.nl\)](#)

government, Fryslân provincial authority is working on a Frisian version of the *Say something in Welsh* app, providing an easy way for adults who speak English or Dutch to learn Frisian.

Article 7.1.h promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions

The Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) report '*Nederlands verdient meer*' ('Dutch Deserves Better') was presented to the Minister of Education, Culture and Science in October 2019.¹² The report analyses the problems of the declining number of students studying Dutch, and suggests possible solutions. In response, professors of Frisian at Dutch universities pointed out that many of the problems and solutions described in the KNAW report also apply in full or almost in full to Frisian.¹³ In light of this, they requested that any measures taken to improve the situation as regards Dutch also be applied to Frisian.

Frisian is offered in the form of minors and tracks at university. Students taking a Bachelor's degree in *Multilingualism and Minorities* at the University of Groningen (RUG) may choose Frisian as a specialisation. It was decided that Frisian should become part of this degree programme because of the threat of cuts to the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in the Frisian language and culture in 2012/13. Central government and Fryslân provincial authority made a one-off multi-year grant available in order to boost Frisian when the degree course was revamped. After the overhaul, in 2018/2019 work started on redesigning the modules specifically focused on Frisian. The goal was to find more opportunities for closer collaboration within the entire Frisian knowledge infrastructure, for further internationalisation of the language courses on offer, and for better use of online resources to make Groningen's courses more widely available both in the Netherlands and abroad. A good start has been made on these plans between 2018 and 2021. A Frisian as a Foreign Language course has been designed for international students, and the advanced language courses for have been redesigned and made available online. Furthermore, in 2019-2021 an international pilot project involving a course on the history of Frisian took place, in collaboration with Oxford University.

The number of students that take a specialisation or minor in Frisian is small, but it is not falling sharply, as is the case with the number choosing to study Dutch language and literature. Nevertheless, it is important that the current opportunities for studying Frisian be preserved. A national consultative committee exists for the humanities to discuss any plans to abolish a unique degree programme or specialisation within a programme, including Frisian, and a range of parties make recommendations, which carry great weight. However, under education law universities are free to decide what degree programmes they offer, taking developments in society (on the labour market, for example) into consideration. Final responsibility therefore lies with the institution's Executive Board.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science would like to explore ways of making Frisian more attractive to current and future students. The faculties concerned have therefore been asked to come up with concrete activities to expand the courses and make them more attractive by summer 2021, so that the first changes can be introduced as of the 2022/2023 academic year. The faculties are now engaged in a collaborative project looking at collaboration between Bachelor's degree courses in the five language fields (Dutch, Frisian, English, French and German), including blended and online forms of learning. In the project, the faculties may submit joint proposals for collaboration at course level, in order to make better use of the available expertise. Pilot projects will be launched in the coming academic year, 2021-2022.

¹² [Nederlands verdient meer \('Dutch Deserves Better'\)](#), KNAW and [the response of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science](#)

¹³ [Response to parliamentary questions on the open letter submitted by professors of Frisian and the KNAW report \(in Dutch\)](#)

In 2019 and 2020 the advisory body DINGtiid ran a consultative process on the knowledge infrastructure for Frisian. The results were presented to Fryslân provincial authority and shared with central government in December 2020. DINGtiid concluded that there is a lack of dynamism in the knowledge sector, and that there is a need for more focus and direction, stronger connections and collaboration, and more recruitment and promotion of talented staff. Its main recommendations for improving the situation were: 1) encourage the establishment of a 'kennisberie' (knowledge board) that would allow Frisian knowledge partners to organise, with its basis consolidated in the BFTK, and 2) consolidate a strong, visible university Frisian language and culture discipline as a vital factor for maintaining Frisian as a viable language. The report was based on individual and round-table discussions with education administrators and professionals, and on insights gained during a DINGtiid working visit to Galicia in 2020.

Article 7.1.i promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages

Until 1 December 2020 the European Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) was chaired by the member from Fryslân provincial executive. The network takes joint action wherever possible in the fields covered by the Charter. One special project that unfortunately could not be fully implemented due to the coronavirus pandemic was the NPLD-cofunded project European Charter Classroom Activities (ECCA) (www.thisismylanguage.eu). Despite the pandemic, however, this project was highlighted as an example of best practice in the field of education during a webinar organised by the School Education Gateway (European Commission).¹⁴

Fryslân provincial authority is working with four other NPLD regions on this project to raise young people's awareness of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. They have set up an exchange programme for students and teachers, in order to focus positive attention on the language, with the slogan 'Push your boundaries with your own language'. Although the exchange programme has been unable to come into action as yet, classroom activities on the Charter have taken place in several regions, including the Frisian language region. The kickoff event in Brussels towards the end of 2019, before the pandemic, was attended by a representative of the Council of Europe.

Staff of Fryslân provincial authority paid a working visit to the authorities in Luxembourg in 2020. Frisian administrators and representatives of advisory body DINGtiid, led by the King's Commissioner and the member of the provincial executive with responsibility for the Frisian language, took the opportunity to find out about the multilingual situation in Luxembourg. As soon as possible, plans may also be made for a return visit to the province of Fryslân.

In 2021 Fryslân provincial authority will further explore the possibilities for profiling Frisian internationally through exchanges, in consultation with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Article 7.2 eliminate [...] any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language

The reporting centre Meldpunt Frysk launched by the provincial authority in May 2020 has received 50 reports, ranging from the occasional compliment or anti-Frisian view to comments and requests concerning failure to use Frisian by the authorities (in announcements, brochures, forms), media, educational establishments, other public bodies (lack of visibility) and tech companies (Wikipedia, Facebook etc.).

¹⁴ The ECCA project, featured as best practice at EU level : NPLD – Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity

The provincial authority works with Tûmba, a centre of expertise on discrimination, diversity and equality in Leeuwarden, when responding to reports that are regarded as discriminatory. The reports received to date have led, among other things, to the fine-tuning of internal language policy at Fryslân provincial authority, and a greater focus on the use of Frisian in multilingual central government communications (on coronavirus measures, organ donation).

Article 7.3 promote [...] mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training [...] and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective

Initial contact has been made between the province of Fryslân and linguistic groups such as Sranan speakers in Suriname and Papiamentu speakers in Bonaire. Frisian ties with speakers of Sranan, for example, go back to the 1950s, when Suriname was still part of the Netherlands. In accordance with arrangements in the international chapter of the BFTK, over the course of this year the provincial authority will consider how those concerned might mutually reinforce each other by taking joint action to increase tolerance for the use of minority languages.

In 2019 Leeuwarden was awarded the title UNESCO City of Literature. A programme funded by Fryslân provincial authority and Leeuwarden city council was launched in 2020, in collaboration with the creative team behind City of Literature. The title is intended to stimulate the literary climate in Leeuwarden and Fryslân. The main focus is on Frisian, though multilingualism in a broader sense is a core value. The main ingredients of the programme are a creative writing programme, a writer-in-residence programme and a project to encourage reading. The programme will also seek collaboration with the world of Frisian literature in the province, and LF2028 (the legacy project of cultural capital 2018).

The Mercator Research Centre and the Department of Multilingualism and Literacy at NHL Stenden university of applied science are currently involved in several projects on multilingual education that focus on inclusion and tolerance in relation to Frisian and the languages spoken by migrants. These projects use a ‘translanguaging’ approach, whereby lessons incorporate children’s home language in a variety of ways. This increases the children’s self-confidence and changes both pupils’ and teachers’ attitudes to multilingualism and those who speak other languages.

To promote tolerance towards other languages spoken in the province (not only languages that originated in the Netherlands, but also languages such as Arabic and Indonesian), Fryslân has launched the ‘Pidgin’ project, as part of Explore the North. The aim of the project is to devise a new language with and for Leeuwarden. This language might potentially incorporate elements of languages like Papiamentu and Sranan, as well as Frisian.¹⁵

Article 7.4 take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages[...]; establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages

The advisory body on Frisian, DINGtiid, has performed this role since 2014. Since the previous report, DINGtiid has completed several consultative processes. In 2019 it initiated a consultative process on the knowledge infrastructure for Frisian, which was completed in late 2020; see also 7.1.h. At the request of central government, in 2019/2020 it conducted a case study on the use of Frisian by

¹⁵ [Pidgin Leeuwarden | Explore the North Festival 19 - 21 November 2021 \(explore-the-north.nl\)](#)

central government implementing bodies. On behalf of Fryslân provincial authority, in 2020 DINGtiid considered how to optimise conditions for inspecting Frisian in primary and secondary education. More information on DINGtiid's activities can be found in its 2019 and 2020 annual reports, and on its website: www.dingtiid.frl.

In March 2021 DINGtiid organised a series of small round-table discussions/expert meetings on the implementation of the BFTK 2019-2023, at the request of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and Fryslân provincial authority, to provide input for the interim report on the agreement. The last of these discussions took place in April 2021, and an advisory report on the BFTK will be submitted to the government and the provincial authority in May 2021.

Implementation of Part III of the Charter

Article 8 Education

Frisian in education is also considered in the section on article 7.1.f. The recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts from the sixth evaluation will be considered further here.

The position of Frisian in education is a matter of interest to all the organisations that responded to the request for input to this report. They have concerns about a number of issues, including exemptions from teaching Frisian, regulation by the Inspectorate of Education, teaching materials, whether Frisian receives sufficient attention in multilingual educational settings, the number of hours of Frisian taught in schools, the number of teachers qualified to teach Frisian, regeneration at academic level and students' competence in Frisian. These issues are also considered below.

Teaching of Frisian in schools¹⁶

Fryslân provincial authority and central government have adopted the common goal that all primary and secondary schools should offer all attainment targets for Frisian at a satisfactory level by 2030 at the latest. The level to be offered will be determined using the *Taalplan Frysk*¹⁷ ('Frisian Language Plan') on the basis of profiles. The aim is that all schools should take further steps every four years, so that they all actually teach Frisian at the required level by 2030. The achievement of this common goal will ensure a rise in the number of hours of teaching of and in Frisian in primary schools, and the number of secondary schools that offer Frisian. The provincial authority has also drafted goals for other levels of education (early years education, secondary vocational education, higher professional education and special education).

In 2016-2018 the *Taalplan Frysk* project performed an initial survey of how Frisian is taught in primary and secondary schools in Fryslân. The provincial authority assigned each school a 'teaching profile' on this basis. Schools with an 'A profile' already offer Frisian at an adequate level according to the attainment targets; 27% of primary schools and 39% of secondary schools were assigned an A profile.

In October 2020 Fryslân provincial authority announced that at least 17 secondary schools and secondary vocational schools (MBOs) in the province had taught more hours of Frisian in the 2019/2020 academic year than the year before. They used a grant scheme set up by the provincial authority for the purpose, which enabled secondary schools to appoint Frisian teachers, for example.

To move further towards the 2030 goal, at the end of 2020 Fryslân provincial authority asked all education-related institutions receiving grants in the current financial year to draft and implement a joint plan to achieve the targets over the next policy period, 2021-2024. As a result, Cedin, Afûk, NHL Stenden university of applied science, Stifting Frysktalige Berne Opfang, Omrop Fryslân, Kunstwurk and SEMKO are currently working in a more focused way to help schools offer Frisian to their students. They are taking a realistic approach, bearing in mind the context in which each specific school operates. The plan is focused on the policy objectives of central government and the provincial authority. In four years' time, each school must have gone up at least one level in terms of its *Taalplan Frysk* profile. The deadline for the eventual goal remains 2030, though this may be accelerated slightly by the new approach the provincial authority has now adopted. However, the extent to which this acceleration occurs does depend on extra financial resources to boost efforts.

¹⁶ By way of example, the number of hours of Frisian language and culture taught at the Drachtster Lyceum (a secondary school with an A profile) is as follows: first year (9 classes, 230 pupils): 1 period per week; pre-final year (23 pupils): 3 periods per week; final year (14 pupils): 3 periods per week. One period is 50 minutes.

¹⁷ [Wat is Taalplan Frysk 2030? – Taalplan Frysk 2030](#)

The Chair of Frisian language and literature has highlighted the importance of literacy in passing on Frisian to future generations, and the fact that education curriculums must therefore devote sufficient attention to this.¹⁸ To be awarded the A profile described above, schools must offer attainment targets for Frisian that focus on attitude, listening and reading comprehension, reading and speaking skills, language awareness and writing skills. The eventual goal of *Taalplan Frysk* is that by 2030 all schools in the Frisian language area¹⁹ should offer Frisian at an adequate level (A profile), and not focus exclusively on oral use of Frisian.²⁰

There are concerns in the Frisian language field about the number of students taking Frisian as part of their school leaving examinations. Though numbers are rising gradually, they remain low. Afûk, Omrop Fryslân and SJB media have therefore launched a campaign to inspire secondary school pupils to take final exams in Frisian, the goal being that 25% of pupils do so by 2024.²¹

As of 2009, attainment targets for Frisian are also adopted by order in council for special education. In contrast to regular primary education, Frisian is not a mandatory subject in special education. Any Frisian taught in special schools must meet the requirements as set out in the Attainment Targets (Expertise Centres Act) Decree.²² Even though these schools have no statutory obligation, they may make use of support and Frisian teaching materials specially designed for the target group. They are also eligible for the financial resources made available by the provincial authority as part of the *Frysk foar No en Letter* (FFNEL) scheme.²³

Qualified Frisian teachers

The Inspectorate of Education, and several organisations involved with Frisian, have indicated that the lack of suitable teachers is the greatest challenge for Frisian. In primary schools, not all teachers are qualified and competent to teach Frisian. Frisian is too small a subject in secondary schools, and many have only one Frisian teacher and in the event of illness lessons are therefore cancelled. The inspectorate advises school boards to take on more qualified teachers.²⁴ The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has suggested that Frisian teachers serving more than one school might be a possible solution.

Fryslân's primary schools in particular also face a general shortage of teachers. By 2025, this shortage could amount to 35 FTEs across the province of Fryslân, a study of the education labour market has suggested. To tackle the specific shortage of Frisian teachers in primary and secondary schools, the provincial authority will, among other things, seek to attract more students to train as Frisian teachers at NHL Stenden Leeuwarden, where a pilot project has been launched allowing students to graduate with teaching qualifications in both Dutch and Frisian. The first three graduated in 2020. As of 2021 NHL Stenden is offering a new Frisian course for teachers. It has developed the 'Klasse Frysk "WOW Frysk!"' course, in collaboration with educational support service Cedin, and with funding from Fryslân provincial authority. The course gives primary teachers qualified to teach Frisian practical tips on how to plan Frisian lessons. Extra courses have now been scheduled to meet demand.

¹⁸ Literacy need not only be taught in schools. The design and distribution of digital learning tools for writing, such as spellcheckers and predictive text tools, can also play an important role. Digital tools have been developed with the support of the provincial authority and other parties. They include the Frisian spellchecker for Microsoft, Swiftkey and Gboard for mobile phones, and the online dictionary [Taalweb.frl](http://taalweb.frl). See also: Other tools (in Dutch)» [Afûk \(afuk.frl\)](http://afuk.frl).

¹⁹ All Frisian municipalities, with the exception of the Frisian Islands and the municipality of Weststellingwerf.

²⁰ http://taalplan.frl/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/PDF_FRL-DEF.pdf.

²¹ [Kampanje om mear learlingen foar eksamen Frysk te krijen | Omrop Fryslân \(omropfryslan.nl\)](https://www.omropfryslan.nl/kampanje-om-mear-learlingen-foar-eksamen-frysk-te-krijen)

²² Attainment Targets (Expertise Centres) Act – BWBR0025979 (overheid.nl).

²³ [3,2 miljoen beschikbaar voor verbeteren Friestalig onderwijs | News item | Provincie Fryslân](https://www.provincie.frl/nieuws/3-2-miljoen-beschikbaar-voor-verbeteren-friestalig-onderwijs)

²⁴ [Sizzen is neat, maar dwaan is in ding. Fries in het primair en voortgezet onderwijs | Thematic report | Rijksoverheid.nl](https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/sizzen-is-neat-maar-dwaan-is-in-ding)

In addition, over the past year the education ministers, together with the education sector, have set up a national task force to boost efforts to tackle the general shortage of teachers. It is important that teacher training courses are better tailored to the needs of the target group, and that teachers themselves are also more involved in these efforts.²⁵ As of the policy period 2021-2024 Fryslân provincial authority has made it easier for students to train as grade one or two Frisian teachers by providing NHL Stenden with a grant. This funding has been used both to make the range of courses offered more attractive (including by allowing combination with primary teacher training) and to introduce a grant scheme that enables working teachers to obtain a teaching qualification for Frisian.

Teaching on the Frisian language and culture

A small proportion of the digital teaching material for Frisian developed by language promotion organisation Afûk in collaboration with Cedin, with the support of Fryslân provincial authority, also covers the teaching of Frisian history and culture. This online material is available in Frisian. It is, however, very limited, and not designed specifically for history teachers. Furthermore, the 'Kanon fan de Fryske skiednis'²⁶ (canon of Frisian history) developed for the purpose in 2008 is now outdated, and is not always entirely suitable for use in today's online learning environments. A book for primary schools on Frisian history in Frisian was published in 2014.²⁷ Again, however, there is a lack of attractive physical or online teaching material in Frisian for use in history lessons at secondary schools in Fryslân. To continue putting the recommendation into practice and ensure that all pupils are offered lessons on history and culture in Frisian will require further action. This might initially involve surveying the potential for developing a Frisian scheme for teaching history with a focus on Frisian history in the ten historical periods covered, in addition to the national scheme. There are no teaching materials (online or otherwise) on Frisian culture and history for schools outside the province of Fryslân. Perhaps some of the material to be developed in the province could also be shared nationally, so that schools in the Netherlands as a whole can devote some attention to Frisian history and culture as a matter of common practice.²⁸

In 2020 the provincial authorities and the Creative Industries Fund NL awarded funding to 8D Games, Bureau Maalstroom, Tresoar, Afûk and Fers, to develop the multilingual *Fryske digiTales*, which from 2021 will provide a fun way to access an innovative library where users can discover traditional tales and heritage online. The project is designed for children aged 6 to 12, and comprises an extensive collection of additional teaching material on Frisian history to supplement the official syllabus. For the time being, it contains only three well-known Frisian folk tales. This project, therefore, does not yet ensure that teaching of Frisian history and culture (in Frisian) is available to all students.

Inspectorate of Education

Fryslân provincial authority and the Inspectorate of Education hold regular consultations at inter-authority and official level. Certain arrangements incorporated into the Administrative Agreement on the Frisian Language and Culture are designed to ensure that the Inspectorate monitors Frisian. It has, for example, been agreed that the Inspectorate will conduct a special survey of Frisian in primary and secondary education every five years.

The Inspectorate was also involved in a webinar on Frisian in education that took place in autumn 2020. Consultations at official and administrative level were held with all inspectors working in Fryslân. Official talks also took place concerning the specific situation of schools on the Frisian Islands. All of these consultations will continue on a frequent basis in 2021.

²⁵ [Task force om aanpak lerarentekort te verstevigen | News item | Rijksoverheid.nl](#)

²⁶ [Kanon fan de Fryske Skiednis \(11en30.nu\)](#)

²⁷ [Gewoan gek op skiednis, Erik Betten](#)

²⁸ One good example of a school offering Frisian language and culture to all students is the Drachtster Lyceum, where 'Frisian culture' has been offered as part of the subject 'art and culture' since the start of the 2020-2021 academic year. During the lessons, students explore the history of their own town or village in the province of Fryslân. The school plans to continue offering 'Frisian culture' as a standard part of its art and culture lessons.

During its four-yearly reviews of boards and schools, the Inspectorate considers if necessary how school boards monitor and enhance the quality of the teaching materials offered, including teaching materials for Frisian. If there are signs that the teaching offered has serious shortcomings, the Inspectorate may decide to perform a verification or risk assessment in schools to ascertain the quality of teaching in Frisian. In this connection, in December 2019 the Inspectorate issued a report entitled 'Sizzen is neat, mar dwaan is in ding. Fries in het primair en voortgezet onderwijs' ('Sizzen is neat, mar dwaan is in ding. Frisian in primary and secondary schools').²⁹ In the report, the Inspectorate of Education concludes that primary school governors feel no compulsion to make any efforts in support of Frisian. Half of the governors surveyed said they had 'no ambitions' to expand teaching in and of Frisian. Their main concerns are staff policy, school premises and mergers.

In February 2021 advisory body DINGtiid published a report commissioned by the Fryslân provincial authority, recommending what the monitoring of Frisian as a subject should focus on.³⁰ The provincial authority believes it should have this responsibility. DINGtiid, however, advises that the power to monitor Frisian as a subject in primary and secondary schools should remain in the hands of central government (and thus the Inspectorate of Education), and not be transferred to the provincial authority. DINGtiid concludes, on the basis of discussions with several stakeholders, that the trend in terms of monitoring Frisian in education is a positive one. Everyone prioritises the interests of Frisian, and wants to advance Frisian in schools. DINGtiid concludes that the existing official attribution of responsibility is good. Monitoring has improved in recent years, but to optimise it will take further improvements, on the part both of regulators and policymakers. This would not require any transfer of authority from the Inspectorate to the provincial authority.³¹

Higher education

Frisian in higher education is discussed in the section on article 7.1.h.

Article 9 Judicial authorities

Residents of Fryslân have the right to speak Frisian and submit documents in Frisian in cases heard by the Northern Netherlands District Court or the Arnhem-Leeuwarden Court of Appeal. This is provided for in the Use of Frisian Act. Residents of Fryslân may litigate in Frisian at all locations used by the district court (Leeuwarden, Assen and Groningen) and by the court of appeal (Leeuwarden and elsewhere, including Arnhem and Zwolle).

Residents of Fryslân are welcome to use Frisian in cases heard by the Northern Netherlands District Court or the Arnhem-Leeuwarden Court of Appeal. In principle, cases involving residents of the province of Fryslân are dealt with in Leeuwarden, although some types of administrative law cases constitute an exception. However, a specific local association can mean that these cases, too, are heard in Leeuwarden. In accordance with section 15, subsection 2 of the Use of Frisian Act, suspects, parties, witnesses and interested parties will be reminded in correspondence of their right to speak Frisian at the hearing if they live, reside or have their registered office in the province of Fryslân. Court buildings in Leeuwarden also have signs inviting residents to speak Frisian. Information on the use of Frisian in judicial matters is also available on the court's website.³² Prior to the pandemic, the right to use Frisian in court proceedings was also discussed during school visits to the court in Leeuwarden.

²⁹ [Sizzen is neat, mar dwaan is in ding. Fries in het primair en voortgezet onderwijs | Thematic report | Inspectorate of Education \(onderwijsinspectie.nl\)](#)

³⁰ [DINGtiid – advisory body on the Frisian language](#)

³¹ [Advys skoalynspeksje Frysk: besteande rolferdieling is goed - DINGtiid](#)

³² [Use of Frisian in judicial matters \(in Dutch\) | Arnhem-Leeuwarden Court of Appeal | Rechtspraak.nl](#)

In 2020 Fryslân provincial authority held out the promise of an end to the shortage of Frisian interpreters in the judicial system. The resources that the authority has made available will allow several interpreters to be trained. As a result, there are now two sworn Frisian interpreters. The availability of several Frisian interpreters should help hearings at which Frisian is spoken to be scheduled more quickly, and it is also expected to encourage more residents of Fryslân to speak Frisian in court.

To offer further encouragement, Fryslân provincial authority will also take steps to raise public awareness of the right to conduct legal proceedings in Frisian (both spoken and written).

The district court and court of appeal require their staff to have a passive knowledge of Frisian, or be prepared to learn the language. To improve staff knowledge of Frisian, both courts organise regular Frisian courses for their employees. If staff have a command of Frisian, the need to use the services of an interpreter will be reduced.

Fred van der Winkel was appointed president of the Northern Netherlands District Court with effect from 1 December 2020. In his previous role as president of the Arnhem-Leeuwarden Court of Appeal, he liaised with the King's Commissioner in Fryslân on the use of Frisian in the judicial system. In 2021, as stated in the BFTK 2019-2023, the provincial authority will initiate talks with the Northern Netherlands District Court and the Arnhem-Leeuwarden Court of Appeal on the use of Frisian in the judicial system.

Article 10 Administrative authorities and public services

The provincial authority organises the inter-authority discussions *Mei-inoar foar it Frysk* for Frisian municipal authorities involved in implementing the Use of Frisian Act. In 2020 Frisian administrators and representatives of advisory body DINGtiid paid a working visit, led by the King's Commissioner, to the authorities in Luxembourg to learn about ways of making their own language visible. Work also continued on the drafting of a joint long-term agenda for Frisian. The provincial authority has planned talks with all municipal authorities in spring 2021 to agree what they will do over the coming years to ensure they use Frisian at least 25% more than presently. This might take the form of an increase in the number of letters and municipal notices drafted in Frisian, the use of Frisian on the municipal website, a focus on command of Frisian in recruitment, a focus on the municipal authority's role in shaping early years education using both Frisian and Dutch, the introduction of Frisian or multilingual signs in order to make Frisian more visible, or language courses for municipal officials and public-facing staff.

At the start of 2021 the provincial authority itself published its internal policy plan '*Fanselssprekkend Frysk*', which includes the goal that by 2030 90% of staff with direct contact with the public should be able to speak and write Frisian. Vacancy notices will include a standard requirement that applicants have a positive attitude to Frisian. New staff will take a language test and, if necessary, be offered a language course.³³ According to the language ordinance drafted by the provincial authority in 2014, the authority will at any rate draft the provincial budget, accounts and policy documents in Frisian.³⁴ Its goal will be for all information issued in the form of flyers and on social media and in campaigns to be bilingual by default. This information is currently often only in Dutch, as the Dutch versions reach more people. The provincial authority also intends that residents should be able to indicate that they only wish to receive correspondence from the authority in Frisian.³⁵

³³ [Provincie wil Fries zichtbaarder maken \(e-pages.dk\)](#) Zichtbaar Fries voor stimuleren taalgebruik - News item - Provincie Fryslân

³⁴ [Feroarderling oangeande it brûken fan de Fryske en de Nederlânske taal mei en troch de bestoersorganen fan de provinsje Fryslân \(overheid.nl\)](#)

³⁵ [Provincie wil Fries zichtbaarder maken \(e-pages.dk\)](#)

In 2018 the Mercator Research Centre performed a study on behalf of DINGtiid on the role of Frisian in municipal boundary changes in Fryslân (Schukking & Klinkenberg 2018).³⁶ It found that boundary changes (up to 2018) had often led to compromises, and sometimes to a deterioration in Frisian language policy. Partly in response to the study, extra consideration has been given to language policy in more recent boundary changes. The new municipalities have for example adopted a new language policy that includes a focus on multilingualism in those municipalities. A study by Afûk and Partoer commissioned by DINGtiid has shown, however, that municipal authorities in Fryslân could do much more to promote Frisian both inside and outside their organisation. On 12 March 2020 DINGtiid held a 'DINGpetear' meeting at which academics and representatives of Frisian municipalities were able to discuss the issue. A follow-up was planned for January 2021, but had to be postponed until further notice because of the coronavirus restrictions.

All municipal authorities subject to the Use of Frisian Act have now fulfilled their statutory obligation to adopt a language plan. These language policy plans can be used to promote the use of Frisian within the municipalities. Some municipal authorities still need to flesh out their plans in order to actively implement them, however. The provincial authority's *Mei-inoar foar it Frysk* scheme will be extended and updated for this purpose. It will also be opened to semi-public authorities in the province, such as Wetterskip Fryslân, the safety region, the emergency control centre and subnational authorities like the Central Judicial Collection Agency (CJIB) and the Tax and Customs Administration.

In 2019 DINGtiid performed a case study at the request of the Ministry of the Interior on the use of Frisian at central government implementing organisations. The purpose was to obtain a clear idea of the role that Frisian plays within these organisations. It was found that staff of central government implementing organisations are aware of the Use of Frisian Act and the legal status of Frisian. Although the organisations concerned have no official language policy, and have no statutory obligation to draft one, they do use Frisian in daily practice. DINGtiid recommends that the organisations be encouraged to draw up guidelines for the use of Frisian, and points out that organisations like Afûk can help them do so. DINGtiid also recommends stepping up the focus on command of Frisian with courses and ways of establishing employees' language competence. In its role as *Taalskipper* Fryslân provincial authority has discussed DINGtiid's recommendations with representatives of central government implementing organisations. It should be noted that these organisations are independent, and enjoy full discretion when it comes to their own internal operations.

Article 11 Media

In recent years national public broadcaster NOS and regional broadcasters have increasingly worked together, initially mainly online and in the television news broadcasts at 12.00 and 15.00. Since January 2021 NOS has been working even more closely with local (NLPO) and regional public broadcasters (RPO) since NOS journalists have been posted with several regional and local broadcasting organisations, using funding from central government.³⁷ In turn, NOS regularly uses footage from the Frisian broadcasting organisation, increasing the frequency with which subtitled interviews with people speaking Frisian are seen on its national news programmes.

The three major Frisian media organisations – radio and TV broadcaster Omrop Fryslân, and the *Leeuwarder Courant* and *Friesch Dagblad* newspapers – are currently preparing a joint project

³⁶ Weryndieling Fryske Gemeenten, Mercator Research Centre– (mercator-research.eu)

³⁷ <https://nos.nl/artikel/2364537-nos-gaat-samenwerking-aan-met-lokale-en-regionaleomroepen.html>

application for 2021-2023. The application, to be submitted to the provincial authority, is for a work experience programme to teach new journalists the Frisian language, culture and identity. The parties involved have also looked into European grant opportunities for journalists who speak minority languages. However, no suitable scheme has so far been identified among the existing European Commission grant schemes.

In implementing their 2021-2024 plans for primary schools, in order to achieve the ambitions set out in *Taalplan Frysk 2030*, Omrop Fryslân developed a Frisian family vlog as a product for social media and television. The broadcaster hopes the vlog will link Frisian use at home and at school.

For some time now, Fryslân provincial authority has been casting its net wider than simply the traditional media described in the Charter. Several organisations have also stressed the importance of an accessible Frisian magazine. Alongside the funding of literary magazine *de Moanne, Ensafh* and a magazine for young people (LinKk), the provincial authority also promotes other innovative media products in Frisian, in so far as this is appropriate to its role as a public authority.³⁸ The Ried fan de Fryske Beweging has launched a Frisian-language magazine called *de Nije*. The organisation believes it is important to focus more on accessible material for ordinary readers, in order to make Frisian a functional language. The magazine is produced in an edition of 800-1000 copies, in line with current demand from the Frisian public.³⁹

The use of Frisian on social media and in podcasts is also important for the continued existence of the Frisian language.

Article 12 Cultural activities and facilities

In 2020 the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education and Media announced that from 2024 central government would withdraw from municipal programmes with Regional History Centres. In his response to questions from parliament concerning this matter, the minister indicated that this will not have any implications for agreements under the BFTK and the Charter, and that funding for Frisian history and literature centre Tresoar would be continued.⁴⁰

In the Explore the North project the provincial authority is working to establish a production company focusing on Frisian and multilingualism, building on the legacy of *Lân fan Taal*, and forging connections with City of Literature and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science's experimental schemes. As mentioned above, Leeuwarden City of Literature is a key element of efforts to strengthen the Frisian literature infrastructure. Preparations are for example being made to establish a Frisian *skriuwersskoalle* (school of creative writing), an international writer-in-residence programme, and a Frysk international project will be launched to promote reading and multilingual literacy, taking literature as its starting point. The City of Literature project is also doing a lot to make the Frisian language and literature more visible. In 2020 sets of cards with poems were distributed to food banks, and elderly people in care homes were also sent cards with Frisian poetry. By focusing on more accessible reading material, the provincial authority hopes to bring the language to a wider audience, not only making Frisian more visible, but also using it as a functional language. The Explore the North production company will associate the language with other art forms over the coming years, and profile the Frisian language on local, national and international platforms. Fryslân provincial authority also appoints a 'Dichter fan Fryslân' (Frisian poet laureate) every two years, as well as offering several funding schemes for Frisian literature.

³⁸ LinKk » LinKk, wat is dat?

³⁹ Glossy 'De Nije' gaat door ondanks geringe verkoop (frieschdagblad.nl)

⁴⁰ <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2020/06/25/antwoorden-op-de-schriftelijke-vragen-over-het-bericht-provinsje-tsjin-foarnimmen-minister-slob-om-tresoar-of-te-stjitten>

Article 13 Economic and social life

As indicated in the section on article 7.1.d, in 2020 Fryslân provincial authority commissioned a study of the economic benefits of the Frisian language, to encourage the use of Frisian in economic life.⁴¹ Although it is difficult to express the economic benefits of the use of a language in specific terms, the research did set out to provide some practical guidance as to how companies and organisations can be encouraged to use Frisian as a matter of course. The provincial authority will set about implementing the recommendations of this study in the course of 2021, after the coronavirus pandemic.

The key question addressed in the study was whether the use of Frisian in the workplace has any economic benefits. Does it give rise to a different approach, or is the company's location the determining factor? The outcomes highlighted strong regional differences. In some regions (Central and Northeast), Frisian has a much greater role in the workplace and in communication with customers than in others (Southwest, Southeast and Frisian Islands). Interestingly, there is still little use of Frisian in the hospitality sector. In regions where Frisian is strong, it can have benefits in economic life.

Over the past year language promotion organisation Afûk has encouraged use of Frisian in supermarkets. Eastermar – a village known for water sports tourism – now has an independent village supermarket that mainly uses Frisian. Previously, in 2019/2020, a pilot project to increase the visibility of Frisian was conducted with branches of nationwide supermarket chains, Albert Heijn in Damwâld and Dagwinkel in Nijbeets. Afûk drew inspiration for this project from German supermarket chain EDEKA in Ostfriesland (East Frisia), which uses bilingual signs in German and Ostfreesk (Eastern Frisian).

As regards the use of Frisian in the health and care sector, during the COVID-19 pandemic the provincial authority has worked with the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) and other organisations to develop a cartoon poster informing the public of coronavirus measures in Frisian and other regional languages. It was widely distributed throughout the province. The provincial authority also sent the poster to all trilingual schools in the province, so that material about the measures could be provided in Frisian in schools. The regional broadcaster, Omrop Fryslân, transmitted an advert publicising the measures.

The nationwide coronavirus app and website developed by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport were the first to be made available in Frisian, as well as English, German, French, Bulgarian, Romanian, Polish, Arabic, Turkish and Spanish. Information on the coronavirus vaccination campaign has been translated into Frisian. The simple version with pictures, for people with an intellectual disability (or people who do not have a good command of the language) has also been translated. A leaflet containing general information about coronavirus vaccination has been published in Frisian, and posted on the central government website. An advert promoting coronavirus vaccination, featuring Frisian football coach Foppe de Haan, has also been made available in Frisian. In addition, over the past year part of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport's campaign on the new organ donation legislation has been made available in Frisian. Fryslân provincial authority has distributed the material to GPs and hospitals throughout the province.

⁴¹ <https://eadvies.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/De-meerwaarde-van-het-Fries-in-het-economisch-verkeer.pdf>
<https://eadvies.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Bijlage-De-positie-van-het-Fries-in-het-economisch-verkeer-Frysk.pdf>

Like other hospitals in the Netherlands, Frisian hospitals sometimes encounter the problem of poor literacy (in Dutch and Frisian) when providing patient information. They therefore generally opt to provide the information in the form of an animation. These animated films are also available in Frisian. Afûk is investigating which technological applications are available and useful for Frisian. In order to attract positive attention to the language in the Frisian provincial capital's hospital, the 'language pavilion' artwork developed for Leeuwarden's year as Cultural Capital has now been given a permanent home at the MCL hospital in Leeuwarden.

In 2020, as part of the periodic Frisian in the health and care sector project, Afûk drew attention to Frisian in home care services and in community and district social care teams. A magazine was published containing real-life examples illustrating how the use of Frisian can have clear benefits. An online course has been developed for Frisian in the health and care sector – an e-learning course to help care workers understand Frisian, and explaining Frisian terms used in the health and care sector.

The Department of Multilingualism & Literacy at NHL Stenden university of applied science performed a study in 2019 on the position of Frisian and multilingualism in health and care training at higher professional level and in the field. The study found that language (particularly the mother tongue) is an aspect of the quality of care that is recognised by all education departments and representatives of practitioners, but which has been somewhat overlooked in curriculums. Efforts are now being made to remedy this situation, in collaboration with Afûk.

Fryslân sees itself increasingly as a language lab where two languages play important parallel roles. The Dutch-speaking part of the country could also learn from this in terms of understanding and working with multilingualism. One example of a study that could potentially enhance the social prestige of Frisian, too, is that being conducted by Evelyn Bosma and Naomi Nota, looking at how bilingual children in Fryslân read.⁴² It won an award presented by children's television programme Klokhuis in November 2020.

Article 14 Transfrontier exchanges

Several cross-border projects involving the province of Fryslân are discussed in detail in the sections on articles 7.1.e, 7.1.i and 7.3.

⁴² [Cognate facilitation in Frisian–Dutch bilingual children's sentence reading: An eye-tracking study - ScienceDirect](#)

II. Low Saxon

As well as the public authorities concerned, other bodies and language organisations responded to the request for input, including the following: SONT (the association of regional language institutes), IJsselacademie, the Low Saxon Section of the Association of Teachers of Living Languages, Huus van de Taol, Chair of Low Saxon, Groningen Language and Culture Centre, Erfgoedcentrum Achterhoek Liemers, Kreenk vuur de Twentse Sproak. The input provided was used both directly and indirectly for drafting the sections on Low Saxon below. Generally speaking, the organisations gave input on their own activities concerning Low Saxon, and indicated which points they believe require most attention.

Implementation of Part II of the Charter

Article 7.1.a recognition of the regional or minority language as an expression of cultural wealth

In 2018 the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom relations signed an administrative agreement on Low Saxon with the provincial authorities of Groningen, Drenthe, Overijssel, Gelderland and Fryslân and the municipal authorities of Weststellingwerf and Ooststellingwerf. A working conference on Low Saxon scheduled for autumn 2021 will consider in what ways the Low Saxon authorities can further reinforce each other's efforts in respect of the language.

The association of regional language institutes for the Low Saxon language area (SONT) observed that generally speaking the administrative agreement on Low Saxon had had a positive impact in society and among those who use the language. Low Saxon is now taken more seriously, and speakers feel more acknowledged and proud of their language. The media carry more – and more positive – reports about the regional language. More and more texts are also being published in the relevant variant of Low Saxon. At the same time, several organisations have noted that Low Saxon is still often regarded as a dialect of Dutch. A project by the Chair of Low Saxon should give more insight into the use of the language, and how speakers regard their dialect relative to Dutch. The organisations highlight the importance of a good 'market position' for Low Saxon. The Ministry of the Interior made €25,000 available under the administrative agreement on Low Saxon, which has been used to fund joint marketing and communication material used by the language organisations. This was coordinated by Overijssel History Centre.

Provincial and municipal authorities in the Low Saxon language area have included implementation activities for Low Saxon in their cultural policy documents. In some cases, considerably more funding has been made available, particularly in Gelderland province. Three municipal authorities in the Achterhoek region (Aalten, Oost-Gelre and Winterswijk) were inspired by the administrative agreement to compile their joint *Arfgoodnota* (Heritage Policy Document) in Low Saxon. A small number of political parties included Low Saxon in their election manifestoes for the parliamentary elections on 17 March 2021.

SONT also highlighted the fact that regional language organisations have reported growing interest in activities such as courses. The organisations are working together more (in the Low Saxon Steering Group) and engage in consultations with the coordinating Low Saxon authority, which is currently Weststellingwerf.

After the administrative agreement was signed, the Urk regional language institution and Bunschoten-Spakenburg historical society expressed an interest in becoming party to it. Low Saxon is spoken in both these municipalities. The partners in the agreement are currently engaged in negotiations with the two municipalities.

Article 7.1.b ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language

There are no plans for new administrative divisions that might constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the language. The provincial authorities consult on Low Saxon at official and inter-authority level. Several language organisations would like the consultations to be accelerated, particularly when it comes to joint programming and funding. The working conference in autumn 2021 will consider how the Low Saxon authorities can further reinforce each other. The implementing organisations formed a Low Saxon steering group in 2020.

Article 7.1.c resolute action to promote the language

Besides the administrative agreement on Low Saxon signed in 2018, the language is also specifically mentioned in the cultural policy documents and implementation programmes of the provincial authorities concerned:

- Gelderland: promotion of Low Saxon is defined as a policy goal in the memorandum setting out the principles of cultural and heritage policy (*Uitgangspuntennotitie Cultuur en Erfgoed (2021)*).⁴³ The Oost Achterhoek region has also drawn up a cultural heritage document in and about Achterhooks.⁴⁴
- Overijssel: efforts in support of the Low Saxon language and culture are included in the culture policy document 2021-2024; the provincial council meeting of 3 March 2021 was conducted in Low Saxon, as a unique example.⁴⁵
- Drenthe: efforts in support of Drèents and Low Saxon have been included in the culture policy document 2021-2024.⁴⁶ In late March a provincial council meeting was conducted in Drèents.
- Groningen: the promotion of Low Saxon has been included as a policy goal in the Implementation Programme 2021-2024.⁴⁷
- Fryslân: the province has a broad policy of multilingualism, which encompasses a large number of regional languages, including Stellingwarfs. This part of the province's language policy was reiterated in the Nij Poadium 2021-2024 memorandum on Art & Culture, Language & Education and Heritage.

March is *streektaelmaond* (regional language month), during which as many authorities as possible shine a spotlight on the Low Saxon language, using it in meetings, for example. Several organisations highlighted the importance of more coordinated efforts in support of Low Saxon (see also section on article 7.1.b). This will be a continued focus on this at the working conference in autumn 2021.

Article 7.1.d facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of the language, in speech and writing, in public life (e.g. education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, economic and social life and/or cross-border exchange) and private life

Several organisations pointed out that Low Saxon is rarely used in public life, and called for its promotion by the authorities. Many provincial authorities take part in the *streektaelmaond* (see also section on article 7.1.e). The organisations also believe the media have a role to play in supporting efforts. Overijssel provincial authority has commissioned a comparative study of opportunities to use

⁴³ [Uitgangspuntennotitie Cultuur en Erfgoed \(gelderland.nl\)](https://erfgoodnotagroningen.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/10/Arfgoodnota_Achterhooks-2021-2024.pdf)

⁴⁴ https://erfgoodnotagroningen.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/10/Arfgoodnota_Achterhooks-2021-2024.pdf

⁴⁵ [Cultuur - Provincie Overijssel](#)

⁴⁶ [Cultuurnota Drenthe 2021 – 2024: Cultuur om te delen - Provincie Drenthe](#)

⁴⁷ [Provincie Groningen Wij zijn cultuur 2021-2024 \(cultuurnotagroningen.nl\)](#)

Low Saxon.⁴⁸ It plans to share and explain the results during the working conference on Low Saxon, in the hope of giving authorities and organisations a better idea of the potential associated with Low Saxon's current recognised status.

The provincial authorities have a range of initiatives and grant schemes for Low Saxon. Drenthe provincial authority, for example, has included scope for funding for regional language in its culture policy document, and resources are available for joint Low Saxon projects. Fryslân provincial authority and Ooststellingwerf and Weststellingwerf municipal authorities have had a joint Stellingwarfs grant scheme for promotion of the language since 2020. Groningen provincial authority funds the intangible heritage support body Groningen Language and Culture Centre as part of its implementation programme. The institution has both an academic role and a public task. The promotion of Low Saxon is a goal of the grant scheme 2021-2024 and financial resources are available for Low Saxon cultural projects. Overijssel has a grant scheme entitled 'The Story of Overijssel' that focuses on intangible heritage, including Low Saxon.

As regards use of Frisian and other regional languages in the health and care sector, during the COVID-19 pandemic Fryslân worked with the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) and others to produce a cartoon poster featuring coronavirus measures in Frisian and in other dialects/regional languages. It has been distributed throughout Fryslân, Limburg and Overijssel in various languages and dialects by various regional language organisations.

There are also private initiatives focusing on Low Saxon. In 2020 Feestfabriek published a book of stories in Achterhooks.⁴⁹ Feestfabriek will use some of the profits to help preserve Achterhooks. The organisation is currently developing a series of lessons.

The Gelderland working conference scheduled for spring 2020 had to be cancelled in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Article 7.1.e maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language [...]; establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages

Regular inter-authority and official talks take place between Low Saxon authorities. The consultative body is currently being chaired by Weststellingwerf municipal council. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is invited to official talks if necessary.

The Ministry organised symposiums in 2017 and 2019 to bring together speakers of the recognised languages. It plans to do so again in 2021, possibly in the province of Fryslân.

The coordinating authority in the Low Saxon language area also holds regular talks with regional language organisations and SONT, the umbrella organisation of Low Saxon language institutes. SONT works with other Dutch institutions in the Europeesk Buro foar Lytse Talen (EBLT, European Bureau Small Languages). One product of their collaboration was a language day held in September 2019, at which both Frisian and Low Saxon poets performed.

Article 7.1.f provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages

⁴⁸ *Mangs wa, ait nich report*

⁴⁹ *Verhalenboek moet Achterhoeks stimuleren | REGIO8*

As indicated in previous reports, Dutch education law allows for the use of Low Saxon in education and childcare settings. Low Saxon is not included in the attainment targets in primary and secondary education. Schools may decide for themselves whether to offer Low Saxon. The provincial authorities concerned have no statutory responsibility for Low Saxon in education, though they are seeking ways of encouraging use of Low Saxon in education settings. The working conference on Low Saxon will explore ways for the Low Saxon authorities to meet needs that are beyond local and regional policy, but are nevertheless complementary and regarded as necessary. The language organisations are also keen to see more centralised collaboration.

A Low Saxon Section (*Levende Talen Nedersaksisch*) was established in 2019 as a part of the broad-based Association of Teachers of Living Languages (*Vereniging voor Leraren in Levende Talen*). The Low Saxon Section of the Association aims to promote teaching in and about Low Saxon; promote the development, distribution and exchange of suitable teaching material in and about Low Saxon; and promote and offer professionalisation activities for teachers regarding teaching in and about Low Saxon. In 2019 the Low Saxon Section organised a professionalisation seminar for teachers, at which 27 participating teachers were awarded a training certificate. The teachers came from primary and secondary schools, schools for secondary vocational education (MBO), and primary teacher training colleges. In 2021 the seminar will be spread over four half-days, in four different regions in the Low Saxon language area. This *Streektaalestafette* ('Regional Language Relay') will take place in the last week of October. The goal is to have 200 teachers participating from across the four regions.

The Low Saxon Section of the Association of Teachers of Living Languages also helps with the professionalisation of teachers by helping with broad-based training events and conferences for language teachers.

Primary schools

Several regional language organisations provide material for lessons in Low Saxon. The *Huus van de Taol* in Drenthe produces several study programmes, including *Wiesneus*, a teaching method for Low Saxon in primary schools which is available in Drèents and other variants of Low Saxon.⁵⁰ Fryslân provincial authority has granted schools in the Stellingwerf municipalities an exemption from offering Frisian in primary schools, if they teach Stellingwarfs instead. This occurs in *Heemkunde* lessons, which focus on the Stellingwarfs language and culture. Overijssel History Centre also provides teaching material (*Mijn Stad Mijn Dorp* – 'My Town, My Village').⁵¹ Agreements have also been made with the centre about a Low Saxon programme line bringing together projects and initiatives designed to integrate Low Saxon into all levels of education in Overijssel, from primary to higher. The Groningen Language and Culture Centre has developed materials for primary schools, which will be tested in 2021.

Secondary schools

Although legislation allows schools to offer Low Saxon as a subject, only one secondary school currently does so. The Groningen Language and Culture Centre is currently running a pilot project in Groningen, providing ten lessons of Gronings for secondary schools. The project is supported by the provincial authority. The goal is to offer the lessons from the 2021-2022 academic year. The IJsselacademie has published '*Jouw taal hoort bij jou*' (Bangma & Zwart 2017), a series of six lessons on language and attitude for students in pre-vocational secondary schools. This material is no longer being actively distributed, however.

Schools for secondary vocational education (MBO)

⁵⁰ www.wiesneus.nl

⁵¹ [Mijn Stad Mijn Dorp](#)

The IJsselacademie provides guest lessons at MBO schools in Overijssel. The plan is to expand the 'Regional Language in the Health and Care Sector' project into a broader set of material on citizenship. The first pilot project involving new materials for four of the MBO sectors is expected to be launched in 2021.

Universities of applied science

At universities of applied science, only teaching training courses incorporate Low Saxon. Several primary teaching training courses in the Low Saxon language area include Low Saxon.⁵² Teacher training courses for teachers of Dutch encompasses Low Saxon as part of general linguistics. The Low Saxon Section of the Association of Teachers of Living Languages provides limited professionalisation activities for teachers who wish to improve their skills in certain teaching methods for Low Saxon.

Article 7.1.g provision of facilities enabling non-speakers (including adults) of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire

The Low Saxon authorities support various initiatives by language organisations that enable adults to learn the language. In certain cases courses have not been able to take place lately because of the coronavirus situation.

The *Stellingwarver Schrieversronte* was awarded funding by Fryslân provincial authority and Ooststellingwerf and Weststellingwerf municipal authorities in 2020, alongside its annual municipal and provincial grants, to develop an online programme which people can use to learn Stellingwarfs.

In Gelderland the grant to Erfgoedcentrum Achterhoek Liemers, which promotes use of the regional language on behalf of the provincial authority and organises activities for this purpose, has been increased for the forthcoming policy period. This should allow it to better align its activities with language institutions elsewhere in the language area.

The new activity plan of Overijssel History Centre, which supports the regional language (and culture) on behalf of Overijssel provincial authority, includes initiatives to enhance easy (online) access to Low Saxon, to encourage use of the language among speakers and non-speakers.

In Drenthe *Huus van de Taol* and *Drèents Liedtiesfestival* receive financial support. *Huus van de Taol* promotes the use of the regional language through various activities, and provides knowledge and expertise. The *Drèents Liedtiesfestival* focuses on young people, and the use of regional language in music.

The Groningen Language and Culture Centre runs various projects and courses in Gronings. It also performs academic studies on the use of the language. These two strands of activity come together in various projects. One example is *Woordwark*, a kind of living online dictionary which allows the use of Gronings and developments in this regard to be monitored and studied.

Article 7.1.h promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions

⁵² Hanze primary teacher training course: one workshop in year 2 for all students on the academic primary teacher training programme; NHL Stenden primary teacher training course: regional languages and multilingualism offered in every year (by the Department of Multilingualism); Saxion: plans to schedule a recurring guest lecture in year 2 for all primary teacher training students.

In 2018 the University of Groningen appointed a professor of Low Saxon for a period of four years. It is not currently known what will happen after 2022. There is no teaching in or about Low Saxon at university level.

Higher education institutions are free to decide what they teach. In doing so, they work with various stakeholders. In higher professional education (HBO) each sector has its own sectoral advisory body, and the deans of university faculties of a particular discipline are members of the Discipline Consultative Body. These consultative bodies consider whether the study programmes on offer need to be reviewed and/or expanded. These matters are also discussed with staff working in the field. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science assesses the macro-efficiency of new higher education study programmes, in order to ensure that students are able to find work after graduation, and that the courses on offer meet the needs of the labour market, society and academic study.

Article 7.1.i promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages

Gelderland and Overijssel provincial authorities are working with the *Landschaftsverband Westfalen Lippe* (Münster) with the aim of coordinating culture and heritage policy, which might potentially include activities relating to the regional language (still under development).

Drenthe supports various projects designed to promote collaboration between Low Saxon partners in Drenthe and Germany. One example is a musicians' exchange programme between Drenthe and Germany, for the purpose of making music together.

Furthermore, SONT has had 'guest status' at the *Bundesrat für Nedderdütsch* in Hamburg since 2019. This body focuses on the application of the Charter by German Länder (regional states) covered by part III (such as Schleswig-Holstein) and by part II (Lower Saxony, for example). Low German and Low Saxon face similar issues, and SONT regards exchanges as useful. It has for example informed the *Bundesrat* about the nature and the impact of the administrative agreement on Low Saxon, and believes examples can be drawn from the approach taken in the state of Lower Saxony. One example is the *Niederdeutschsekretariat*, which oversees matters, raises issues at regional state level and is the first point of contact at national level.

Article 7.2 eliminate [...] any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language

When the language organisations for Low Saxon were asked for input, the Low Saxon Section of the Association of Teachers of Living Languages highlighted a distinction in reference to this article. This concerns an alleged distinction caused by the absence of any provision in law governing the use of Low Saxon in pre-vocational secondary education (VMBO). Although there is no explicit passage relating to this, there are no legal impediments to the use of Low Saxon in VMBO schools.

Article 7.3 promote [...] mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training [...] and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective

When the language organisations for Low Saxon were asked for input, they highlighted a report by the Dutch Language Union (*Taalunie*) on standard language and linguistic diversity in education ('*Standaardtaal en talige diversiteit in het onderwijs*'). One of the recommendations in the report is regarded as problematic for promotion of the use of regional languages. The Ministry of Education,

Culture and Science will look more closely at the report and the concerns of the language organisations.

Article 7.4 take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages[...]; establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages

As noted above, since 2020 the Low Saxon language organisations have been working together in the Low Saxon Steering Group. This body was set up by the regional language organisations themselves, on their own initiative, not on the instructions of local or national authorities.

III. Limburgish

Besides the authorities concerned, a number of language organisations and other bodies responded to the request for input, including *Raad veur 't Limburgs* (the Limburgish language council), *Veldeke Limburg*, the Limburgish Section of the National Association of Teachers of Living Languages, *De Nieuwste pabo* primary teacher training in Sittard, *Fontys School for Child Studies and Education* in Venlo, the Chair of Language Culture in Limburg at Maastricht University, the *Vereniging van Limburgse Bibliotheken* (Association of Limburg Libraries) and *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg* (Limburg arts council). At the request of a number of stakeholders, *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg* coordinated the input from these organisations. The input provided was used both directly and indirectly for drafting the sections on Limburgish. Generally speaking, the organisations gave input on their own activities concerning Limburgish, and indicated which points they believe require most attention.

Implementation of Part II of the Charter

Article 7.1.a recognition of the regional or minority language as an expression of cultural wealth

On 15 March 2019 Limburg provincial authority and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations hosted the *Taaltafel Limburgs* (Limburgish roundtable) at the ECI Cultuurfabriek in Roermond, at which a group of organisations and individuals concerned with Limburgish discussed the current status and the future of the language. The potential benefits of an administrative agreement on Limburgish were also discussed. The delegates regarded such an agreement above all as affirmation of the status of Limburgish as an integral language. Furthermore, the signing of such an agreement could emphasise the fact that the use of Limburgish in all areas of Limburg society is indisputable.

During the course of 2019 a process involving several organisations was launched, resulting in a proposal for a text that could be incorporated into the agreement. The Administrative Agreement on Limburgish was signed by the Minister of the Interior and the then provincial executive member Ger Koopmans on behalf of Limburg provincial authority on 6 November 2019, at a regional language symposium ('Spreek maar') organised by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The parties to the agreement will undertake efforts and work in collaboration to preserve Limburgish as a regional language in the Netherlands, promote its use and consolidate its status. A number of civil society organisations and education and language organisations in Limburg also signed the agreement, as a signal that they too intend to do their bit for Limburgish over the coming years. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and Limburg provincial council made a total of €50,000 available for Limburgish. The money is being used to develop educational material in Limburgish and was allocated on the basis of a competition. The implementation of the agreement and the competition are discussed in more detail below.

Article 7.1.b ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language

No change since previous report.

Article 7.1.c resolute action to promote the language

The *Raad veur 't Limburgs*, a committee that advises the Limburg provincial executive on matters related to Limburgish, has set out its views on future language policy and its own role in that policy in

a document entitled *'Toekomstig taalbeleid: de verduurzaming van het Limburgs'* ('Future language policy: making Limburgish more sustainable').

Strategy documents produced by the various language organisations and a survey of stakeholders have highlighted a pressing need for further professionalisation in the Limburgish language field. In 2020 Limburg provincial authority charged the *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg*, which plays a central role in overseeing processes related to Limburgish, with the task of identifying needs in the field. The idea was that these consultations should be held in various places in Limburg, but this was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Interviews were therefore conducted by telephone instead. The outcomes are described in an action plan entitled *Aon de geng* which was drafted by *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg* in close collaboration with stakeholder organisations.⁵³ The plan assumes that use of Limburgish will be normalised in all areas of society in Limburg. To achieve this, a number of specific actions are proposed and prioritised. The advice and recommendations of the Committee of Experts concerning Limburgish in the sixth report of the Council of Europe are also reflected in the priorities. Attention will initially be focused on children up to the age of 12. This means that Limburgish in childcare and education and associated services (midwifery, maternity care, mother and infant clinics, municipal health service, libraries and municipal authorities) will be given priority. In parallel to these efforts, Limburgish will be a continuous focus of attention in the media, communications and in public spaces, in order to bring the policy being pursued to the attention of a broader public.

Some of the actions in the plan were launched in 2020. The *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg* organised a competition on behalf of Limburg provincial authority for the budget made available by the authority and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The competition was launched in late November 2020, and a webinar was announced, which was broadcast live online on Tuesday 1 December for all interested parties, including creative makers, dialect fans, writers, educators, teachers, childcare organisations, libraries and anyone else with a good idea for promoting Limburgish among children up to the age of 12. By way of inspiration, examples of best practice from other language communities were presented. A total of 27 organisations with ideas for initiatives took part in the competition, and four winners were announced in March 2021. They were each awarded €12,500 to implement their project. The other 23 projects will be advertised throughout the language field by *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg*, in consultation with the organisations behind them, in the hope that more of them can be implemented through collaboration. As part of the competition, regional broadcaster L1 transmitted special programmes on television and radio focusing on the winning initiatives, and drawing attention to the importance of the regional language for children.

A brainstorming session was held with childcare organisation MIK & PIW Groep to identify need in relation to reading, singing and teaching material (digital or otherwise). The organisation then set about drawing up policy on the matter, the result of which is expected in 2021.

Veldeke Limburg, an association whose aim is to preserve and promote the use of Limburgish, launched a process in 2019 for the reorientation of its role and function as an organisation. The results of this process are set out in its strategy document, *Op waeg nao 'n laeve lank Limburgs*, which will provide the basis for the organisation's future policy.⁵⁴

Article 7.1.d facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of the language, in speech and writing, in public life (e.g. education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, economic and social life and/or cross-border exchange) and private life

⁵³ <https://www.veldeke.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Plan-van-aanpak-Limburgse-taal-2020-def.pdf>

⁵⁴ https://www.veldeke.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/VISIESTUK_VELDEKE_LIMBURG-def.pdf

Limburg provincial authority plays a role in encouraging more use of Limburgish in public life and in the media. Over the coming years it will work with parties in the field, with *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg* as its central partner, to professionalise, modernise and rejuvenate the Limburgish language field. This should allow it to focus effectively on partners, young people and the future of the language.

Limburgish in society

Limburgish enjoys broad support in Limburg society. During the period under review, organisations in the field organised many projects and activities involving the language. Many of these activities are carried out by highly engaged and enthusiastic volunteers – Limburgers with a passion for Limburgish. They often use their own financial resources, or rely on limited external funding. As a result of the COVID pandemic in 2020, most of the activities were of course concentrated in 2019. They included Festival Sjiem, a bilingual cultural festival organised in January 2019 by a large number of organisations collaborating in the *Taal- en Letterenplatform* (TaLeP, Language and Literature Platform). The festival was revamped in 2020 and renamed *Watbleef?!*, and included an online quiz. Other events in 2019 included song festival *De Nach van 't Limburgse Leed* (21 September), the provincial final of a recitation competition for primary pupils (25 May), *Dag van de Moedertaal* (Mother Tongue Day, 21 February) and a Limburg language quiz (8 October), which was organised by *Veldeke Limburg* and regional newspaper *De Limburger*. And as ever *Vastelaovend* (Carnival) focused a lot of attention on the language. An animated series entitled *Piepekoek* was developed in order to expose young children to Limburgish. Additional elements were added in 2019 and 2020, including games, short films and gadgets. In 2020 the organisation LIMx developed a podcast on Limburgish (*De Limburgse Taal &...*), using a grant from the provincial authority. The first episodes have now been released. A short book of children's stories in various Limburg dialects, *Verhölkes in ós Limburgs plat*, was published in 2020. It was offered free of charge to all libraries in Limburg, with the support of Cubiss (the provincial libraries' organisation) and the *Raad veur 't Limburgs*. The third and fourth editions of '*De honderd leukste Limburgse woorden en gezegdes*' featuring popular Limburgish words and phrases were also published. *Veldeke Limburg* published its yearbook in 2019 and 2020.

These activities show that the organisations concerned have increasingly worked together over the past two years. They have also expressed their common ambitions, as evidenced by the action plan. The process of assigning roles to the different organisations was therefore able to progress. Thanks in part to the process of drafting and signing the administrative agreement on Limburgish, the Limburg language field has become more united. Many volunteers in the field are currently also setting out their joint ambitions for the future, and organisations have highlighted a need for professional and financial support. In order to actually put their ambitions into effect, all parties need to pool their resources, and receive parallel support from the authorities. Limburg provincial authority's current heritage policy, which covers Limburgish, comes to an end in 2021. A new policy document will be adopted for the remaining two years (2022/2023) of this provincial council's term in office. Preparations for this began in 2020, and included the completion of the action plan *Oan de geng* by *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg*, as mentioned above. The provincial authority will describe in the policy document what role it believes it should play and how it can help with the achievement of the ambitions set out by the language field. This will be based on policy on the Limburgish language as pursued in the past few years, with due consideration of the ambitions expressed in the meantime.

Media and culture

A number of voluntary organisations, working with *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg*, initiated a collaboration with regional newspaper *De Limburger*, which in 2021 began publishing a monthly column, '*Limburgs accent*', about various aspects of Limburgish.

Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg promoted writing in Limburgish in a project known as *Platbook*, a series of books in Limburgish for both writers and readers. Authors from all over the province are

involved, addressing interesting subjects in stories, poems and other kinds of writing, all in their own dialect.

Regional broadcaster L1 made special programmes for radio and TV presenting the results of the competition organised by *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg*. It also frequently devotes attention to Limburgish in its regular TV and radio programming, with a television quiz called *Kwizzele*, the radio programme *Plat-eweg* and various programmes during the *Vastelaovend* period.

Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg worked on the TheaDOOR project, an educational programme linking theatre, literature and the Limburgish language. Brainstorming sessions were held with the field to devise a useful programme based on actual needs.

Limburgish in education

Thanks in part to the efforts of primary teacher training colleges in Limburg, the notion that it is better not to speak Limburgish at school and/or at home has been debunked. Students at both primary teacher training colleges in the province learn about the advantages of multilingualism from their first year. Multilingualism has thus become an integral part of their Dutch training. Students not only learn about the benefits of Limburgish as a first or second language, but also about multilingualism in a broader sense, in whatever form. Multilingualism is also considered in further training. A training course for specialist teachers began in 2015.

Limburgish in the health and care sector

In response to a letter about the benefits of multilingualism in relation to Limburgish sent to the municipal health service (GGD) by the then provincial executive member Ger Koopmans, the language organisations held exploratory talks with the GGD about how they might work together. In terms of specific actions, a working visit by members of the provincial executive to a mother and child clinic run by GGD Limburg-North has been planned. It has not however taken place as yet due to the coronavirus situation.

Fryslân provincial authority worked with the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) and others during the COVID-19 pandemic to produce a cartoon poster featuring coronavirus measures in Frisian and in other dialects/regional languages. It has been distributed widely in Fryslân, Limburg and Overijssel in various languages and dialects by a range of regional language organisations.

Article 7.1.e maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language [...]; establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages

The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations organised symposiums in 2017 and 2019 to bring together speakers of the recognised languages. It plans to do so again in 2021, possibly in the province of Fryslân. The organisations in Limburg have indicated that they wish to present research and examples of best practice from and about Dutch Limburgish.

When the competition mentioned above was launched, *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg* organised a webinar, which was held on 1 December 2020. It was accessible live and free of charge for anyone with an interest in the subject. Besides information on the competition, participants could also draw inspiration from examples of current practice from the Frisian and Low Saxon language areas presented by language organisations from these regions.

Article 7.1.f provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages

As indicated in previous reports, Dutch education law allows for the use of Limburgish in education and childcare settings. Limburg provincial authority has no statutory responsibility in education, though it is seeking ways to encourage use of Limburgish in education. The administrative agreement on Limburgish reaffirms the possibility of using Limburgish in education.

The Association of Teachers of Living Languages set up a Limburgish Section in 2019. Its main goal is to develop professional educational material to enable stakeholders and interested parties to learn Limburgish. This might include newcomers to Limburg, or people who grew up in Limburg but never had an active knowledge of the language. In 2019 the Limburgish section organised a Limburgish as a second language course in Heerlen, with a focus on the Heerlen dialect. In 2020 it began preparations for a Limburgish version for primary schools of the 3M project for Frisian. From 2021 the Limburgish section will develop a teaching method, Lt2, for Limburgish.

Use of Limburgish in daycare, playgroups and primary education requires sufficient good-quality educational material in Limburgish for the age groups in question. To promote the development of such material, Limburg provincial authority launched a competition in November 2020 for a share of the budget made available by central government and Limburg provincial authority when the administrative agreement was signed (€50,000). Four initiatives to develop teaching material for children up to 12 were each awarded €12,500. The competition was run by *Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg* and the winners were announced in March 2021.

The competition can be regarded as an incentive to expand the teaching material and courses available for Limburgish. Limburg provincial authority has indicated that, in order to preserve the language, there must be a structural effort to develop teaching material and programmes. The provincial authority believes the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has a role to play in encouraging parties in the field of education to use Limburgish in their curriculums, and to address any practical problems they encounter, including making sufficient good-quality educational material available. It is, however, not the Ministry's task to provide teaching material, at any level of the education system.

Article 7.1.g provision of facilities enabling non-speakers (including adults) of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire

Various local initiatives offer Limburgish courses for adults. One example is a course in the local Heerlen dialect organised by the Limburgish Section of the Association of Teachers of Living Languages. See also the section on article 7.1.f.

Article 7.1.h promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions

Higher education institutions are free to decide what they teach. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science plays no role in this. Institutions work with a range of stakeholders. In higher professional education (HBO) each sector has its own sectoral advisory body, and the deans of university faculties of a particular discipline are members of the Discipline Consultative Body. These consultative bodies consider whether the study programmes on offer need to be reviewed and/or expanded. These matters are also discussed with staff working in the field. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science assesses the macro-efficiency of new higher education study programmes, in

order to ensure that students are able to find work after graduation, and that the courses on offer meet the needs of the labour market, society and academic study.

Article 7.1.i promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages

In 2020 Limburg provincial authority awarded a grant to the *Vereniging voor Limburgse Dialect- en Naamkunde* (Association for the Study of Limburgish Dialects and Onomastics, VLDN), which supports the study of the dialect and onomastic heritage of Dutch and Belgian Limburg. This is the only organisation with a focus on language that is active in the provinces of Limburg on both sides of the border. The activities of the VLDN have led to deeper academic understanding, and more knowledge sharing in the Limburg language area. For instance, it holds annual conferences and is also involved in the organisation of regional language conferences. The award of the grant is designed to encourage knowledge sharing and contact in the international Limburgish language field.

Article 7.2 eliminate [...] any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language

No changes since previous report.

Article 7.3 promote [...] mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training [...] and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective

No changes since previous report.

Article 7.4 take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages[...]; establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages

Hoes veur 't Limburgs

Several parties wish to establish a *Hoes veur 't Limburgs* platform, either online or physical. Possibilities are being discussed with the *Raad veur 't Limburgs* (Limburgish language council), *Veldeke Limburg* and the Limburgish Section of the Association of Teachers of Living Languages. They will issue a proposed form for the platform in 2021, covering its role, knowledge sharing, information provision, communication and organisation of activities. Limburg provincial council is aware of the language field's wish to establish a *Hoes veur 't Limburgs*. The policy document mentioned above will consider how the provincial authority can help the language field achieve its objectives and ambitions, including the idea of a *Hoes veur 't Limburgs*.

De Raod veur 't Limburgs

The *Raad veur 't Limburgs* is a committee that advises Limburg provincial executive on matters related to Limburgish. The *Raad veur 't Limburgs* regards its new role mainly as that of a thinktank providing the Limburg provincial executive and other parties in the field with recommendations, either on request or on its own initiative, and initiating projects involving Limburgish.

IV. Romanes and Yiddish

Implementation of Part II of the Charter

Article 7.1.a recognition of the regional or minority language as an expression of cultural wealth

The Netherlands continues to acknowledge the importance of Yiddish and Romanes to the identity of the speakers of these languages.

Article 7.1.b ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language

No changes since the previous report.

Article 7.1.c resolute action to promote the language

In its sixth evaluation the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts (COMEX) discussed the closed nature of the communities that speak Romanes and Yiddish. During its visit the COMEX offered to pass on the appropriate contact details of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations to the various communities so that they can contact central government on matters relating to Romanes and Yiddish if they wish. This has happened only once to date.

Article 7.1.d facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of the language, in speech and writing, in public life (e.g. education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, economic and social life and/or cross-border exchange) and private life

The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has a grants scheme for projects in support of participation by and equal rights for Sinti and Roma in the Netherlands. Sinti and Roma organisations may for example submit applications for funding to promote job creation and education, and respect for their culture and identity. Projects of the latter type, which include Romanes language lessons, are regularly awarded funding. Other forms of cultural expression, such as music lessons, Sinti and Roma festivals and the making of documentaries are also eligible for funding.

Article 7.1.e maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language [...]; establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages

No changes since previous report.

Article 7.1.f provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages

There have been no changes in respect of education since the sixth report. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science gives schools extra support for teaching specific groups, including Roma and Sinti children and children from traveller communities. Schools may apply for additional funding if they have four or more children from these groups on their register. The Ministry also subsidises OWRS, a national platform that connects people in order to improve education for Roma and Sinti children

and children from traveller communities. It provides support for schools, educational consultants and municipal authorities (school attendance officers).

Article 7.1.g provision of facilities enabling non-speakers (including adults) of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire

The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has a grants scheme for projects in support of participation by and equal rights for Sinti and Roma in the Netherlands. Sinti and Roma organisations may for example submit applications for funding to promote job creation and education, and respect for their culture and identity. Projects of the latter type, which include Romanes language lessons, are regularly awarded funding. The grants scheme is broad-based, so a range of projects are eligible for funding. It is up to the community to decide what is needed.

Article 7.1.h promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions

Higher education institutions are free to decide what they teach. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science plays no role in this. Institutions work with a range of stakeholders. In higher professional education (HBO) each sector has its own sectoral advisory body, and the deans of university faculties of a particular discipline are members of the Discipline Consultative Body. These consultative bodies consider whether the study programmes on offer need to be reviewed and/or expanded. These matters are also discussed with staff working in the field. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science assesses the macro-efficiency of new higher education study programmes, in order to ensure that students are able to find work after graduation, and that the courses on offer meet the needs of the labour market, society and academic study.

Article 7.1.i promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages

International cultural policy does not include any active policies on these languages or groups, but grant schemes are open to project proposals from Romanes- and Yiddish-speaking communities, provided they meet the grant conditions and quality requirements.

Article 7.2 eliminate [...] any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language

No changes since previous report.

Article 7.3 promote [...] mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training [...] and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective

It is important that as part of citizenship education pupils learn to deal with diversity and efforts are made to enhance mutual understanding of each other's culture and religion, and to tackle intolerance. In late 2019 the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science submitted a revised citizenship bill to this effect to the House of Representatives.

Article 7.4 take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages[...]; establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages

The Netherlands is becoming a very diverse society. The diversity of the population has increased sharply in recent years, and 25% of residents now have a migration background. The government regards a broad-ranging and flexible dialogue with society as important. A flexible dialogue means that the government consults a range of different parties. Depending on the matter in hand, they may be professional experts, opinion makers, people with knowledge derived from experience and/or representatives of communities. The form these consultations take depends on the subject and the parties concerned.

As mentioned in the section on article 7.1.c the wishes and needs of Yiddish- and Romanes-speakers have not been made known, except in one case in connection with a grant application for Yiddish which also involved religious activities. In line with the principle of separation of church and State in the Netherlands, the Dutch authorities take a neutral and impartial position concerning religion. This has implications for the award of government subsidies. In other words, although authorities may award funding to religious organisations, the activities in question must serve the public interest. This is not the case with religious education. The government did not therefore consider the request any further.

LIST OF ORGANISATIONS

This section contains a list of organisations concerned with the recognised languages in the Netherlands. In view of the public nature of this report and of privacy legislation, contact details will be sent to the Council of Europe separately, with the consent of the organisations in question. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations acts as the point of contact for central government.

Frisian

- Provinsje Fryslân (Fryslân provincial authority)
- DINGtiid
- Afûk
- CEDIN
- De Moanne
- Feriening Frysk ûnderwiis
- Fryske Akademy/Mercator
- Chair of Frisian Language and Literature, University of Groningen
- Jong Fryske Mienskip
- Leeuwarden City of Literature
- NHL Stenden (university of applied science)
- NHL teacher training
- Ried fan de Fryske Beweging
- Association of Teachers of Living Languages – Frisian Section
- SFBO
- Steatekomité Frysk

Low Saxon

- Groningen provincial authority
- Overijssel provincial authority
- Drenthe provincial authority
- Gelderland provincial authority
- Weststellingwerf municipal authority
- Ooststellingwerf municipal authority
- Fryslân provincial authority
- Erfgoedcentrum Achterhoek & Liemers
- Groningen Language and Culture Centre
- Chair of Low Saxon, University of Groningen
- Huus van de Taol
- Kreenk vuur de Twentse Sproak
- Overijsselacademie
- Association of Teachers of Living Languages – Low Saxon Section
- SONT
- Stichting REUR

Limburgish

- Limburg provincial authority
- Association of Teachers of Living Languages – Limburgish Section
- Chair of Language Culture in Limburg, Maastricht University

- Raod veur 't Limburgs
- Veldeke Limburg
- De Nieuwste Pabo, Sittard
- Fontys School for Child Studies and Education, Venlo
- Vereniging van Limburgse Bibliotheken
- Huis voor de Kunsten Limburg

Yiddisch

- Jewish Studie, University of Amsterdam

Papiamentu

- Public Body of Bonaire
- SPLIKA
- Akademia Papiamentu