COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 1 July 2025

MIN-LANG (2025) PR 2

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

NORWAY

Norwegian Ministry
of Local Government
and Regional Development

Report

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Ninth periodical report





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Foreword

The Council of Europe's Council of Ministers adopted the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (the Charter) in 1992. Norway ratified the Charter in 1993, and it entered into force in 1998. This is Norway's ninth periodical report on the implementation of the Charter.

In Norway, the Ministry of Culture and Equality has general responsibility for adopting and implementing a comprehensive language policy and hence also has overall responsibility for indigenous and minority languages. However, the administrative responsibility for the Charter is organised as part of the responsibility for indigenous peoples and national minorities and thus falls under the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. Thus, the latter ministry now has primary responsibility for implementing the Charter. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has prepared the ninth periodical report in cooperation with other ministries concerned.

The report provides information on each language individually. The reporting on the individual languages follows the order in the Charter, article by article. The responses to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts are entered under the language to which the recommendation applies. The report aims to minimise repetition of information provided in previous reports. The primary focus of the report is on legislative amendments, policy development and measures implemented since the previous report.

It is a fundamental principle of the work on the Charter to include the national minorities in the work on issues that affect them. The national minorities' organisations, Sami organisations and the Sami Parliament were informed about the reporting at an early stage of the reporting process. The organisations and the Sami Parliament were informed at the same time of the possibility of sending 'shadow reports' directly to the Council of Europe. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has offered assistance with translating the shadow reports.

Other documents related to all of Norway's periodical reports on the Charter are available on the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development's website: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/urfolk-og-minoriteter/nasjonale-minoriteter/midtspalte/minoritetssprakpakta/id86936/

For further information about the work of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Charter, please contact:

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Introduction

Regional or minority languages in Norway

The Charter applies to the following minority languages in Norway:
- North Sami (Parts II and III)
- Lule Sami (Parts II and III)
- South Sami (Parts II and III)
- Kven (Part II)
- Romanes (Part II, as a non-territorial language; see Art. 7.5)
- Romani (Part II, as a non-territorial language; see Art. 7.5)

Following the eighth report, the Norwegian authorities have expanded the scope of Part III of the Charter to include Lule Sami and South Sami, in addition to North Sami. The ninth report will be the first time these languages are reported on under Part III.

Measures to provide information about rights and obligations pursuant to the Charter

The Council of Europe's comments and recommendations following the previous reporting cycle have been communicated through the following channels:
- Publication of the documents in English and Norwegian at regjeringen.no.[1]
- At the national level, policies, measures and grants from the national budget concerning the minority languages are briefly described in the Government's budget proposal.
- Follow-up event.
- Contact forum for national authorities and central authorities.
- Many of the measures mentioned in this report are implemented at the regional and local level. Reference is made to the description of the individual measures.

As part of the follow-up of the recommendations from the previous reporting round, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, in collaboration with the Council of Europe, arranged a full-day meeting on Thursday 24 November 2022. The meeting concerned the follow-up of both the Charter and the Framework Convention. Members of the Committee of Experts and the Advisory Committee, the secretariat of the Framework Convention and the Charter, representatives from the Sami Parliament and national minority organisations as well as the relevant ministries were invited.

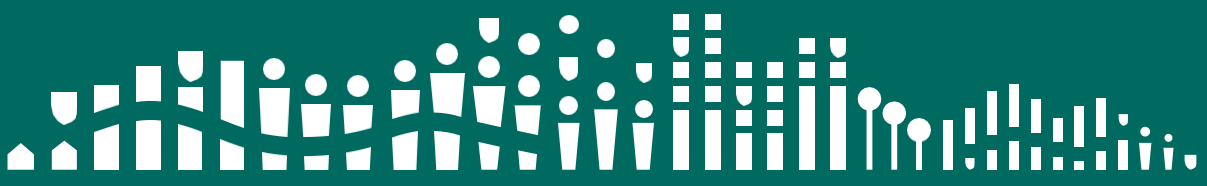
The Norwegian Agency for Public and Financial Management (DFØ) has developed an e-learning programme on Sami and national minorities. Information about the course has been sent to government agencies and ministries, municipalities and county authorities and via the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) at meetings with county governors.

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[1] *https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/urfolk-og-minoriteter/nasjonale-minoriteter/midtspalte/rapporteringer-pa-rammekonvensjonen/id458136/*

Language-specific part





North Sami

Part II

Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1

ARTICLE 7
Objectives and principles

Please note that several of the measures reported under Article 7 for North Sami also apply to one or more of the other languages covered by the Charter. Where most appropriate, the measures are discussed collectively here. To avoid repetition, we have cross-referenced the discussion of other languages further down to this section of the report. This does not necessarily mean that the languages enjoy the same protection.

Article 7.1.(a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i)

7.1.a:

Allocations to museums

The Ministry of Education and Research provides funding to UiT The Arctic University Museum of Norway as part of the block grants to the University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway. The museum is Northern Norway's oldest scientific institution. It conducts research on and always features several exhibitions about Sami history and Sami affairs.

See the discussion of our other museums in the previous report.

In 2023, the Norwegian Parliament the Storting passed a Book Law. The purpose of the Act is to facilitate breadth, diversity and quality in the literature published in Norway, and to ensure that everyone in the country has good access to this literature. The Law will also help to strengthen the written culture of Bokmål, Nynorsk, the Sami languages and the national minority languages Kven, Romani and Romanes. The Law applies to the sale of books published in Bokmål, Nynorsk, Sami languages or the national minority languages Kven, Romani and Romanes, and which are published by Norwegian publishers for sale through Norwegian retailers.

Grant scheme for literature projects – Arts Council Norway

To promote the development of literature in Sami languages and the distribution of this literature to a wider audience, Arts Council Norway received NOK 2 million from the national budget in 2019 earmarked for the inclusion of Sami literature in the grant schemes for literature. The funds were divided between *the Grant scheme for literature projects* and *the purchasing schemes* (see below).

The market for literature in Norwegian is larger than for literature in Sami and national minority languages. Arts Council Norway therefore introduced funding for the translation of Sami books into Bokmål and Nynorsk, and, from 2023 corresponding funding for translation from the national minority languages. This funding gives this literature a larger audience and strengthens the possibility to develop literary projects in Sami and the national minority languages.

The purchasing schemes – Arts Council Norway

Under the purchasing schemes for literature, Arts Council Norway purchases new book titles in Bokmål and Nynorsk for distribution to Norwegian public and school libraries

and to some educational institutions and libraries abroad. These books are in addition to the titles the libraries themselves purchase from their own budgets. As of 2019, titles translated from Sami can be registered for the purchasing schemes. From 2023, this also applies to titles translated from the national minority languages.

Preservation plan for Sami private archives
The Sami Archives in Kautokeino – a department under the National Archives of Norway – launched a *preservation plan for Sami private archives* in 2024. The Sami Archives have identified over 450 Sami archives, spread between various institutions and private parties. These archives constitute an extensive material. They cover 29 areas of society and contain analogue, digital, audiovisual and oral archives. Through the preservation plan, the Sami Archives will document, digitise and make available archives that will be essential for language revitalisation, the development of teaching materials and for research.

The Sami national theatre Beaivváš in Kautokeino – new co-located building
In 2024, a new building for the Sami national theatre Beaivváš opened in Kautokeino. Beaivváš is now co-located with the Sami Upper Secondary School and Reindeer Husbandry School in Kautokeino. The new theatre and school building, named Čoarvemátta, opened to the public and students in August 2024. The school offers both general and vocational subjects, including the Sami subjects of duodji (traditional Sami handicraft) and reindeer husbandry.

Beaivváš is an important initiative to strengthen Sami identity, language and culture, and to preserve and develop Sami storytelling and performing arts. Beaivváš is a touring theatre that strives to use all the Sami languages as stage languages. The co-location is an important measure to strengthen the Sami language and culture, especially among young people in Kautokeino.

RiddoDuottarMuseat in Karasjok – Plans for a new building
The Ministry of Culture and Equality has commissioned Statsbygg to plan a new building for the Sami museum RiddoDuottarMuseat in Karasjok. The project is now in the pre-project phase and includes exhibition areas for the Sami art collection, as well as areas for receiving artefacts that will be returned to the North Sami area in the Bååstede project. RiddoDuottarMuseat is an important initiative for research and dissemination of Sami art and duodji and North Sami culture, language, history, identity and cultural heritage.

7.1.b:
Changes in county structure
In the period 2014–2020, the previous government implemented a municipal and regional reform that reduced the number of municipalities and counties. In autumn 2021, the Government made it possible for these county authorities and municipalities to apply to be separated. The Government received an application from Troms and Finnmark count authority, among others.

The Storting approved the separation in summer 2022, and it came into effect on 1 January 2024. The borders of the new counties correspond to the borders as they were before the mergers. The separation did not change the county authorities' tasks or policy instruments.

Before the merger, Troms County and Finnmark County had parallel names in North Sami, and this was continued for the merged county. The counties did not previously have official Kven names, and on the basis of advice from the Kven place name service, a Kven parallel name was adopted for the merged Troms and Finnmark County.

In connection with the separation of the county, the Ministry asked the counties to propose names for the new counties. Troms and Finnmark counties wanted Norwegian, North Sami and Kven names for the two new counties and county authorities respectively. The county authority consulted with the Sami Parliament's place name service and the Language Council of Norway's Kven place name service. North Sami and Kven names for the new counties were adopted by the Storting in line with the recommendations of the place name services, cf. Section 29 of the Local Government Boundaries Act.

Road signs
Around 245 places in Northern Norway have been given road signs with names in Sami or Kven since 2019. The majority of the places have previously only had Norwegian names and have been given new signs that also include the place's Sami name. All three official Sami languages (North Sami, Lule Sami and South Sami) are represented. There are also around 50 signs with Kven names. Especially in Nord-Troms and Sør-Varanger, there are now many places with signs in Norwegian, North Sami and Kven.

7.1.c:
Sami languages in the police
The police have templates for the use of Sami languages in the police's case processing and archive system.

Through measures in the police's action plan for diversity, dialogue and trust, efforts are being made to increase the recruitment of professional personnel with Sami language and cultural skills for positions that require police training and other professional backgrounds. At the start of each academic year, the Norwegian Police University College conducts an annual survey of whether students have Sami affiliation or affiliation with one of the other national minorities. A separate police training programme has been established in Finnmark, where one of the goals is to recruit more people from the northernmost part of the country – including people with Sami affiliation and language and cultural expertise. Some places on the programme are reserved for applicants with Sami language skills.

In 2022/2023, the National Police Directorate participated in a collaborative project with the Norwegian Courts Administration, the Directorate of the Norwegian Correctional Service and the Secretariat for the National Mediation Service, in which a working group has mapped the status and needs related to safeguarding Sami language and culture in the services. The working group finalised the report on due process for Sami people in the justice sector ('Samisk rettssikkerhet i justissektoren') in March 2023.

The Language Act
The Language Act entered into force on 1 January 2022. It sets out the responsibility of public bodies to use, develop and promote Sami languages in line with the Sami Act. It does not confer any new rights to Sami languages beyond those set out in the Sami Act. The Language Act gives Sami languages the status of 'indigenous languages'.

Sami languages are covered by the Language Act's requirement to use plain language in public administration. The requirement means that public bodies shall communicate in plain and correct language adapted to the target group.

Sami language models
In the budget for 2025, the Government has allocated NOK 40 million to Norwegian and Sami language models for use in artificial intelligence. The National Library of Norway will receive NOK 20 million to train and offer Norwegian and Sami language models, and the other half will be allocated through the Ministry of Education and Research's budget to the supercomputing company Sigma2 to finance computing power to train the models. The aim is for the language models to form the basis for AI tools that are better adapted to Norwegian and Sami workplaces, schools and education.

Development of Sami language models – National Archives of Norway
In collaboration with Divvun, the academic community for Sami language technology at the University of Tromsø (UiT), the National Archives contribute to the work of developing language models for Sami. The measure will be particularly important for improving technology that utilises speech-to-text, so that subtitles or transcripts of Sami languages can be translated as automatically as possible into another language, such as Norwegian, and vice versa.

National Library of Norway – NB Whisper
In 2023, the National Library of Norway launched an artificial intelligence model that converts Norwegian speech to text. The National Library has also trained such a model to support the North Sami language, but so far has too little data for the model to perform as well as in Bokmål and Nynorsk.
Preservation plan for Sami private archives
We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.
Project and development funds for archival purposes
We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.
The Book Law
We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.
Grant scheme for literature projects – the Norwegian Cultural Fund
We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.
Grant scheme for dissemination of literature – Arts Council Norway
We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.

7.1.d:
Sami language administrative district
The Sami language administrative district is divided into three categories of municipalities: language development municipalities, language vitalisation municipalities and language stimulation municipalities. The linguistic rights of inhabitants in a municipality when dealing with public authorities differ depending on which category the municipality belongs to.

Public bodies within the administrative district have a number of obligations towards the Sami population, both through the Sami Act's language provisions and the Education Act, the Kindergarten Act and the Place Name Act. Public bodies can be municipalities, county authorities or state bodies.

Sami in the justice sector
The Norwegian National Courts Administration led a working group that mapped the status of compliance with language rights and cultural competence in the justice sector. The working group presented the report on due process for Sami people in the justice sector ('Samisk rettssikkerhet i justissektoren') in March 2023.

Increasing language and cultural expertise in all agencies in the justice sector is important to promote Sami participation and the use of Sami languages. All general information at kriminalomsorgen.no is translated into North Sami, and recruitment brochures for the prison officer training programme specifically encourage Sami speakers to apply.

The prisons in Tromsø and Vadsø have a special responsibility to accommodate Sami inmates. Information about the prisons and serving of sentences, as well as brochures on isolation containing information for inmates, relatives, lawyers and staff, have been translated into North Sami. At the Troms and Finnmark probation office, information brochures about serving sentences in the community have been translated into North Sami.

Language practice in Arts and Culture Norway
In 2024, Arts and Culture Norway established a language practice that defines, among other things, how the organisation will use, develop and strengthen the Sami languages and protect and promote Kven, Romanes and Romani. Of the Sami languages, North Sami, Lule Sami and South Sami are specifically incorporated into the language practice.

Sami language plan in KORO – Public Art Norway
In autumn 2023, KORO, as a public agency under the Ministry of Culture and Equality, adopted a plan for the use of Sami languages. KORO produces, manages and disseminates art in public buildings and other public arenas, also in Sápmi. The collection of artworks is available to the public in around a thousand locations in Norway and internationally. The language plan primarily applies to communication and dissemination work online, but also to signage for works of art, for example. The use of Sami languages is relevant to the dissemination of both Sami and non-Sami art, and to the dissemination of art in and outside Sápmi.

See the information about the Book Law, the Grant scheme for literature projects – the Norwegian Cultural Fund and the Grant scheme for literature dissemination – Arts Council Norway under Article 7.1.a.

See the information about the Language Act, Sami language models, and the National Library of Norway – NB Whisper under Article 7.1.c.

7.1.e:
We refer to the information about the Sami Artists' Council (SDR), the 'Digital access to Sámi heritage archives' project, Nuohtti (search portal for Sami archival material), the Nordic Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2022, Cultural cooperation in the High North, the Venice Biennale and the Arctic Arts Summit in the Framework Convention report, Article 18. Reference is also made to the description of the Dávvirat Duiskkas project in the Framework Convention report, Article 5.

The responsibility of the Sami Parliament
The Sami Parliament receives funding to fulfil its duties towards the entire Sami population. Among other things, the Sami Parliament shall 'work for the protection and further development of Sami languages in Norway', cf. Section 3-12 of the Sami Act. In 2025, the Sami Parliament received NOK 748 million, which can be used for language initiatives, among other things. The Sami Parliament decides how the funds are to be distributed.

7.1.f:
On 24 March 2023, the Ministry of Education and Research presented a white paper on Sami language, culture and society focusing on competence and recruitment in kindergartens, primary and secondary education and higher education (Report No. 13 to the Storting (2022–2023) *Samisk språk, kultur og samfunnsliv. Kompetanse og rekruttering i barnehage, grunnopplæring og høyere utdanning).* The Government's goal is for more people to choose Sami kindergartens, Sami instruction at all levels of education and for more people to take Sami higher education.

Sami in schools
Sami pupils have an individual right to instruction in Sami in primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school, regardless of where they live in the country.

All pupils living in language vitalisation municipalities and language development municipalities are entitled to instruction in and through the medium of Sami in primary and lower secondary school. Outside language vitalisation municipalities and language development municipalities, pupils are entitled to instruction in and through the medium of Sami if at least ten pupils request it and as long as there are at least six pupils remaining in the group.

Number of pupils in upper secondary education with Sami as their first and second language.

	2019–2020	2020–2021	2021–2022	2022–2023	2023–2024
Sami as a first language	178	202	199	218	203
Sami as a second language	264	325	318	293	380

New Education Act
The new Education Act came into force on 1 August 2024. The Act upholds the right to instruction in and through the medium of Sami.

The new Section 6-2 second paragraph entitles all pupils who have received instruction in or through the medium of Sami in primary and lower secondary school to instruction in Sami in upper secondary school. This applies regardless of whether the student has a Sami background or not. The Act also stipulates that the municipality and county authority must offer part of the education in a Sami-language environment if this is necessary for the instruction in Sami to be pedagogically sound, and it also states that the municipality and county authority must provide pupils and parents with information about the right to instruction in and through the medium of Sami.

Sami teaching materials

The Sami Parliament is responsible for developing Sami teaching materials in North Sami, South Sami and Lule Sami for primary and secondary education from year 1 to year 13, both ordinary and specially adapted teaching materials.

The Ministry of Education and Research makes annual allocations to the Sami Parliament for educational purposes, including the development and production of teaching materials in Sami languages. In connection with the introduction of the Curriculum for the Knowledge Promotion Reform 2020 (LK20), the allocation has been increased for a period to accommodate the increased production of teaching materials.

Distance learning

The County Governors of Nordland and Troms and Finnmark have received annual allocations during this reporting period to develop the skills of Sami distance learning teachers.

The Ministry of Education and Research has tasked the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training with updating the knowledge base on distance learning in the Sami language for pupils across primary and secondary education. The assignment also involves proposing measures that, both collectively and individually, can help to improve the quality of distance learning for students receiving instruction in Sami.

Sami is one of the prioritised subjects in the 'Kompetanse for kvalitet' ('Competence for quality') strategy (further education for teachers). No specific further education programmes in Sami languages have been developed, but teachers can apply to existing programmes at Norwegian or Nordic universities and university colleges and receive government funding for further education. Funding means either that the school owner receives funding for substitute teachers so that teachers can study during working hours, or that the teachers receive a scholarship to study while working. A further education programme has been developed for teachers in years 1–10 in interdisciplinary Sami perspectives.

Higher education

The new Universities and University Colleges Act came into force on 1 August 2024. The previous provision on Norwegian academic language has been renamed 'Norwegian and Sami academic language' (Section 2-3). Section 2-3 second paragraph also introduces a provision stating that institutions with a special responsibility for Sami research and higher education are responsible for using, developing and strengthening Sami academic language. This means that Sami is now included in the Act as clearly equal to Norwegian.

The Sámi University of Applied Sciences is unique in that it has North Sami as its working language. The university college offers programmes in the North Sami language, as well as programmes in North Sami in a number of subject areas, including teacher education, duodji (traditional Sami handicraft) and journalism. In 2023, the university college received funding to develop an interpreter programme, and in 2024 it worked on planning this. In addition, the Sámi University of Applied Sciences receives funding for other qualification schemes for interpreters (bilingual test and authorisation scheme).

UiT – The Arctic University of Norway can award doctoral degrees in all of its subject areas and offers programmes in North Sami up to and including PhD level. The university also offers a teacher education programme in Sami (years 8–13) and Sami as an elective subject in other teacher education programmes. Many subject areas at the university have perspectives that are relevant to Sami language, culture and society.

In 2021, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway started a Sami nursing programme in collaboration with the Sámi University of Applied Sciences, which is responsible for the courses in North Sami language and culture. The programme is offered on a part-time basis so that students receive a bachelor's degree after four years. The campus is in Kautokeino. The first cohort (five candidates) completed the programme in December 2024, and the second cohort started in January 2025.

7.1.g:
See the reporting on North Sami and the section on the new Education Act under 7.1 f.

7.1.h:
The block grants to the Sámi University of Applied Sciences and UiT – The Arctic University of Norway from the Ministry of Education and Research's budget include funding for research on Sami and Sami conditions. In the national budget for 2024, UiT received a grant to establish a centre for Sami lexicography.

Furthermore, the Research Council of Norway has a portfolio for Sami society and culture. It supports research on Sami issues in the humanities and social sciences, natural science research in the fields of health and climate and the environment that is directly linked to the humanities and social science-based topics, as well as research on business and innovation. The purpose is to help fulfil Norway's responsibility to develop new, research-based knowledge to safeguard and develop Sami language, culture and social life.

Evaluation of the curriculum renewal
The introduction of a new curriculum for primary and secondary education from 2020 will be followed by a research-based evaluation programme that ends in 2025. This includes the Sami curriculum for the Knowledge Promotion Reform (LK20S). The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has taken a number of steps in 2024 that will strengthen the work with the Sami subject area in the long term. Among other things, a new Sami department will be established in the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training in Tromsø during 2025.

National shared solution for long-term preservation and accessibility of digital archives
In 2020, the National Archives of Norway received four-year project funding to further develop the Digital Archive into a national shared solution for long-term preservation and accessibility of digital archives. Services developed as part of the solution will make it possible to search and view archival material. This will also improve access to Sami archival material in Norway, and for interested parties in the rest of the world, for use in education and research, among other things.

Also see Article 7.1.c.

7.1.i:

Sami Artists' Council (SDR)

There is extensive cooperation in art and culture across the four national borders in Sápmi, in addition to cooperation in global indigenous networks. All members of the Sami artists' organisations can apply for and receive project and grant funding through the Sami Artists' Council's schemes, which are funded by the Sami Parliament. The same applies to the Artists' and Authors' Remuneration Fund, which is financed over the Ministry of Culture and Equality's budget.

Digital access to Sámi heritage archives and the search portal Nuohtti

Sami documentary heritage is managed by archives and collections in several countries. The Sami Archives and archival institutions and universities in Sweden and Finland carried out the collaborative project 'Digital access to Sámi heritage archives' in the period 2018–2020. The project forms the basis for the Nuohtti search portal.

In 2023, Nuohtti was established as a search portal for Sami archival material across institutions and national borders (nuohtti.com). Through the portal, it will be possible to search for documents, sound recordings and photographs found in European preservation institutions related to the Sami people and Sami culture. The portal is a collaborative project between the Sami Archives at the National Archives of Norway, the Sami Archives at the National Archives of Finland and the National Archives of Sweden.

Norway's presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2022

During Norway's presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2022, indigenous culture was one of four prioritised focus areas. The goal was to promote and highlight Sami culture and its importance in Nordic cooperation. A conference on Sami intangible cultural heritage was organised in connection with the implementation of UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 2003. The conference was a collaboration between the Sami Parliament in Norway and Arts Council Norway, and other partners from Finland and Sweden.

Cultural cooperation in the High North

The Ministry of Culture and Equality allocates funding for work to develop cross-border cultural cooperation in the High North, where indigenous culture plays a central role. In 2025, funding will be allocated to the international indigenous festival Riddu Riđđu, which works purposefully to promote Sami art and culture on various stages nationally and internationally, and the Sámi Artist Network Dàiddàdallu, which has members from all over Sápmi.

The Venice Biennale

The Office of Contemporary Art (OCA) was commissioned by the Norwegian government to present art and artists from Norway at the Venice Biennale in 2022.The official Nordic contribution to the biennial was the exhibition 'The Sámi Pavilion', which made up the joint Nordic (Sweden, Finland and Norway) pavilion, featuring three Sami artists.

Arctic Arts Summit
In 2022, the international conference Arctic Arts Summit was organised in Canada. The conference is an important meeting place for discussions about the role of culture and cultural policy in the development of the Arctic, where indigenous culture plays a central role. The Ministry of Culture and Equality made funds available to the Sami Parliament.

Gothenburg Book Fair
The Minister of Culture and Equality attended the Gothenburg Book Fair at the end of September 2024, where the overall theme was Sápmi. The Minister participated in a panel discussion on reading enthusiasm. The panel also included Sweden's Minister for Culture Parisa Liljestrand, Sweden's Minister for Education Lotta Edholm and Finland's Minister of Science and Culture Sari Multala.

Norway participates in Nordplus, a cooperation programme between the Nordic and Baltic countries that applies to all levels of the education system. From 2024, the Sámi University of Applied Sciences will participate in the Spica network for cooperation between teacher educators and students in the Nordic region2. It explores global challenges in a Nordic context with a special focus on sustainability, diversity and citizenship.

Article 7.2

The new Education Act that entered into force on 1 August 2024 entitles all pupils who have received instruction in or through the medium of Sami in primary and lower secondary school to instruction in Sami in upper secondary school. This applies regardless of whether the student has a Sami background or not.

The new Education Act stipulates a general duty to provide information, emphasising that municipalities and county authorities must provide pupils and parents with information about the right to instruction in and through the medium of Sami.

We refer to the information under Article 7.1.c.

Article 7.3

The Ministry of Education and Research has established a new mandate for Sami Special Education Support (SEAD). SEAD assists municipalities and county authorities in facilitating high-quality education for Sami-speaking children, young people and adults with special educational needs.

The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK)
NRK is tasked with strengthening the Norwegian and Sami languages and strengthening Norwegian and Sami identity and culture. NRK shall have programmes for national and linguistic minorities. NRK's language remit has been strengthened from 2023 with a requirement to offer content in national minority languages.

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[2] The University of South-Eastern Norway is the coordinator. The other members are the University of Greenland, the University of Iceland, the University of the Faroe Islands, Malmö University (SE), the University of Oulu (FI) and UCL University College in Denmark.

National education authorities fund Democratic Preparedness against Racism, Antisemitism and Undemocratic Attitudes (Dembra), which offers guidance, courses and online resources for schools and teacher education. The aim is to strengthen schools' work on democratic preparedness to combat various group-focused enmities, such as prejudice, xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and extremism. Dembra has content and resources about indigenous peoples and national minorities.

Article 7.4

International law requires the Norwegian authorities to consult Sami interests in matters that may directly affect such interests. In June 2021, the Norwegian Parliament adopted legal provisions on consultations with Sami interests in a new Chapter 4 of the Sami Act. The rules entered into force on 1 July 2021. It was also clarified that municipalities and county authorities must also consult with Sami interests. The consultation provisions in the Sami Act are an important tool for facilitating good involvement in processes that concern Sami interests.

The Sami Parliament determines curricula in the Sami language in primary and secondary education and curricula for specific Sami subjects in upper secondary education. The Sami Parliament determines the Sami content of the subjects within the framework set by the Ministry of Education and Research.

The Language Act

The Language Act sets out the responsibility of public bodies to use, develop and promote Sami languages in line with the Sami Act. It does not confer any new rights to Sami language users beyond those set out in the Sami Act. The Language Act gives Sami languages the status of 'indigenous languages'.

Article 7.5

No comments.

Part III

Measures to promote the use of regional and minority languages in public activities in accordance with the obligations entered into pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 2

ARTICLE 8
Education

Article 8.1 (aiii, biv, civ, div, eii, fii, g, h, i)

8.1.aiii:
The Government has strengthened the Sami Parliament's work on competence in early childhood education and care. In 2024, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training launched a competence package on how staff can actively promote and develop children's Norwegian/Sami language skills. The content is designed to provide staff with knowledge and expertise about multilingual children in kindergarten, and the Sami perspective is addressed throughout the package.

The Government introduced free kindergarten in Finnmark and Nord-Troms from 1 August 2023.

8.1.biv:
We refer to the reporting under Article 7.1.f on the right to instruction in North Sami, South Sami and Lule Sami. The Framework Plan for SFO (out-of-school hours care) from 2021 ensures that Sami children can preserve and develop their language and culture. The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has evaluated the implementation of this plan, with a final report submitted in 2024.

8.1.civ:
Sami pupils are entitled to instruction in North Sami, South Sami or Lule Sami in upper secondary school. The new Education Act, which came into force in 2024, extends the right to instruction in Sami in upper secondary education so that non-Sami pupils who have received Sami instruction in primary and lower secondary school can continue with Sami instruction in upper secondary school. The new Education Act stipulates a general duty to provide information, emphasising that municipalities and county authorities must provide pupils and parents with information about the right to instruction in and through the medium of Sami. It is also a statutory requirement that the county authority must offer pupils part of their education in a Sami-language environment if this is necessary for the instruction to be pedagogically sound, cf. Section 6-2.

8.1.div:
No comments.

8.1.eii:
See Article 7.1.f on Sami academic language in the new Universities and University Colleges Act.

Higher education in North Sami is offered at the Sámi University of Applied Science and the UiT – The Arctic University of Norway. Both of these institutions offer study programmes in the Sami language at all levels from beginner's classes to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. In the national budget for 2024, the Sámi University of Applied Science received funding to establish a Sami interpreter programme.

8.1.fii:
The municipalities are responsible for organising adult education, including in regional and minority languages.

8.1.g:
In 2020, new curricula were introduced in primary and lower secondary schools and in general subjects in upper secondary schools. The content of the education gained a clearer value foundation, where identity and cultural diversity are central within and across the subjects. The emphasis on the Sami indigenous people's history, culture, social life and rights was continued. At the same time, Sami content was strengthened in most curricula for subjects in primary and lower secondary school and in the general subjects in upper secondary education.

There are parallel curricula with enhanced Sami content in several common subjects in primary and secondary education, developed in collaboration with the Sami Parliament. This applies to social studies, Knowledge of Christianity, Religion, Philosophies of life and Ethics, natural science, music, food and health, arts and crafts/duodji, religion and ethics, history, social science (upper secondary education) and geography.

In collaboration with the Sami Parliament, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has developed special information and support resources on Sami in kindergartens, out-of-school hours care (SFO) programmes, schools and for selected national curricula. These resources will help kindergartens and schools to support Sami children and young people in a good way that fulfils their rights. In addition, it could contribute to and support work on Sami issues for all children and pupils.

8.1.h:
The Ministry of Education and Research has presented two strategies for competence for the kindergartens of the future and for kindergarten quality (*Kompetanse for fremtidens barnehage* and *Barnehager mot 2030 – strategi for barnehagekvalitet*). The Sami perspective is a recurring topic in both strategies. In 2013, a framework plan for a Sami kindergarten teacher education programme was established by regulations. The programme is offered at the Sámi University of Applied Sciences and is equivalent to the Norwegian programme.

I 2016, separate framework plans for primary and lower secondary teacher education programmes for years 1–7 were established by regulations. The programmes are offered at the Sámi University of Applied Sciences. UiT – The Arctic University of Norway offers a teacher education programme in North Sami and a programme in educational theory and practice for those who have taken Sami as part of another degree.

Sami is one of the prioritised subjects in the 'Competence for quality' strategy from 2023 ('Kompetanse for kvalitet'). Teachers can apply for further education in Sami languages at Norwegian or Nordic universities and university colleges with state funding. A further education programme has also been developed in interdisciplinary Sami perspectives for teachers in years 1–10.

8.1.i:
No comments.

Article 8.2

In the national budget for 2024, the Sámi University of Applied Sciences and UiT – The Arctic University of Norway received funding to establish Sami as a subject in teacher education programmes for students across the country.

See Article 7.2 on the general duty to provide information in the Education Act.

ARTICLE 9
Judicial authorities

Article 9.1 (a (i-iv), b (i-iii), d)

9.1.a(i-iv):
Right to use the Sami language in the judicial system
Section 3-4 first paragraph (1) of the Sami Act entitles any person to submit pleadings and other written applications in Sami. In addition, under the Sami Act, any person has a right to speak Sami at court hearings, but this applies to courts with a jurisdiction that wholly or partly covers the Sami language administrative district. For courts that are not covered by the Sami Act, the main rule is that the legal language is Norwegian. However, the state is obliged to facilitate the use of the Sami language also outside the administrative district, cf. Article 5(2) and Article 6(3)(a) of the ECHR, Article 14(3)(a) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 9 of the European Charter for regional or minority languages.

The Sami Forum and Guidelines on Sami cases before the courts
The Sami Forum in the courts in Norway was established by the Norwegian National Courts Administration in 2015 to strengthen due process for Sami people in the courts and the Finnmark Commission. The Forum has drawn up guidelines for the hearing of

Sami cases, last updated on 29 April 2024, to ensure that the courts hear Sami cases with the same thoroughness and quality as other cases.

9.1.b(i-iii):
We refer to the information under Article 9.1.a.

9.1.d:
We refer to the information under Article 9.1.a.

In civil cases with free legal aid and in all criminal cases, expenses are covered by the public authorities. In other civil cases, interpreter costs are covered when the court deems it necessary. Interpreter costs may also be covered by the public authorities if any witnesses or experts do not speak Norwegian. When the court has found it necessary to translate to and from Sami, the costs are covered by the state.

Article 9.2.a

We refer to the information under Article 9.1.a.

Article 9.3

Under the Sami Act, the authorities are obliged to translate laws and regulations of particular interest into Sami. Among other legislation, this includes:

- Act No. 30 of 21 May 1999 relating to the strengthening of the status of human rights in Norwegian law (the Human Rights Act). Translation of the European Convention on Human Rights and its protocols only.
- The Reindeer Husbandry Act has been translated and is available in Sami at regjeringen.no. The Regulations relating to the Reindeer Husbandry Agreement have been translated into Sami and are available at landbruksdirektoratet.no.
- Act No. 85 of 17 June 2005 relating to legal relations and management of land and natural resources in Finnmark (Finnmark Act)
- Regulations No. 866 of 30 July 2008 relating to the use of curved knives [translations in North Sami and South Sami]
- Regulations No. 1480 of 19 December 2008 relating to elections to the Sami Parliament
- Regulations No. 2240 of 12 November 2019 relating to the degree of philosophiae doctor at the Sámi University of Applied Sciences
- Guidelines No. 1248 of 29 June 2023 nr. on changed use of outlying areas in Finnmark
- Regulations No. 949 of 28 May 2024 949 relating to school rules for county municipal upper secondary schools, Finnmark
- ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Marine Resources Act of 2008
- Planning and Building Act of 2008
- Minerals Act of 2006

- Kindergarten Act of 2005
- Participation Act of 1999
- Specialist Health Service Act of 1990
- Patient and User Rights Act of 1990
- Sami Act of 1987
- Cultural Heritage Act of 1978
- Public Administration Act of 1967
- Education Act of 2024

The SFO framework plan has been translated into the three Sami languages and Norwegian.

The core curriculum (regulations) and the curricula in LK20 Sami (regulations) are available in the three Sami languages and Norwegian. In addition, some primary and lower secondary school curricula that do not have Sami parallel curricula have also been translated into Sami.

ARTICLE 10
Administrative authorities and public services

Article 10.1 (aiii, b, c)

10.1. aiii:
The Act relating to public bodies' responsibility for the use of interpreters, etc. (Interpreting Act) was introduced on 1 January 2022 and is intended to uphold legal safeguards and ensure the provision of proper assistance and services to persons who are unable to communicate adequately with public bodies without an interpreter. The Interpreting Act requires public bodies to use qualified interpreters when it is necessary to uphold legal safeguards or provide proper assistance and services. The law provides an exemption from the requirement to use qualified interpreters until 31 December 2026. In addition to the obligation for public bodies to use qualified interpreters, the Act also sets out requirements for interpreters relating to e.g. professional conduct, disqualification and duty of confidentiality.

The Interpreting Act is cross-sectoral and also applies to sign language interpreting and interpreting in Sami languages. The Interpreting Act sets out obligations, while the right to use Sami languages is regulated by the Sami Act.

10.1. b:
Section 3-2 of the Sami Act stipulates that acts and regulations of particular interest to all or parts of the Sami population shall be translated into Sami by the ministry responsible for the act or regulations. The municipalities and county authorities are responsible for translating local regulations of particular interest to all or part of the Sami population into Sami languages. Announcements by public bodies which are particularly addressed to all or parts of the population in the administrative district for Sami languages shall be made in both Sami and Norwegian.

The responsibility lies with the body that publishes the announcement. Paper and digital forms to be used in relation to a public body in the administrative district for Sami languages shall be available in both Sami and Norwegian. However, this does not apply to nationwide organisations. The responsibility lies with the organisation that prepares the form. The public body shall assess which language(s) it will be translated into. The assessment must take into account who the information is aimed at and what the information is about.

10.1. c:
We refer to the information under section 10.1.b.

Article 10.2 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g)

10.2 a:
Section 3-3 of the Sami Act regulates the right to reply in Sami. It follows from the new provision in Section 3-3a of the Sami Act that public bodies covered by the provisions of Sections 3-3, 3-4, 3-4 a, 3-4 b and 3-5 of the Sami Act shall actively provide information about the right to use Sami.

It follows from the new provision in Section 3-13 of the Sami Act states that county authorities and municipalities in the administrative area for Sami languages shall discuss challenges for the Sami language in regional planning strategies and municipal planning strategies, cf. Sections 7-1 and 10-1 of the Planning and Building Act. Overall goals for strengthening the Sami language shall be established in a regional master plan pursuant to Section 8-1 of the Planning and Building Act. The municipality shall set out its goals for strengthening the Sami language as a municipal sub-plan or in the social element of the municipal master plan, cf. Section 11-1 third paragraph and Section 11-2 of the Planning and Building Act.

Section 3-5 of the Sami Act provides an extended right to use Sami in health and care situations. In March 2022, the Sami Parliament and Northern Norway Regional Health Authority signed a cooperation agreement. The agreement is a contribution to the effort to provide the Sami population with access to equitable specialist health services. Equitable specialist health services require that the service is adapted to the patient's linguistic and cultural background.

10.2 b:
Following the amendments to the Sami Act that came into force on 1 January 2024, the administrative area for the Sami language was divided into three categories of municipalities: language development municipalities, language vitalisation municipalities and language stimulation municipalities. The municipalities that were already part of the administrative area for Sami languages are placed in the top two categories. The last category is for new municipalities where the Sami population has mainly immigrated and does not have the same connection to the Sami language, or where the area has been heavily Norwegianised.

The right to reply in Sami to written applications will apply equally to language development municipalities, language vitalisation municipalities and county authorities in the

administrative area. The right to an oral response will apply to both language development municipalities and language vitalisation municipalities. In the latter category, there is a right to a simultaneous response to oral inquiries. For language stimulation municipalities, new rules apply requiring municipalities to provide language and cultural programmes in Sami for children, young people and the elderly.

10.2 c:
The amendments to Section 3-2 of the Sámi Act concerning the translation of rules, announcements and forms clarify that the responsibility for this lies with the issuing bodies. The provision has also been updated so that it now covers both paper and digital forms.

10.2 d:
We refer to the information under section 10.2.a.

10.2 e:
We refer to the cooperation agreement mentioned in section 10.2 a.

10.2 f:
The amendments to Section 3-9 of the Sami Act concerning Sami in municipal administrations and elected bodies state that Sami shall have equal status to Norwegian internally in the municipal administration and municipal council in language development municipalities.

10.2. g:
In March 2022, the Sami Parliament and Northern Norway Regional Health Authority signed a cooperation agreement. The agreement is a contribution to the effort to provide the Sami population with access to equitable specialist health services. Equitable specialist health services require that the service is adapted to the patient's linguistic and cultural background.

Article 10.3.b

We refer to the information under section 10.2.b.

Article 10.4.a

The Sami language provisions in the Sami Act grant the right to use the Sami language in public settings and in interactions with public agencies in the administrative area for Sami languages. Pursuant to the Interpreting Act, public services are required to use qualified interpreters when it is necessary to uphold legal safeguards or provide proper assistance and services. The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) is the national authority for interpreting in the public sector and provides advice, guidance and information about interpreting. IMDi cooperates with educational institutions, including the Sámi University of Applied Sciences, to qualify a sufficient number of interpreters in the relevant languages.

Article 10.5

The Norwegian Names Act does not impose restrictions on the adoption of surnames in regional or minority languages. The Act allows individuals to take surnames that disappeared from their family lineage in earlier times due to Norwegianisation policies. In addition, the Act allows Sami people and other national minorities to adopt names of their choice. The assessments made in relation to language apply to all names in foreign languages, and the Act does not impose restrictions here.

ARTICLE 11
Media

Article 11.1 (aiii, bi, cii, ei, fii, g)

11.1.aiii:
The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK):
NRK shall strengthen Norwegian and Sami language, identity and culture. They must have daily broadcasts for the Sami population and programmes for national and linguistic minorities. From 2023, there is a requirement for content in Sami languages and national minority languages. NRK shall also have programmes for children and young people in Norwegian and Sami.

The International Sami Film Institute (ISFI):
SFI aims to strengthen Sami film throughout Sápmi while simultaneously operating within a global network of filmmakers working in indigenous cinema. The Government's objective in allocating funds to film (and computer games) in general is to 'stimulate a diverse and accessible range of high-quality audiovisual content that strengthens democracy by fostering engagement and facilitating the exchange of opinions. In order to strengthen Norwegian and Sami language, identity and culture, it is important that the allocations contribute to the production and dissemination of high-quality audiovisual content.'

The Norwegian Film Institute (NFI):
The Norwegian Film Institute (NFI) is Norway's government agency responsible for film and computer games. NFI aims to strengthen Norwegian and Sami language, identity and culture by supporting the production and dissemination of high-quality audiovisual content. In 2022 and 2023, the NFI awarded grants to three works based on Sami language or culture each year. The NFI's action plan for inclusion and representativeness in Norwegian film and film culture (2019–2023) has, among other things, resulted in more grants for Sami film than before.

11.1.bi:
NRK's language remit has been strengthened from 2023 with a requirement to offer content in national minority languages.

11.1.cii:
We refer to the information under Article 11.1.aiii.

11.1.ei:
The production grant for Sami news and current affairs media i is intended to promote democratic debate in the Sami community and encourage production of journalistic content aimed at the Sami population. The scheme is also intended to promote the further development of the Sami languages.

Grants may be given to news media that have the Sami population as their main target group, or that regularly publish news and current affairs content in a Sami language. The Sami daily newspapers Ávvir and Ságat have received production grants under the scheme.

11.1.fii:
Grants for local audio and video media include operational funding for local radio stations serving ethnic and linguistic minority groups. Applications from local radio stations serving ethnic and linguistic minority groups shall also be given special priority.

11.1.g:
The Sámi University of Applied Sciences offers bachelor's and master's programmes in journalism.

In 2021, NRK Sápmi started a talent programme offering journalism training for young participants with basic language skills in North, South or Lule Sami.

Article 11.2

There are no restrictions on access to radio and television broadcasts from/to Finland and Sweden. NRK Sápmi broadcasts the news and current affairs programme Ođđasat on NRK1 every weekday. The programme is be made in collaboration with the Sami editorial teams of the Nordic broadcasters SVT Sápmi, SR Sameradion and YLE Sápmi.

NRK Sápmi radio broadcasts Sami language content and music 24 hours a day all year round. The morning programme Buorre Iđit Sápmi has been extended by one hour compared to 2023 and is produced in collaboration with the Sámi editorial teams of the Nordic broadcasters SR Sameradion and YLE Sápmi.

Article 11.3

We have no such bodies. In the Broadcasting Council, the chair of the Sámi Programme Council is a permanent member, while the deputy chair is a deputy member.

ARTICLE 12
Cultural activities and facilities

Article 12.1 (a, d, e, f, g, h)

12.1.a:
According to the new provision in Section 3-10 of the Sami Act, language stimulation municipalities (in the administrative area for Sami languages) must provide a Sami language and cultural programme for children, young people and the elderly.

We refer to the information under Article 12.1.g.

12.1.d:
Reading enthusiasm strategy
In May 2024, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Culture and Equality presented the reading enthusiasm strategy 'Sammen om lesing – Leselyststrategien 2024–2030'. The strategy aims to give children and young people good reading skills and reading experiences through a diverse range of literature and literature dissemination. One of the measures described in the strategy is to 'strengthen Arts Council Norway's work with literature in Nynorsk, Sami languages and national minority languages'. In 2024, Arts Council Norway received NOK 2 million for this work.

The Cultural Schoolbag
The Cultural Schoolbag (DKS) is a nationwide programme to ensure that all school pupils in Norway experience professional arts and culture of all kinds every year. Every year, meeting forums are organised for school leaders and relevant organisations and parties on various topics. In 2024, one of the DKS forums was dedicated to the topic of national minorities and Sami. The aim was to inspire and spread knowledge about the opportunities for local collaboration to develop productions from and with these groups.

We refer to the information about Arts and Culture Norway's language practice in Article 7.1.d. in the reporting on North Sami.

12.1.e:
We refer to the information under Article 12.1.d.

12.1.f:
Kulturtanken is a specialist public agency specialising in art and culture for children and young people, with national responsibility for the Cultural Schoolbag. Kulturtanken is responsible for promoting Sami and national minority art, culture and language through its programme for all school pupils in Norway. The aim is for children and young people to experience art and culture in their own languages and in their own cultural contexts, and to increase knowledge and understanding of Sami and national minority culture and history.

Sami issues and all the national minorities were topics in DKS productions in 2023.

12.1.g:

The Book Law:

We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.

Grant scheme for literature projects – the Norwegian Cultural Fund

We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.

Grant scheme for dissemination of literature – Arts Council Norway

We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.

Preservation plan for Sami archives.

We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.

The Sami national theatre Beaivváš

We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.

National shared solution for long-term preservation and accessibility of digital archives

In 2020, the National Archives of Norway received four-year project funding to further develop the Digital Archive into a national shared solution for long-term preservation and accessibility of digital archives. The solution is offered to preservation institutions in the state, municipal and private sectors. Functionality and services developed as part of the solution will make it possible to search and view archival material. This will also improve access to Sami archival material in Norway.

Nuohtti – search portal for Sami archival material

We refer to the information under Article 7.1.i.

Digitisation of archives of forgotten groups in Finnmark

In the period 2015–2018, a collection and documentation project called 'Glemte grupper – Vi er også her!' ('Forgotten groups – We're here too!') was carried out. The project was a collaboration between museums and archives from the Finnmarksarkivene (FARK) network and focused on archival material related to fisherman farmers in the Kven and Coastal Sami areas. In 2022–2023, this material was digitised and published through the project 'Digitalisering av arkiver etter glemte grupper i Finnmark' ('Digitisation of archives of forgotten groups in Finnmark).

12.1.h:

We refer to the information about 'Sami language models' under Article 7.1.c and the 'National shared solution for long-term preservation and accessibility of digital archives' under Article 7.1.h.

Article 12.2

The Sami national theatre Beaivváš

We refer to the information about the Sami national theatre Beaivváš under Article 7.1.a. Beaivváš is a touring theatre that strives to use all the Sami languages as stage languages and that also visits places where Sami languages are not traditionally used.

Audiovisual productions/films in Sami languages

We refer to the information about the International Sami Film Institute (ISFI) and the Norwegian Film Institute (NFI) under Article 11.1.aiii. ISFI and NFI have contributed to several Sami film projects in Sami languages that are screened throughout the country.

The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK)
We refer to the information about NRK's obligations towards the Sami languages in Norway's 8th report on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, Article 7.3.

We refer to the information about the DKS forum under Article 12.1.d.

Article 12.3

The Dávvirat Duiskkas project and Sami collections in Germany:
The Dávvirat Duiskkas project works closely with the Swedish Sami museum Ajtte, and the Finnish Siida, as well as other stakeholders in Sápmi and beyond. The project started in autumn 2021 as a five-year collaborative project with a dedicated allocation in the national budget. Dávvirat Duiskkas was initiated, financed and organised by the Ministry of Culture and Equality, the Sami Parliament is the project owner, while the Sami Museums Association, as part of the Norwegian Museums Association, is project manager. The project includes the six museums under the Sami Parliament.

The Sami national theatre Beaivváš in Kautokeino – new co-located building:
We refer to the information under Article 12.1.g.

The International Sami Film Institute (ISFI):
We refer to the information under Article 11.1.aiii.

We also refer to information about the Sami Artists' Council (SDR), the 'Digital access to Sámi heritage archives' project, Nuohtti (search portal for Sami archival material), the Nordic Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2022, cultural cooperation in the High North, the Venice Biennale, the Arctic Arts Summit and the Gothenburg Book Fair in the reporting on North Sami, Article 7.1.i.

ARTICLE 13
Economic and social life

Article 13.2 (c, e)

13.2.c:
No comments.

13.2.e:
No comments.

ARTICLE 14
Transfrontier exchanges

Article 14.b

Sámi Giellagáldu receives operational funding from the budgets of the three Sami parliaments. The Sami Parliament in Norway has allocated NOK 52,258,000 to Sámi Giellagáldu in 2024. The Sami Parliament decides for itself how it wants to prioritise the funds it receives through the annual block grant.

The UN General Assembly has declared that 2022–2032 is the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. The Sami Parliament and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, in collaboration with several stakeholders, have developed an action plan for Norway's work during the decade and established a national cooperation forum to follow up on the action plan. Norway is a member of the Global Task Force for the second consecutive term and has representatives in an ad hoc group on digitalisation.

Follow-up of recommendations from the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Recommendations from the Committee of Ministers

Monitor the demand for teaching of and/or in Sami languages at each level of education, from kindergarten to higher education and meet the demands of parents for kindergartens.

Section 3-8 of the Sámi Act states that everyone is entitled to instruction in Sami. Instruction in and through the medium of Sami languages is regulated by the Education Act and pertaining regulations. Sami pupils are entitled to instruction in North Sami, South Sami or Lule Sami in primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school. In addition, the Regulations on curricula pursuant to Section 1-4 second paragraph of the Education Act state that teaching must include knowledge about the Sami people, including their language, culture and society, within relevant subject areas.

The County Governor is responsible for supervising that municipalities and county authorities fulfil their statutory obligations. The Ministry is the administrative appeals body for individual decisions pursuant to the Education Act. The Ministry may delegate authority in accordance with the general rules on delegation, and the County Governor is, following such delegation, the appeals body for individual decisions made under the Education Act.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has an overview of the number of pupils who receive instruction in and through the medium of Sami languages.

Measures to strengthen recruitment to Kven and Sami teacher education programmes.

UiT – The Arctic University of Norway offers Kven both as a standalone subject and as an elective in the primary and lower secondary teacher education programme for years 1–7 for year 1–7.

To increase Kven expertise in kindergartens and schools, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training provides project funding to kindergarten and school owners who have employees taking an introductory course in Kven. The aim is also to motivate employees to study Kven further. The County Governor of Troms and Finnmark also administers a study leave scheme for further education in Kven or Finnish for teachers in primary and secondary education.

In the white paper on Sami language, culture and society and competence and recruitment in kindergartens, primary and secondary education and higher education (Report No. 13 to the Storting (2022–2023) *Samisk språk, kultur og samfunnsliv. Kompetanse og rekruttering i barnehage, grunnopplæring og høyere utdanning),* the Government expects educational institutions to expand the recruitment base for Sami teacher education. This was followed up in the budget for 2024, with UiT and the Sámi University of Applied Sciences receiving funding for national cooperation on Sami as a subject in teacher education and for strengthened initial training programmes in the North Sami language. We refer to the information under section 8.2 for North Sami. Recruitment to Sami primary and lower secondary teacher education programmes has remained stable in recent years.

Recommendations for immediate action from the Committee of Experts for North Sami

> Ensure that health and social care facilities such as hospitals and retirement homes offer services in North Sami.

In 2020, a clinic for Sami health services was established under Finnmark Hospital Trust. Sámi klinihkka is located in Karasjok and is specifically aimed at Sami patients. The clinic is divided into two locations with the Specialist Medical Centre, Inpatient Unit and Adult Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic (VPP) in Ávjovárgeaidnu, and the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic (BUP), Adolescent Psychiatric Unit (UPA), Research and Development (R&D) department, outpatient clinic for interdisciplinary specialised substance abuse treatment (TSB) and the Family Unit in Stuorraluohkká.

> Ensure that there are incentives for students who have opted for North Sami as a second language in the compulsory education to continue these studies at upper secondary level, as this is the recruitment base for teacher training for North Sami.

The new Education Act extends the right to instruction in Sami in upper secondary education so that non-Sami pupils who have received Sami instruction in primary and lower secondary school can continue with Sami instruction in upper secondary school.

Further recommendations

Ensure enough places in kindergartens using North Sami to meet the demands by parents.

The Government has introduced free kindergarten in Finnmark and Nord-Troms. The Sami Parliament has a scheme offering free Sami-language kindergarten places for children living south of this area.

Other changes or measures

North Sami

Since 2020, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has received and processed applications for North Sami names from several municipalities. The names are officially approved by the King in Council, and the municipalities are obliged to consult regarding the choice of name. The Sami place name service at the Sami Parliament has made final recommendations in the cases.

In the applications the Ministry has received, there has been no disagreement about the choice of name, and the King in Council has approved the names in line with the Sami Parliament's final recommendation.

Lule Sami

Part II

Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1

ARTICLE 7
Objectives and principles

Article 7.1.(a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i)

7.1.a:
The Nordland Museum and Árran Lule Sami Centre have collaborated on the Sami exhibition in the Bodø City Museum. The exhibition opened in 2024, the same year that Bodø was European Capital of Culture. The collaboration has contributed to increased expertise in Sami art and cultural history at the City Museum, and strengthened Árran's work in collection management, communication and research. An upgrade was necessary to be able to use the City Museum as an exhibition venue. The Ministry of Culture and Equality has contributed investment funds and increased operational funding to the Nordland Museum.

We refer to the reporting on North Sami under Article 7.1.a., which applies correspondingly to Lule Sami.

7.1.b:
We refer to Article 7.1.a. in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.c:
We refer to the information about the 'Language Act', 'Sami language models' and 'Development of Sami language models – National Archives of Norway' under Article 7.1.c in the reporting on North Sami.

We also refer to the information about the 'Preservation plan for Sami private archives', 'Project and development funds for archival purposes', 'The Book Law', 'Grant scheme for literature projects – the Norwegian Cultural Fund' and 'Grant scheme for dissemination of literature – Arts Council Norway' under Article 7.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.d:
We refer to the information about 'The Language Act», 'Sami language models' and 'National Library of Norway – NB Whisper' under Article 7.1.c in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to the information about 'The Book Law', 'Grant scheme for literature projects – the Norwegian Cultural Fund' and 'Grant scheme for dissemination of literature – Arts Council Norway' under Article 7.1.a.

We refer to the information about the 'Sami language plan in KORO – Public Art Norway' and 'Language practice in Arts and Culture Norway' under Article 7.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.e:
We refer to the information under Article 7.1.e in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to the section on the International Sami Film Institute under the reporting on Article 11. 1. aiii for North Sami.

We refer to the information about the Sami national theatre Beaivváš under Article 12.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.f:
We refer to the information about Sami in schools, Sami teaching materials and distance learning under Article 7.1.f in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to the information about Sami academic language in the new University and University Colleges Act and framework plans for primary and lower secondary teacher education programmes under Article 7.1.f in the reporting on North Sami. The Lule Sami teacher education programme uses Norwegian as the language of instruction but provides competence in Lule Sami. The Lule Sami teacher education programme will give children in the district better opportunities for language instruction in their mother tongue. This will also help to keep the language alive.

The County Governors of Nordland and Troms and Finnmark have received annual allocations during this reporting period to develop the skills of Sami distance learning teachers. The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has contributed pilots from 2021–2023 through the national platform for distance learning to develop the quality of distance learning in South and Lule Sami.

Nord University has developed a Lule Sami primary and lower secondary teacher education programme and works closely with regional authorities on recruitment to the programme. The programme was established in 2018 and the first cohort (two candidates) graduated in 2023. The University also offers language studies and a bachelor's programme in Lule Sami, which can be included in a degree programme to become a teacher. In the national budget for 2024, the University received funding to strengthen the South Sami and Lule Sami academic environments, to help establish a fully-fledged educational programme in these languages. In 2021, Nord University established a workplace-based early childhood teacher education programme with a Sami profile in Lule Sami and South Sami. The programme is offered part-time, and the first cohort is scheduled to graduate in spring 2025.

7.1.g:
We refer to Article 7.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.h:
Nord University's block grant from the national budget also includes funding for research in the subject areas where education is provided. This means that the university conducts research into Lule Sami and Sami affairs.

We refer to the information under Article 7.1.h in the reporting on North Sami and 'Sami language models' under Articles 7.1.c and 7.1.h.

7.1.i:
We refer to Article 7.1.i in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.2

We refer to the information under Article 7.2 and Article 7.1.c in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.3

We refer to Article 7.3 in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.4

We refer to Article 7.4 in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to Article 7.4 in the reporting on North Sami and ‘The Language Act’ under Article 7.1.c.

Article 7.5

No comments.

Part III

Measures to promote the use of regional and minority languages in public activities in accordance with the obligations entered into pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 2

ARTICLE 8
Education

Article 8.1 (biv, civ, g, i)

8.1.biv:
We refer to Article 8.1.biv in the reporting on North Sami.

8.1.civ:
We refer to Article 8.1.civ in the reporting on North Sami.

8.1.g:
We refer to Articles 8.1.g and 8.1.i in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 8.2

No comments.

ARTICLE 9
Judicial authorities

Article 9.1 (a (i-iv), b (i-iii), d)

9.1.a(i-iv):
We refer to the sections on the right to use the Sami language in the judicial system, the Sami Forum and guidelines on Sami cases before the courts under Article 9.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

9.1.b(i-iii):
We refer to Article 9.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

9.1.d:
We refer to Article 9.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

In civil cases with free legal aid and in all criminal cases, expenses are covered by the public authorities. In other civil cases, interpreter costs are covered when the court deems it necessary. Interpreter costs may also be covered by the public authorities if any witnesses or experts do not speak Norwegian. When the court has found it necessary to translate to and from Sami, the costs are covered by the state.

Article 9.2.a

We refer to the reporting on North Sami under Article 9.1.a.

ARTICLE 10
Administrative authorities and public services

Article 10.1 (aiii)

10.1.aiii:
We refer to Article 10.1.aiii in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 10.2 (a, b, d, f, g)

10.2 a:
We refer to Article 10.2.a in the reporting on North Sami.

10.2 b:
We refer to Article 10.2.b in the reporting on North Sami.

10.2 d:
We refer to Article 10.2.d in the reporting on North Sami.

The amendments to Section 3-2 of the Sámi Act concerning the translation of rules, announcements and forms clarify that the responsibility for this lies with the issuing bodies. The provision has also been updated so that it now covers both paper and digital forms.

10.2 f:
We refer to Article 10.2.f in the reporting on North Sami.

10.2. g:
We refer to Article 10.2.g in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 10.3.b

We refer to Article 10.2.b in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 10.4.b

As stated in Section 3-7 of the Sami Act, employees of public bodies are entitled to leave with pay in order to acquire knowledge of Sami if the public body in question is in need of such knowledge. Furthermore, according to Section 3-14, municipalities, county authorities and state public bodies that need employees with Sami language skills in order to fulfil their duties may request Sami language skills as a desired or necessary qualification when advertising positions.

Article 10.5

We refer to Article 10.5 in the reporting on North Sami.

ARTICLE 11
Media

Article 11.1 (aiii, bi, cii, d, ei, fii)

11.1. aiii:
We refer to the discussion of measures under 11.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

11.1. bi:
We refer to Article 11.1.b in the reporting on North Sami.

11.1. cii:
We refer to Article 11.1.c in the reporting on North Sami.

11.1. d:
We refer to Article 11.1.a and 11.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

11.1. ei:
We refer to Article 11.1.e in the reporting on North Sami.

11.1. fii:
We refer to Article 11.1.f in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 11.2

We refer to Article 11.2 in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 11.3

We refer to Article 11.3 in the reporting on North Sami.

ARTICLE 12
Cultural activities and facilities

Article 12.1 (a, d, e, f, g)

12.1.a:
We refer to Article 12.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

12.1.d:
We refer to Article 12.1.d and Article 7.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

12.1.e:
We refer to Article 12.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

12.1.f:
We refer to the information about the Cultural Schoolbag (DKS) under Article 12.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

12.1.g:
We refer to Article 12.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 12.2

We refer to the sections on the Sami National Theatre Beaivváš, audiovisual productions/ films in Sami languages and the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) under Article 12.2 in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 12.3

We refer to Article 7.1.i in the reporting on North Sami.

ARTICLE 13
Economic and social life

Article 13.1 (d)

13.1. d:
The linguistic rights in chapter 3 of the Sami Act are minimum rights. The public administration is therefore free to do more than what follows from the Act and regulations.

Article 13.2 (b, e)

13.2. b:
The linguistic rights in chapter 3 of the Sami Act are minimum rights. The public administration is therefore free to do more than what follows from the Act and regulations.

13.2.e:
No comments here.

ARTICLE 14
Transfrontier exchanges

Article 14.b

We refer to the discussion of Sámi Giellagáldu under Article 14.b in the reporting on North Sami.

Follow-up of recommendations from the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Recommendations from the Committee of Ministers

> Allocate sustainable means for revitalisation and development of Kven, Lule Sami and South Sami, Romanes and Romani, the most endangered minority languages.

Kven:
In recent years, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has increased funding for the development of teaching materials for the subjects Kven or Finnish as a second language, and for projects to promote Kven in kindergartens.

In the budget for 2024, funds were allocated under Nord University's block grant to strengthen the academic environments in Lule Sami and Southern Sami.

Romanes:

In 2024, the Government allocated funding for the development of a Romanes version of the picture dictionary Bildetema and for the development of a grammar in the language.

We refer to the discussion of the recommendations under the reporting on North Sami.

Recommendations for immediate action from the Committee of Experts for Lule Sami

Ensure that the new administrative division does not have a negative impact on Lule Sami in education.

On 1 January 2020, Tysfjord Municipality was divided into two. The municipality was an administrative municipality for the Lule Sami language. Half of the municipality (the southern part) was merged with Hamarøy Municipality, which from 1 January 2020 became part of the administrative district for the Lule Sami language. The other half of Tysfjord Municipality (the northern part) was incorporated into Narvik Municipality.

The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation (now the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development) consulted Narvik Municipality, the Sami Parliament and local Sami interests on how Narvik Municipality should facilitate the transfer of Lule Sami speakers to Narvik. In 2020, the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation made special funds available to Narvik Municipality to meet the needs of these language users.

We are not aware of any negative consequences for Lule Sami instruction in the former Tysfjord Municipality.

Ensure that there are incentives for students who have opted for Lule Sami as a second language in the compulsory education to continue these studies at upper secondary level, as this is the recruitment base for teacher training for Lule Sami.

The new Education Act extends the right to instruction in Sami in upper secondary education so that non-Sami pupils who have received Sami instruction in primary and lower secondary school can continue with Sami instruction in upper secondary school.

Further recommendations from the Committee of Experts for Lule Sami

Provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Lule Sami to learn it.

The Sami Parliament, through its block grant, has the flexibility to allocate funds to the language centres, whose goal is to promote the visibility of the Sami language and contribute to its strengthening and development. The language centres' activities largely contribute to making Sami more visible in the local area, including in the Lule Sami area. The language centres are based on their language areas and initiate measures adapted to the needs of the different areas.

Encourage the use of Lule Sami, in speech and writing, in education, media as well as in cultural activities.

The subsidy scheme for Sami newspapers provides support for newspaper pages in Lule Sami or South Sami to newspapers that are published in or have significant coverage within the Lule Sami or South Sami core areas. We refer to Article 7.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to the information about the Language Act under Article 7.1.c in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to the information about the new Universities and University Colleges Act under Article 7.1.f in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to Article 12 in the reporting on North Sami.

South Sami

Part II

Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1

ARTICLE 7
Objectives and principles

Article 7.1.(a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i)

7.1.a:
We refer to the discussion of measures that recognise and promote several Sami languages under Part II North Sami, Article 7.1.a, such as the Book Law, the grant scheme for literature projects – the Norwegian Cultural Fund, the purchasing schemes – Arts Council Norway, the preservation plan for Sami private archives and the Sami national theatre Beaivváš in Kautokeino – new co-located building.

Saemien Sijte
Statsbygg has built a new building for the South Sami museum and cultural centre Saemien Sijte in Snåsa. Saemien Sijte opened to the public in June 2022 and includes exhibition spaces, areas for conservation, workshops for various duodji (traditional Sami handicraft), and storage facilities for unique Sami cultural artefacts.

Saemien Sijte is an important initiative for research and dissemination of South Sami culture, history, language, identity and heritage. The new building has made it possible to return the artefacts from the South Sami area through the Bååstede project (see article 7.1.a for North Sami).

7.1.b:
We refer to Article 7.1.b in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.c:
We refer to Article 7.1.a and 7.1.c. in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.d:
We refer to Article 7.1.a, 7.1.c and 7.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.e:
We refer to the information under Article 7.1.e in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to the information about the Language Act under Article 7.1.i in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.f:
The South Sami teacher education programme uses Norwegian as the language of instruction but provides competence in South Sami. Nord University established a South Sami primary and lower secondary teacher education programme in 2018, and the first cohort started in 2019 and completed in 2024 (with three candidates). The university works closely with regional authorities on recruitment to the programme. The university also offers language studies in South Sami. The language studies in South Sami can be included in a degree that is supplemented with an educational theory and practice programme to become a teacher. In 2021, Nord University established a workplace-based early childhood teacher education programme with a Sami profile in Lule Sami and South

Sami. It is offered part-time over four years, and the first candidates are scheduled to graduate in spring 2025.

In the national budget for 2024, the University received funding to strengthen the South Sami and Lule Sami academic environments, to help establish a fully-fledged educational programme in these languages. In autumn 2024, the first master's programme in South Sami language and literature studies will start at Nord University in collaboration with UiT – the Arctic University of Norway.

We refer to the discussion of North Sami and Lule Sami, Article 7.1.f.

7.1.g:
We refer to Article 7.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.h:
Nord University's block grant from the national budget also includes funding for research in the subject areas where education is provided. This means that the university conducts research into South Sami and Sami affairs.

We refer to Article 7.1c and 7.1.h in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.i:
We refer to Article 7.1.i in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.2

We refer to Article 7.1.c and Article 7.2 in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.3

We refer to Article 7.3 in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.4

We refer to Article 7.1.c and Article 7.4 in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.5

No comments.

Part III

Measures to promote the use of regional and minority languages in public activities in accordance with the obligations entered into pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 2

ARTICLE 8
Education

Article 8.1 (biv, civ, g, i)

8.1.biv:
We refer to Article 8.1.b in the reporting on North Sami.

8.1.civ:
We refer to Article 8.1.c in the reporting on North Sami.

8.1.g:
We refer to Article 8.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

8.1.i:
No comments.

Article 8.2

In autumn 2024, following consultations with the Sami Parliament, a clear mandate was established for the South Sami Knowledge Park. The mandate clearly states that the organisation must prioritise South Sami language instruction, but it also allows for the provision of instruction in North and Lule Sami if capacity permits. The fact that the Ministry of Education and Research, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training and the Sami Parliament have agreed on a mandate will clarify what the organisation is to offer and ensure more stable operations.

ARTICLE 9
Judicial authorities

Article 9.1 (a (i-iv), b (i-iii), d)

9.1.a(i-iv):
We refer to Article 9.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

9.1.b(i-iii):
We refer to the discussion of North Sami in Article 9.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

9.1. d:
We refer to Article 9.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

In civil cases with free legal aid and in all criminal cases, expenses are covered by the public authorities. In other civil cases, interpreter costs are covered when the court deems it necessary. Interpreter costs may also be covered by the public authorities if any witnesses or experts do not speak Norwegian. When the court has found it necessary to translate to and from Sami, the costs are covered by the state.

Article 9.2.a

We refer to the discussion of North Sami in Article 9.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

ARTICLE 10
Administrative authorities and public services

Article 10.1 (aiii)

10.1. aiii:
We refer to Article 10.1.aiii in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 10.2 (a, b, d, f, g)

10.2 a:
We refer to Article 10.2.a in the reporting on North Sami.

10.2 b:
We refer to Article 10.2.a and 10.2.b in the reporting on North Sami.

10.2 d:
We refer to Article 10.2.a and 10.2.b in the reporting on North Sami.

10.2 f:
We refer to Article 10.2.a and 10.2.b in the reporting on North Sami.

10.2. g:
We refer to Article 10.2.a and 10.2.b in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 10.3.b

We refer to Article 10.2.b in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 10.4.b

We refer to Article 10.4.b in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 10.5

We refer to Article 10.5 in the reporting on North Sami.

ARTICLE 11
Media

Article 11.1 (aiii, bi, cii, d, ei, fii)

11.1. aiii:
We refer to Article 11.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

11.1. bi:
No comments.

11.1. cii:
We refer to Article 11.1.c in the reporting on North Sami.

11.1. d:
We refer to Article 11.1.a and 11.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

11.1. ei:
We refer to Article 11.1.e in the reporting on North Sami.

11.1. fii:
We refer to Article 11.1.e in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 11.2

We refer to Article 11.2 in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 11.3

We refer to Article 11.3 in the reporting on North Sami.

ARTICLE 12
Cultural activities and facilities

Article 12.1 (a, d, e, f, g)

12.1.a:
We refer to Article 12.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

12.1.d:
We refer to Article 12.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to the information about Arts and Culture Norway's language practice in the reporting on North Sami, Article 7.1.d.

12.1.e:
We refer to Article 12.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

12.1.f:
We refer to Article 12.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

12.1.g:
We refer to Article 12.1.g in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 12.2

We refer to Article 12.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 12.3

We refer to Article 7.1.i in the reporting on North Sami.

ARTICLE 13
Economic and social life

Article 13.1 (d)

13.1. d:
The linguistic rights in chapter 3 of the Sami Act are minimum rights. The public administration is therefore free to do more than what follows from the Act and regulations.

Article 13.2 (b, e)

13.2. b:
The linguistic rights in chapter 3 of the Sami Act are minimum rights. The public administration is therefore free to do more than what follows from the Act and regulations.

13.2.e:
No comments.

ARTICLE 14
Transfrontier exchanges

Article 14.b

We refer to the mention of Sámi Giellagáldu under Article 14.b in the reporting on North Sami.

Follow-up of recommendations from the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Recommendations from the Committee of Ministers

We refer to the discussion of the recommendations under the reporting on North Sami and Lule Sami.

Recommendations for immediate action from the Committee of Experts for South Sami

> Provide forms and means for the teaching and study of South Sami at all appropriate stages, including by distance learning.

The Ministry of Education and Research has tasked the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training with updating the knowledge base on distance education in the

Sami language for pupils across primary and secondary education. The Directorate proposes measures that both collectively and individually can help to improve the quality of distance learning for students receiving instruction in Sami.

> Ensure that there are incentives for students who have opted for South Sami as a second language in the compulsory education to continue these studies at upper secondary level, as this is the recruitment base for teacher training for South Sami.

The new Education Act extends the right to instruction in Sami in upper secondary education so that non-Sami pupils who have received Sami instruction in primary and lower secondary school can continue with Sami instruction in upper secondary school.

Further recommendations from the Committee of Experts for South Sami

> Provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of South Sami to learn it.

The subsidy scheme for Sami newspapers provides support for newspaper pages in Lule Sami or South Sami to newspapers that are published in or have significant coverage within the Lule Sami or South Sami core areas.

We refer to the information about the Language Act under Article 7.1.c in the reporting on North Sami. See also previous answers under further recommendations from the Expert Committee.

> Encourage the use of South Sami, in speech and writing, in education, media as well as in cultural activities

We refer to Article 7.1.a and Article 12.1.d in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to the information about the new Universities and University Colleges Act under Article 7.1.f in the reporting on North Sami.

Other measures or similar

Since 2020, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has received and processed applications for South Sami names from the municipalities of Røros, Trondheim, Levanger and Rana. The names are approved by the King in Council, cf. Section 3-1 third paragraph of the Local Government Act. The municipalities are obliged to consult 'representatives of affected Sami interests' about the choice of name, cf. Section 4-4 of the Sami Act. The Sami place name service at the Sami Parliament has made final recommendations in the cases.

In the applications the Ministry has received, there has been no disagreement about the choice of name, and the King in Council has approved the names in line with the Sami Parliament's final recommendation.

Kven

Part II

Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1

ARTICLE 7
Objectives and principles

Article 7.1.(a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i)

7.1.a:

Kväänin kielipalkinto – Kven language prize
The Language Council of Norway has awarded the Kväänin kielipalkinto – Kven Language Prize twice since 2020. The language prize is intended to help protect, promote, develop and preserve the Kven language.

The Kven Institute
In 2025, the grant from the Ministry of Culture and Equality to the Kven Institute increased to NOK 8,700,000, up from NOK 6,855,000 in 2020 (Chapter 326, Item 73 in the national budget).

Kven/Norwegian-Finnish museums:
Vadsø Museum – Ruija Kven Museum is the museum responsible for Kven/Norwegian-Finnish history and culture, while at the same time communicating local history for Vadsø and the surrounding areas. The Kven Language Centre *Kvensk Språksenter Vadsø* is located in the museum. The building opened in August 2022.

Kvääniteatteri was founded in September 2022 and is established in connection with Halti Kven Cultural Centre in Nordreisa, Nord-Troms. The theatre has received funding since 2022 and since 2023 has received ongoing operational funding from the Ministry of Culture and Equality. The theatre plays an important role in communicating Kven history, culture and identity both nationally and internationally. The theatre's objective is to develop Kven theatre, preserve the language, build identity and culture and highlight the challenges faced by Kvens and other minorities.

Grant scheme for dissemination of literature – Arts Council Norway
In 2023, Arts Council Norway changed the objects clause for the grant scheme for dissemination of literature to also include the national minority languages. The grant scheme will help to ensure that a wide range of literature – primarily in Norwegian, Sami and the national minority languages (Kven, Romani and Romanes) – is professionally disseminated to a broad and general audience.

Grants for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture
The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development allocates annual grants for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture. The aim of the scheme is to help to revitalise the Kven language and promote Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture, especially among children and young people. Among other things, the funds go to the establishment and operation of Kven language centres and the Kven newspaper Ruijan Kaiku. Since 2020, grants for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture have seen a steady increase.

Arts and Culture Norway administers the grant schemes for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture. Grants can be awarded to voluntary organisations, private individuals, municipalities, institutions and enterprises, both within and outside the traditional settlement area of the Kvens/Norwegian Finns. Arts and Culture Norway also has a dialogue with Kven/Norwegian-Finnish organisations.

Education
The content related to the national minority languages has been strengthened in the core curriculum and with the new LK20 curricula. Among other things, the core curriculum emphasises that the ethnic groups defined as national minorities have contributed to shaping Norway's cultural heritage, and that education should provide knowledge about these groups.

The curriculum for Norwegian emphasises that the subject should give pupils insight into Norway's rich and diverse language and cultural heritage. This can include Kven. The social studies curriculum emphasises the inclusion of majority and minority perspectives and has several competence objectives related to diversity, culture and identity in Norway.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has initiated and is initiating measures to spread knowledge about the national minorities, including their languages. The Directorate organised curriculum conferences in 2024 as part of the implementation of the new curriculum. A panel discussion was held with representation from young Sami people and the national minorities. The Cultural Schoolbag is a nationwide programme that contributes to ensuring that all school pupils in Norway experience professional arts and culture at school. The forum for the Cultural Schoolbag (DKS-forum) has highlighted how the Cultural Schoolbag can help to promote Sami and the national minorities' languages and cultures through cultural activities in schools. Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training also works to promote awareness of national minorities through various support material available on its website udir.no and through celebrating the Kven People's Day.

7.1.b:
On 1 January 2023, the administration of the grant schemes for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture was moved from Troms and Finnmark County Authority to Arts and Culture Norway. Moving the grant schemes to Arts and Culture Norway has helped to emphasise that the grant scheme is a national scheme. The change was made following a dialogue with Kven/Norwegian-Finnish organisations.

7.1.c:
We refer to Article 7.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

The Language Act
The Language Act entered into force on 1 January 2022. The Language Act sets out the responsibility of public bodies to protect and promote Kven, Romani and Romanes. The law establishes the status of these languages as national minority languages and states that Kven, Romani and Romanes are equal to Norwegian as expressions of language and culture.

The Language Council of Norway
The Language Council works to protect and promote the national minority languages Kven, Romani and Romanes. It does so by advising public bodies and collaborating with the language communities. Schools are an important arena, and the Language Council advises educational authorities. They have also collaborated with municipalities to highlight multilingualism, resulting in a brochure featuring measures for multiple languages, including Kven.

The Language Council is responsible for Kven place names. They administer grants for the collection of place names, including the Kven language. The Language Council participates in the project Small Languages in the Nordics, which is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers and focuses on strengthening small languages. The project includes the Borealium web portal with tools for small languages, such as spell checkers and dictionaries.

Kven place names are included in the Place Name Act.

Kven in kindergartens
The measures to promote Kven in kindergartens and ensure instruction in Kven or Finnish as a second language are discussed in the sections under letter d.

Action plan for the Kven language
The targeted plan for the Kven language (2017–2021) was evaluated in 2022/2023. The review showed that a lot has happened in the field since the targeted plan was presented. It was announced in March 2025 that a new action plan for the Kven language will be drawn up.

7.1.d:
We refer to the information about the Language Council's work under Article 7.1.c in the reporting on North Sami.

We refer to Article 7.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

With the new Education Act that came into force in 2024, the right to instruction in Kven or Finnish as a second language for primary and lower secondary school pupils with a Kven/Norwegian-Finnish background in Troms and Finnmark was established as an individual right, independent of the minimum number of pupils at the school who want such instruction. This is intended to make it easier for the target group to receive instruction in these languages.

The curriculum in Kven or Finnish as a second language was part of the curriculum that was updated and came into effect from 1 August 2020.

7.1.e:
Grants for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture
Arts and Culture Norway administers the grant schemes for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture. Since 2023, Arts and Culture Norway has held annual meetings with organisations that receive operational funding through the grant schemes.

Funding for the development of teaching materials
From 2023, the call for proposals for the development of teaching materials in Kven or Finnish as a second language will include the possibility of applying for funding to translate and adapt teaching materials developed in Sweden or Finland. This can promote cooperation between groups across national borders.

7.1.f:
Kven in kindergartens
For a number of years, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has awarded project funding to kindergartens in Troms and Finnmark that apply for projects to promote Kven in kindergartens. There has been an increase in the number of applications, and in 2024 project funding was granted for projects involving 18 kindergartens.

Through the projects, children encounter the Kven language and culture through various activities in the kindergartens, and staff develop their skills to promote Kven in the kindergartens.

Kven in primary and lower secondary school
With the new Education Act, the right to instruction in Kven or Finnish as a second language for primary and lower secondary school pupils with a Kven/Norwegian-Finnish background in Troms and Finnmark was established as an individual right. The new Education Act stipulates a general duty to provide information, which will also apply to the right to instruction in Kven or Finnish as a second language. Schools that provide instruction in accordance with this right can receive grants. There has been a slight increase in the number of pupils taking Kven as a second language, and in 2024 there were 60 pupils in primary and lower secondary school taking the subject.

In 2022, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training took over the grant scheme for the development of teaching materials for Kven or Finnish as a second language from the County Governor of Troms and Finnmark. This change has contributed to a large increase in the number of applications, and the availability of teaching materials in Kven and Finnish as a second language is developing positively.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has established a working group to develop, test and evaluate how and whether the digital learning platform Digilær can be used in online teaching in the subject ‘Kven or Finnish as a second language’. The goal is to help to increase access to learning resources and alleviate the teacher shortage. The project will be evaluated in spring 2025.

See also the discussion of the curriculum and measures to contribute to increased knowledge about and for national minorities under Article 7.1.a.

Studies in Kven
To encourage studies in Kven, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training provides project funding, upon application, to kindergarten and school owners who have employees taking an introductory course in Kven. In recent years, there has been somewhat more interest in this scheme.

Higher education
The University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway (UiT) offers a one-year programme in Kven and bachelor's and master's programmes in Kven and Finnish. In 2018, the Ministry of Education and Research granted funding to UiT to develop a teacher education programme in Kven. The programme has been offered at the Alta campus, both as an elective in the primary and lower secondary teacher education programmes and as a further education programme for teachers. The Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund has a scheme for the cancellation of student debt for those who complete at least 60 ECTS credits in Kven as part of, or in addition to, a teacher education programme.

7.1.g:
In 2023, Arts and Culture Norway awarded a grant for the establishment of a new language centre in Alta and has awarded pre-project funding to Kåfjord Municipality for the establishment of a Kven language centre there. Among other things, the language and culture centres offer courses in the Kven language and are important meeting places for the use of the Kven language.

The new Education Act came into force on 1 August 2024. In the new Education Act, the right to instruction in Kven and Finnish has been extended so that it applies to pupils with a Kven/Norwegian-Finnish background at primary and lower secondary schools in Troms and Finnmark, regardless of how many pupils at the school want such instruction.

7.1.h:
UiT – The Arctic University of Norway's block grant from the national budget also includes funding for research in the subject areas where education is provided. UiT – The Arctic University of Norway has four academic staff members in Kven and Finnish who have research and academic development in the Kven language and culture as part of their research responsibilities.

7.1.i:
The grant schemes for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture make it possible to apply for funding for cross-border projects on the Kven language and culture.

Article 7.2

With the new Education Act that came into force in 2024, the right to instruction in Kven or Finnish as a second language for primary and lower secondary school pupils with a Kven/Norwegian-Finnish background in Troms and Finnmark was established as an individual right, so that it applies regardless of how many pupils at the school want such instruction.

Article 7.3

The new curricula in LK20 have strengthened the content on national minorities. The core curriculum states that five ethnic groups with a long-standing attachment to Norway have the status of national minorities: Jews, Kvens/Norwegian Finns, Forest Finns, Roma and Romani people/Taters. It is emphasised that 'Knowledge about the linguistic diversity

in society provides all pupils with valuable insight into different forms of expression, ideas and traditions. All pupils shall experience that being proficient in a number of languages is a resource, both in school and society at large.' Kven is part of the linguistic diversity in Norway. The curriculum in Norwegian and social studies includes goals for linguistic and cultural diversity, which can include Kven.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has initiated and is initiating measures to spread knowledge about the national minorities and their languages, which can promote respect and understanding of Kven. This applies, for example, to panel discussions with young people from Sami and national minorities, presentations from the Norwegian Kvens Association and references to national minorities in various support materials on udir.no. For more details, see 7.1.a.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has updated information about 'Our national minorities' in line with new curricula in primary and secondary education.

National education authorities fund Democratic Preparedness against Racism, Antisemitism and Undemocratic Attitudes (Dembra), which offers guidance, courses and online resources for schools and teacher education. The aim is to strengthen schools' work on democratic preparedness to combat various group-focused enmities, such as prejudice, xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and extremism. Dembra has content and resources about indigenous peoples and national minorities.

We refer to the information about the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) under Article 7.3. in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.4

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has consulted with the organisations for the Kven/Norwegian Finns when producing films about the right to use Kven or Finnish as a second language, and when revising the call for proposals for grants for teaching materials. The Ministry of Education and Research and the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training also meet with the organisations at their request, in addition to the annual meetings of the Contact Forum (including the youth forum) for national minorities that the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development holds.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has organised a workshop with young people from all the national minorities, including Kven/Norwegian-Finnish youth, where the topic was the content and format of the new website. The aim was to get ideas and input from young people before the planning of the website's format and content began.

We refer to the Language Council's work to help to protect and promote the national minority languages Kven, Romani and Romanes, and to 'The Language Act' section in the reporting on Kven, same article, paragraph and letter c.

Article 7.5

The right to instruction in Kven or Finnish as a second language applies to both languages. The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training's initiatives therefore target both Kven and Finnish, including information and motivational films, support materials and grants for teaching materials. The County Governor's annual seminar for teachers covers both languages, and support is provided for school and study visits to Finland for schools that offer Finnish language instruction.

Follow-up of recommendations from the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Recommendations from the Committee of Ministers

We refer to the discussion of the recommendations under the reporting on North Sami, Lule Sami and South Sami.

Recommendations for immediate action from the Committee of Experts for Kven

> Take measures to ensure stronger presence of Kven in the media, including reintroducing Kven in radio broadcasting.

From 2023, NRK is required to offer content in national minority languages. NRK has editorial freedom to decide how to fulfil this requirement, and the Norwegian Media Authority carries out annual supervisions.

In 2023, NRK reported that it offers content in Kven on its website Nrk.no/kvensk, social media, radio and TV. NRK Kvensk/Kvääni offers content about the Kven language, culture and Kven-related news through articles, videos, images and sound clips.

NRK Kvensk/Kvääni has expanded its editorial team and publishes content in Kven.

> Improve the situation of Kven in primary and secondary education and enhance the offer of Kven language nests in kindergartens.

In the new Education Act that came into force in 2024, the right to instruction in Kven and Finnish has been extended so that it applies to pupils with a Kven/Norwegian-Finnish background at primary and lower secondary schools in Troms and Finnmark, regardless of how many pupils at the school want such instruction.

In recent years, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has increased funding for the development of teaching materials for the subjects Kven or Finnish as a second language, and for projects in Troms and Finnmark Counties to promote Kven in kindergartens. Project funding for kindergartens facilitates various types of activities where children encounter the Kven language and culture. The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training also provides project funding to kindergarten and school owners

who have employees taking an introductory course in Kven. In 2024, the Directorate developed a pilot project to test distance learning in Kven in primary and lower secondary schools, in collaboration with Kven institutions. This can help to make teaching Kven as a second language accessible to pupils at schools that do not have a local teacher with this expertise. See further discussion under 7.1.f.

Ensure that there are incentives for students who have opted for Kven as a second language in the compulsory education to continue these studies at upper secondary level, as this is the recruitment base for teacher training for Kven.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has developed films aimed at young people to motivate them to take the subject of Kven or Finnish as a second language and show the opportunities the subject offers.

The revision of the curriculum in Kven or Finnish as a second language, as part of the curriculum renewal, may have helped to motivate students to continue with the subject. In addition, the development of more and different teaching materials for the subject can be a motivating factor.

We also refer to the discussion of the recommendations under the reporting on North Sami, Lule Sami and South Sami above.

Further recommendations from the Committee of Experts for Kven

Encourage the provision of facilities and funding (including textbooks for adults) enabling nonspeakers of Kven to learn it.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training provides grants to the development of teaching materials for Kven or Finnish as a second language. In both 2023 and 2024, the Directorate's total allocations have been significantly higher. The teaching materials are primarily designed for use by primary and lower secondary school pupils but can also be used in adult education.

The scheme for project and operational funding for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture, which is administered by Arts and Culture Norway, aims to contribute to the revitalisation and development of the Kven language. The grant item has increased steadily over several years.

Provide more sustainable public funding for the protection and promotion of Kven.

We refer to the information about the Language Act and the Language Council under Article 7.1.c in the reporting on North Sami.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has increased funding for the development of teaching materials for the subjects Kven or Finnish as a second language, and for projects to promote Kven in kindergartens.

Romanes

Part II

Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1

ARTICLE 7
Objectives and principles

Romanes is recognised as a non-territorial language under the Charter. According to Article 7.5, the Parties undertake to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the principles listed in Articles 7.1 to 7.4 to non-territorial languages, subject to the possible limitations set out in Article 7.5, second sentence.

Article 7.1.(a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i), cf. article 7.5

7.1.a:
With the new curricula in LK20, content related to the national minority languages has been strengthened.

The curriculum for Norwegian emphasises that the subject should give pupils insight into Norway's rich and diverse language and cultural heritage. This can include Romanes. The social studies curriculum emphasises the inclusion of majority and minority perspectives and has several competence objectives related to diversity, culture and identity in Norway.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has initiated and is initiating measures to spread knowledge about the national minorities, including their languages. The Directorate organised curriculum conferences in 2024 as part of the implementation of the new curriculum. A panel discussion was held with representation from young Sami people and the national minorities. The Cultural Schoolbag is a nationwide programme that contributes to ensuring that all school pupils in Norway experience professional arts and culture at school. The forum for the Cultural Schoolbag (DKS-forum) has highlighted how the Cultural Schoolbag can help to promote Sami and the national minorities' languages and cultures through cultural activities in schools. The Directorate also works to promote awareness of national minorities through various support material available on its website udir.no.

See the discussion of the *Grant scheme for dissemination of literature – Arts Council Norway* under Article 7.1.a in the reporting on Kven.

7.1.b:
There is nothing relevant to include here, as Romanes is regarded as a non-territorial language under Article 1(c).

7.1.c:
In 2022, an ABC book in Romanes was published, *ABC Romani shib*, written by Professor Emeritus Rolf Theil, the Roma Culture and Resource Centre (Romano Kher) and with support from the Language Council and Arts Council Norway. This is the first ABC book in the Romanes language to be published in Norway. In contrast to the other minority languages, Romanes is a strong oral language. The vast majority of Roma in Norway use the language on a daily basis and Roma children have it as their first language. But as a written language, Romanes is not standardised in Norway.

Funding has also been provided for the development of a Romanes version of the picture dictionary Bildetema. This is a multilingual interactive picture dictionary containing illustrations, images, text, sound and animations that can be used in schools. In addition, funding has been provided for the development of a grammar book in Romanes.

We refer to Article 7.1.a and 7.1.c in the reporting on North Sami. The 'Together for Roma' project in Lørenskog Municipality works, among other things, to adapt relevant public information for Roma in Romanes. The initiative is a collaboration between the municipality, the Roma Culture and Resource Centre (Romano Kher) and Romanes speakers.

7.1 d:

The Language Council and the Language Act

We refer to the discussion of the Language Council's work to help to protect and promote the national minority languages Kven, Romani and Romanes and of 'The Language Act' section in Article 7.1.c. in the reporting on Kven.

Cultural initiatives

Also see Article 7.1.a.

Education and training

National authorities provide project funding to the City of Oslo for initiatives aimed at increasing Roma children's participation in kindergarten and school. The School guidance service in the City of Oslo has a preschool programme in Romanes and Norwegian to strengthen Roma children's bilingualism and Roma identity. The programme is for children with a Roma background in Oslo and neighbouring municipalities and is designed to facilitate the children's encounter with school.

National authorities also provide project funding to Lørenskog Municipality and its 'Together for Roma' programme, which aims, among other things, to strengthen the inclusion of Roma pupils in primary and lower secondary education.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has provided funding for a Romanes version of the picture dictionary Bildetema (see above under article 7.1.c). The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training have jointly provided funding for the development of a grammar book in Romanes. In the long term, this may encourage the use of Romanes in education.

The Education Regulations allow for exemptions from the formal qualification requirement for mother-tongue teachers in national minority languages for which no study programmes are offered in Norway. This applies, among other things, to Romanes. This makes it easier to employ mother-tongue teachers in Romanes, which in turn can help enable the provision of mother-tongue instruction as part of specialised language education.

Measures

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has initiated and is initiating measures to spread knowledge about the national minorities and minority languages.

7.1.e:
The Contact Forum between national authorities and central authorities, held annually by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, is a meeting place where the national minorities can connect with one another. The Ministry also organises a contact forum for young adults who belong to a national minority.

7.1.f:
In 2024, the School guidance service (see the information under 7.1.d.) worked on an initiative to standardise Romanes as well as developing teaching resources such as a grammar book and the picture dictionary mentioned above. The School guidance service collaborates with the Roma Culture and Resource Centre (Romano Kher) on these initiatives.

We refer to the information under Article 7.1.f in the reporting on Romani.

7.1.g:
Not relevant, because Romanes is a non-territorial language.

7.1.h:
No comments.

We refer to the reporting on 7.1.d.

7.1.i:
No comments.

Article 7.2, cf. Article 7.5

The new regulations to the Education Act allow for exemptions from the formal qualification requirement for mother-tongue teachers in national minority languages for which no study programmes are offered in Norway. This applies, among other things, to Romanes. This makes it easier to employ mother-tongue teachers in this language, which can facilitate the provision of mother-tongue instruction as part of specialised language education.

Article 7.3, cf. Article 7.5

National education authorities fund Democratic Preparedness against Racism, Antisemitism and Undemocratic Attitudes (Dembra), which offers guidance, courses and online resources for schools and teacher education. The aim is to strengthen schools' work on democratic preparedness to combat various group-focused enmities, such as prejudice, xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and extremism. Dembra has content and resources about indigenous peoples and national minorities.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has updated information about 'Our national minorities' in line with new curricula in primary and secondary education, cf. the information under Article 7.1.a.

The Directorate is further developing information and support on national minorities aimed at owners, leaders and staff in kindergartens and schools. The aim of the Directorate's support is to help kindergartens and schools to acquire knowledge and interact with children, pupils and families from the national minorities in an expedient manner, and for kindergartens and schools to teach all children and pupils about the national minorities. The Directorate involves the organisations for all the national minorities in the work. We also refer to the measures mentioned under 7.1.d.

We also refer to the information about the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) under Article 7.3. in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.4, cf. Article 7.5

Dialogue meeting with the Roma Council:

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development holds an annual dialogue meeting with the Roma Council where Roma representatives can raise the issues that concern them. The Ministry and other central authorities also meet with Roma language speakers whenever there is a desire or need.

Language measures:
The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Language Council of Norway and the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training/Ministry of Education and Research have held meetings with representatives of the minority on what might be good measures to promote Romanes.

We refer to the discussion of the Language Council's work to help to protect and promote the national minority languages Kven, Romani and Romanes and to 'The Language Act' section in Article 7.1.c. in the reporting on Kven. Article 7.5

We refer to the information under Article 7 paragraph 1 to paragraph 4 above.

Follow-up of recommendations from the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Recommendations from the Committee of Ministers

We refer to the discussion of the recommendations under the other languages.

Recommendations for immediate action from the Committee of Experts for Romanes

> Encourage the use of Romanes, in speech and writing in public life, particularly in education in cooperation with the speakers.

See the reporting on *Education* under Article 7.1 d.

The measures that the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has implemented and is implementing to disseminate knowledge about the national minorities, including their languages, can indirectly help to encourage the use and visibility of Romanes, as increased knowledge can promote awareness of and a positive attitude toward the use of Romanes.

We refer to the information about the Language Act under Article 7.1.c.

Promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romanes among the objectives of education, teacher training and media.

Education:
We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.

The media:
NRK shall offer special programmes for the national and linguistic minorities and shall disseminate knowledge about various minority groups and reflect the diversity of Norwegian society.

A lack of standardisation makes it difficult for NRK to create content in Romani and Romanes. In order to keep abreast of the language situation for Roma, NRK held a meeting and dialogue with the Language Council and the Roma Culture and Resource Centre (Romano Kher) in 2023. According to NRK, the dialogue has led to the purchase of content for 2024.

The Roma Culture and Resource Centre (Romano Kher) has expressed that they have a good dialogue with NRK about their obligations to have programmes in national minority languages.

Further recommendations for Romanes

Encourage university-level research and teaching on Romanes.

The recommendation applies to higher education, but the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has awarded project funding together with the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development for the development of a grammar in Romanes. This can be a basis for further standardisation of the language.

Provide more sustainable public funding to the protection and promotion of Romanes.

We refer to reporting on Article 7.1.c, and to the response to Article 7.1.f.

Romani

Part II

Objectives and principles pursued in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1

ARTICLE 7
Objectives and principles

Romani is recognised as a non-territorial language under the Charter. According to Article 7.5, the Parties undertake to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the principles listed in Articles 7.1 to 7.4 to non-territorial languages, subject to the possible limitations set out in Article 7.5, second sentence.

Article 7.1.(a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i), cf. article 7.5

7.1.a:

Solheim – the home of the Taters

The museums in Sør-Trøndelag have received funding in 2025 for a project to relocate an intact Tater settlement from Levanger to the museum's arena Sverresborg Open Air Museum in Trondheim. It will be restored and used to communicate the transition of the Taters from a nomadic way of life to permanent settlements.

See the information about the *Grant scheme for dissemination of literature – Arts Council Norway* under Article 7.1.a in the reporting on Kven.

The Language Act

The Language Act entered into force on 1 January 2022. The Language Act sets out the responsibility of public bodies to promote Kven, Romani and Romanes. The law establishes the status of these languages as national minority languages and states that Kven, Romani and Romanes are equal to Norwegian as expressions of language and culture.

New curricula

With the new curricula in LK20, content related to the national minority languages has been strengthened.

The curriculum for Norwegian emphasises that the subject should give pupils insight into Norway's rich and diverse language and cultural heritage. This can include Romani. The social studies curriculum emphasises the inclusion of majority and minority perspectives and has several competence objectives related to diversity, culture and identity in Norway.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has initiated and is initiating measures to spread knowledge about the national minorities, including their languages. The Directorate organised curriculum conferences in 2024 as part of the implementation of the new curriculum. A panel discussion was held with representation from young Sami people and the national minorities. The Cultural Schoolbag is a nationwide programme that contributes to ensuring that all school pupils in Norway experience professional arts and culture at school. The forum for the Cultural Schoolbag (DKS-forum) has highlighted how the Cultural Schoolbag can help to promote Sami and the national minorities' languages and cultures through cultural activities in schools. The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training also works to promote awareness of national minorities through various support material available on its website udir.no.

7.1.b:
The Romani people/Tater live in different parts of the country, and many use Romani.

7.1.c:
Grammar book for Romani
In 2022, Arts and Culture Norway allocated funding to develop a grammar book for Romani. The grammar can also be used as a basis for developing teaching materials in Romani and will therefore be an important element in the revitalisation of the language. The Language Council is the secretariat for the project's advisory group, in which the National Association of the Tater People and the National Association for the Romani People are represented and provide input on draft manuscripts.

We refer to the discussion of the Language Council's work to help to protect and promote the national minority languages Kven, Romani and Romanes and of 'The Language Act' section in Article 7.1.c. in the reporting on Kven.

We refer to Article 7.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.d:
We refer to the discussion of the Language Council's work to help to protect and promote the national minority languages Kven, Romani and Romanes and of 'The Language Act' section in Article 7.1.c. in the reporting on Kven.

We refer to Article 7.1.a in the reporting on North Sami.

7.1.e:
The annual Contact Forum between national authorities and central authorities is a meeting place where the national minorities can connect with one another. There is also a contact forum for young adults who belong to a national minority.

7.1.f:
With the new curricula, content related to the national minority languages has been strengthened, see the information under 7.1.a.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has updated information about 'Our national minorities' in line with new curricula in primary and secondary education. The Directorate further develops support and guidance for owners, managers and staff in kindergartens and schools about the national minorities, see the information under 7.3.

7.1.g:
No comments.

7.1.h:
During the reporting period, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has provided funding through the grant scheme for the Romani people/Tater. Funding has been allocated to a number of language projects, including the development and maintenance of a Romani app that promotes language learning. In 2023, a grant of NOK 2,745,000 was awarded for work on a grammar in Romani, which

can be used as a teaching aid. The grant scheme has also provided funding for several smaller language projects and the publication of parallel-language children's books.

7.1.i:
No comments.

Article 7.2, cf. Article 7.5

No comments.

Article 7.3, cf. Article 7.5

Education:
National education authorities fund Democratic Preparedness against Racism, Antisemitism and Undemocratic Attitudes (Dembra), which offers guidance, courses and online resources for schools and teacher education. The aim is to strengthen schools' work on democratic preparedness to combat various group-focused enmities, such as prejudice, xenophobia, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and extremism. Dembra has content and resources about indigenous peoples and national minorities.

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has updated information about 'Our national minorities' in line with new curricula in primary and secondary education, cf. the information under 7.1.a. The Directorate is further developing information and support on national minorities aimed at owners, leaders and staff in kindergartens and schools. The aim of the Directorate's support is to help kindergartens and schools to acquire knowledge and interact with children, pupils and families from the national minorities in an expedient manner, and for kindergartens and schools to teach all children and pupils about the national minorities. The Directorate involves the organisations for all the national minorities in the work.

Media
We refer to the information about the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) under Article 7.3. in the reporting on North Sami.

Article 7.4, cf. Article 7.5

We refer to the discussion of the Language Council's work to help to protect and promote the national minority languages Kven, Romani and Romanes and to 'The Language Act' section in Article 7.4 in the reporting on Kven.

Article 7.5

We refer to the information under Article 7 paragraph 1 to paragraph 4 above.

Follow-up of recommendations from the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts

Recommendations from the Committee of Ministers

We refer to the discussion of the recommendations under the other languages.

Recommendations for immediate action from the Committee of Experts for Romani

Encourage the use of Romani, in speech and writing in public life, particularly in education in cooperation with the speakers.

We refer to 'The Language Act' section in Article 7.1.c in the reporting on Kven. The measures that the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has implemented and is implementing to disseminate knowledge about the national minorities, including their languages, can indirectly help to encourage the use and visibility of Romani, as increased knowledge can promote awareness of and a positive attitude toward the use of Romani.

Promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romani among the objectives of education, teacher training and media.

Education:
We refer to the information under Article 7.1.a.

The media:
NRK shall offer special programmes for the national and linguistic minorities and shall disseminate knowledge about various minority groups and reflect the diversity of Norwegian society.

A lack of standardisation therefore makes it difficult for NRK to create content in Romani and Romanes.

NRK states that the Romani people/Tater language council (founded in December 2019 in Oslo)*, has started a standardisation and collection work for Romani, to develop content in Romani.

Further recommendations from the Committee of Experts for Romani

Encourage university-level research and teaching on Romani.

No comments.

Provide more sustainable public funding to the protection and promotion of Romani.

The collective redress for the Romani people/Tater is administered as a grant scheme by Arts and Culture Norway. The grant scheme provides funding for projects that contribute to strengthening language, culture and history. A specialist group has been established consisting of representatives from the Romani people/Tater organisations and representatives appointed by the Directorate, which advises on priorities in the allocation of grants. Grants have been awarded to several language projects under the scheme.

The Language Council of Norway and Arts Council Norway wanted to use some of Arts Council's funds for the collective redress of the Romani people/Tater for a larger project that can strengthen the Romani language. In 2022, this was concretised into a plan to develop a descriptive grammar (a grammar book) for Romani. The grammar can also be used as a basis for developing teaching materials in Romani and will therefore be an important element in the revitalisation of the language. The Language Council is the secretariat for the project's advisory group, in which the National Association of the Tater People and the National Association for the Romani People are represented and can provide input on draft manuscripts.

g. Promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Romani

No comments.

h. Strengthen the consultation mechanism with the Romani speakers in order to be able to take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the Romani speakers.

No comments.

Appendices

Appendix 1
Grants for language measures from the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development funds several grant schemes for national minorities. The grant scheme for Romani people/Taterand grants for national minorities are both managed by Arts Council Norway. Since 2023, the grant scheme for the Kven language and Kven/Norwegian-Finnish culture has also been administered by Arts Council Norway; prior to this, the scheme was administered by Troms and Finnmark county authority.

Measures for the Roma people

Objective: To improve living conditions for Norwegian Roma, especially through measures in schools			
Year	Recipient	Project	Amount NOK
2025*	Lørenskog Municipality	Development of digital resources on Romanes	350,000

Kilde: *Transferred from 2024

Grants for Kven language and culture

Objective: Among other things, to disseminate knowledge about the situation of the minority group and strengthen the culture and language of the national minorities.			
Year	Recipient	Project	Amount NOK
2021	Kvenland Federation	Kven theatre in Kven	90,000
2021	Ruijan Kaiku	Operation of a Kven newspaper	865,000
2021	Kven language centres and Kven cultural centre	Operation	4,200,000
2021	Orkana forlag AS	Songbook in Kven	40,000
2021	Utleieservice Nord AS	Kvenfestivalen festival, operation	80,000
2022	Kven language centres and Kven cultural centre	Operation	4,350,000
2022	Ruijan Kaiku	Operation of a Kven newspaper	900,000
2023	Eira Aini Anita Søderholm	Textbook for Kven students	400,000

2023	Halti Kvenkultursenter IKS (Halti Kven Cultural Centre)	Language mapping	80,000
2023	Kallijoen ääni–The sound of Skallelv	Festival	50,000
2023	Kven Language Centre Vadsø	Language campaigns	135,000
2023	Kvääniäänii	Songs and hymns	150,000
2023	Kåfjord culture school	Training and dissemination	120,000
2023	Kåfjord Kven Association/ Kaivuonon Kveeniseura	Training and language café	20,000
2023	Nina Kristin Nilsen	Translation	180,000
2023	Norwegian Kven Association – Ruijan Kväänilitto	Teaching aid	180,000
2023	Orkana forlag AS	Kven book	260,000
2023	Ruija forlag AS	Kven literature	60,000
2023	Ruijan kaiku AS	Kven journalism practice	50,000
2023	Ruijan Kaiku	Kvensk newspaper, operation	930,000
2023	Ruijan Kvænit lemmijokilaset rk-l	Event for conversation in Kven	10,000
2023	Kven language centre and Kven cultural centre	Operation	5,100,000
2023	Siivet AS	Animation series	300,000
2023	Soprano and physiotherapy specialist Olga-Lise Holmen	Dissemination project, language and music	130,000
2023	Storfjord municipality language centre	Pre-project, communication and cultural events	150,000
2023	World Heritage Rock Art Centre – Alta Museum	Short films with Kven speech	150,000
2023	Vadsø kvenfestival	Kven festival 2023	110,000
2023	Vadsø kvenfestival	Kven festival 2024	155,000
2024	Vidar Sigfred Calvin Josefsen	Kven music	236,000
2024	Skankegården AS	Kven performance by Aaret duo	70,000
2024	Siivet AS	Lasten mailma – pre-project for Kven children's TV	350,000
2024	Ruijan Kaiku AS	Journalist trainee Kven media	384,000
2024	Ruijan Kaiku AS	Various Kven media for children and young people	169,000
2024	Porsanger Municipality, department of culture and childhood	Kven language and identity in the kindergarten through cooperation	69,000
2024	Kvænangen Municipality, agency for childhood and culture	Kväänin kieliverkko 2025	135,000

2024	Kvääniäanii	KvääniÄänii – Kven choir singing 2024–2025	200,000
2024	Kvensk språksenter Vadsø AS, language centre	Kvänifestivaali – The Kven Festival 2025	200,000
2024	Gaivuona suokhan Kåfjord Municipality Kaivuonon komuuni	Pre-project – Establishment of a Kven language centre in Kåfjord Municipality	350,000

Subsidy scheme for Romani people/Tater

Objective: To contribute to restoring, developing and giving visibility to the culture, language and history of the Romani people/Tater			
Year	Recipient	Project	Amount NOK
2021	Romani people/Tater language council	Romani people/Tater language council 2022: Revitalising work with Romani	60,000
2021	The Taters'/Romani people's Human Rights Association	Language project on Romani language learning	180,000
2022	The National Association for the Romani people	New amigos language app	350,000
2023	Cappelen Damm AS	Parallel-language children's books	25,000
2023	Elias Marenius Akselsen	From Norwegian language to Tatar language	145,000
2023	The National Association for the Romani people	New amigos language app (new licence period)	530,000
2023	Roy-Willy Wilhelmsen Melby	Documentation of the Romani language	175,000
2023	Romani people/Tater language council	Grammar of Norwegian Romani	2,745,000

Appendix 2
Overview of articles Norway has ratified in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages Part II and Part III

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages Part II		
North Sami, Lule Sami, South Sami, Kven, Romanes, Romani		
Article		
7.1.a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i		
7.2		
7.3		
7.4		
7.5		
European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages Part III (updated 2024)		
North Sami	Lule Sami	South Sami
Article		
8.1.aiii, biv, civ, div, eii, fii,g, h, i	8.1 biv, civ, fii, g, i	8.1 biv, civ, fii, g, i
8.2	8.2	8.2
9.1.a (i-iv), b (i-iii), d	9.1 a (i-iv), b (i-iii), d	9.1 a (i-iv), b (i-iii), d
9.2.a	9.2 a	9.2 a
9.3	9.3	9.3
10.1.aiii, b, c	10.1 a (iii)	10.1 a (iii)
10.2.a, b, c, d, e, f, g	10.2 a, b, d, f, g	10.2 a, b, d, f, g
10.3.b	10.3 b	10.3 b
10.4.a	10.4 b	10.4 b
10.5	10.5	10.5
11.1.aiii, bi, cii, ei, fii, g	11.1 a (iii), b (i), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)	11.1 a (iii), b (i), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
11.2	11.2	11.2
	11.3	11.3
12.1.a, d, e, f, g, h	12. 1 a, d, e, f, g	12. 1 a, d, e, f, g
12.2	12.2	12.2
12.3	12.3	12.3
	13.1 d	13.1 d
13.2.c, e	13.2 b	13.2 b
14.b	14. 1 b	14. 1 b
52 paragraphs	43 paragraphs	43 paragraphs

https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=declarations-by-treaty&-numSte=148&codeNature=10&codePays=NOR

Published by:
Norwegian Ministry of Local Government
and Regional Development

Additional copies may be ordered from:
Norwegian Government Security and Service Organisation
publikasjoner.dep.no
Telephone: + 47 22 24 00 00
Publications are also available on:
www.government.no
Publication number: H-2567 E

Photo: Colourbox.com

Design and layout: Norwegian Government Security
and Service Organisation 06/2025

NORDIC SWAN ECOLABEL
Printed matter
2041 0446