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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

ROMANIA

**Fifth Periodic Report submitted by
Romanian Government to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the
basis of Article 15 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

Introduction

Romania signed the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages on 17 July 1995. Through the Ratification Law no. 282 of 6 November 2007, the Romanian authorities assumed the guarantee of the protection of 20 languages spoken by recognized national minorities. Depending on the number of self-declared speakers at the census, Romania has assumed compliance with the provisions of Parts II and III of the Charter, as follows: a minimum set of 35 obligations for 10 languages, respectively an extended set of commitments to guarantee free use in education, justice, administration, media, cultural activities for the other 10 languages as follows: Bulgarian (54), Czech (48), Croatian (44), German (57), Hungarian (53), Russian (46), Serbian (44), Slovak (45), Turkish (46), Ukrainian (47). In total, the authorities assumed a number of 834 commitments for all the languages spoken by the recognized national minorities in Romania. With respect to Romania, the European Charter entered into force on 1 May 2008. The first National Report on the application of the provisions of the Charter was presented by Romania on 26 October 2010.

This Report is part of the Fifth monitoring cycle and aims to present the actions taken by the Romanian authorities to respond to the recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers.¹

We reiterate that Romania has submitted updated information on the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages in Romania's Comments on the Third and Fourth Report on Romania adopted by the Committee of Experts of the Charter/COMEX ECRML on 15 June, 2023. Romania's Comments on those Reports were sent on September 14, 2023.

Also, updated information on the implementation of the Charter by Romania was provided in the context of the country visit carried out by COMEX ECRML experts between 6 February and 10 February 2023, both during the meeting with the Romanian authorities held on 10 February 2023, and in the exhaustive answers submitted to the COMEX ECRML Question Lists regarding the implementation of the Charter by Romania.

¹ On the basis of Recommendation CM/RecChL(2023)7 of the Committee of Ministers regarding the application of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages by Romania (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 13 December 2023, at the 1484th meeting of Ministerial Delegates) Romania received the following general recommendations:

1. reconsider the thresholds for the official use of minority languages in administration;
2. ensure that classes set in derogation to the minimum threshold complete the full cycle of education without the need for an annual approval;
3. provide training of a sufficient number of teachers able to teach in Czech, German, Hungarian and Romani;
4. extend the teaching offer of Romani, introduce the teaching of Tatar in mainstream education and draw up an action plan for the revitalization of Yiddish, in co-operation with the speakers.

The report is structured as follows:

- I. General aspects concerning the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**
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I. General aspects concerning the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

I.1 Overview

Within the fifth monitoring cycle of the implementation of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages, Romania acknowledges the importance of the evaluations carried out by the Committee of Experts, as they constitute a valuable tool for the authorities in their efforts to improve policies in the field. The information contained in this Report reflects the substantial progress made by Romanian authorities in implementing the standards set out in the Charter. In particular, emphasis is placed on the special role of intercultural dialogue in consolidating democratic values and promoting persons belonging to national minorities as active members of a participatory society.

Language is a defining element of the culture and civilization of persons belonging to national minorities, and ensuring linguistic diversity, on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, constitutes an essential guarantee for preserving, promoting and developing the spiritual identity of individuals.

For Romania, policies aimed at supporting persons belonging to national minorities are guided by the need to ensure respect for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, as these constitute the foundations of any democratic society that fosters conditions enabling the preservation, expression and development of distinct identities.

The Romanian authorities have developed, with the involvement of representatives of national minorities living in Romania, a comprehensive system for the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

Romania's commitment to the guarantees enshrined in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is reflected in the significant legislative and administrative measures adopted in favor of persons belonging to national minorities living in Romania. This commitment was also reaffirmed in the Government Program 2021-2024.

Romania's commitment to the continuous improvement of the situation of persons belonging to national minorities, as reflected in the set of measures and policies dedicated to them, is a continuous process, whose objectives are embodied in the platforms and programs of the main political movements and parties in Romania. The measures dedicated to persons belonging to national minorities are planned, assumed and implemented by all political forces in Romania, regardless of their ideological affiliation, with equitable treatment and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities being a constant feature of political discourse in Romania.

This attitude has been reflected in significant legislative measures and financial allocations in favor of persons belonging to national minorities in Romania. These measures and commitments have

been noted and highlighted, both by the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) in each of its opinions on Romania and by the Committee of Experts (COMEX) of the ECRML in each monitoring cycle. All these opinions have highlighted the progress achieved in protecting and promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Romania.

Through its legislation and policies on the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, Romania has gradually built a system that ensures respect for cultural diversity and promotes intercultural dialogue.

The specific feature of this system is that it provides conditions for the expression, preservation and development of distinct cultural identities, as well as for fostering interaction among these distinct cultural identities.

I.2. Demographic data

In the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, the registration of ethnicity, mother tongue and religion was based on the free self-declaration of the enumerated persons. For persons who declined to declare these three characteristics, as well as for those for whom the information was collected indirectly from administrative sources, data on these three characteristics are not available. Therefore, the compositions presented below for the three ethno-cultural characteristics are calculated based on the total number of persons who declared their ethnicity, mother tongue and religion, rather than on the total usual resident population.

Information on ethnicity was available for 16,568.9 thousand persons (out of a total of 19,053.8 thousand persons comprising Romania's usual resident population). 14,801.4 thousand persons (89.3%) declared themselves to be of Romanian ethnicity. The population of Hungarian ethnicity recorded in the census was 1,002.2 thousand persons (6.0%), while 569.5 thousand persons (3.4%) declared themselves to be of Roma ethnicity. The other ethnic groups for which the registered population exceeded 20 thousand persons were: Ukrainians (45.8 thousand persons), Germans (22.9 thousand persons) and Turks (20.9 thousand persons).

Based on the free self-declarations of the 16,551.4 thousand persons who reported their mother tongue, the composition of the population by mother tongue is as follows: 91.6% declared Romanian as the first language usually spoken in the family during childhood, 6.3% declared Hungarian, 1.2% declared Romani, and 0.2% declared Ukrainian, of the total usual resident population for which this information was available.

Census data on ethnicity can be found below:

<u>Ethnicity</u>	2021 Census
<u>Hungarian</u>	1.002.151
<u>Roma</u>	569.477

<u>Ukrainian</u>	45.835
<u>Germans</u>	22.907
<u>Russian-lipovians</u>	19.394
<u>Turks</u>	20.945
<u>Tatars</u>	18.156
<u>Serbs</u>	12.026
<u>Slovacks</u>	10.232
<u>Bulgarians</u>	5.975
<u>Croatians</u>	4.842
<u>Greeks</u>	2.086
<u>Jews</u>	2.378
<u>Czech</u>	1.576
<u>Polish</u>	2.137
<u>Italiens</u>	4039
<u>Albanians</u>	645
<u>Armenians</u>	1.213
<u>Ruthenians</u>	834
<u>Macedonians</u>	1.089
<u>Other ethnicity</u>	19.510
<u>Undeclared</u>	2.484.926

I.3. Financial support from the state budget

The Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR) is organized and operates under the subordination of the Prime Minister and under the coordination of the Minister responsible for the Coordination of the General Secretariat of the Government, in accordance with the provisions of Government Decision no. 111/2005 on the organization and functioning of the Department for Interethnic Relations. The Department for Interethnic Relations is responsible for the preservation, expression and development of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of citizens belonging to national minorities, in accordance with the Romanian Constitution, applicable national legislation, and the provisions of international conventions to which Romania is a party.

The Romanian Government provides financial support from the state budget to 19 national minority organizations represented in the Council of National Minorities (CNM)² and in the Romanian Parliament. It should be noted that all national minority organizations, as well as organizations/associations active in areas relevant to the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the protection of human rights, may apply to the Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR) for non-reimbursable funding for projects in this field. Furthermore, any non-governmental organization or association active in the field of national minorities may benefit from non-reimbursable funding from the state budget, not only those organizations represented in the CMN.

During the period 2020–2025, the General Secretariat of the Government allocated the amounts provided in its own budget, intended to support legally established organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities, as set out under letter (a) of Annex no. 3/13/02a to the budget of the General Secretariat of the Government, approved by the annual State Budget Law, as well as funds intended for the implementation of interethnic activities and projects, for the promotion of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity and of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities, as well as for combating intolerance, as set out under letter (b) of Annex no. 3/13/02a to the budget of the General Secretariat of the Government, approved by the annual State Budget Law, as follows:

Year	Organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities – thousand lei –	Department for Interethnic Relations – thousand lei –
2020	143.000	5.000
2021	172.056	4.000
2022	210.445	4.660
2023	236.750	4.893
2024	269.422	4.403
2025	296.365	4.000

The Department for Interethnic Relations also implements programs for financing interethnic projects, promoting the cultural, linguistic and religious identity, as well as the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities, and projects to combat intolerance. In accordance with the provisions of Law no. 350/2005 on the regime of non-reimbursable financing from public funds allocated for non-profit activities of general interest, the General Secretariat of the Government - Department for Interethnic Relations, acting as the central-level financing authority, awards funding contracts for the implementation of interethnic projects, projects promoting cultural,

² The Council of National Minorities is an advisory body to the Romanian Government, without legal personality, operating under the coordination of the Department for Interethnic Relations. Its purpose is to ensure relations with legally established organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities. The Council of National Minorities is composed of three representatives from each organization of citizens belonging to national minorities represented in the Romanian Parliament.

linguistic and religious identity and the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities, as well as projects combating intolerance. The main themes of these projects include: promotion of intercultural dialogue including through the arts (theater, literature, film, visual arts, music, etc.); promotion of the participation of minority youth in the life of the communities they come from; promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in Romania; knowledge and promotion of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of national minorities in Romania; combating intolerance and extremism targeting national minorities; promotion of the language, history and traditions of national minorities; promotion of mother tongue and intercultural education; promotion of civic education on the rights of persons belonging to national minorities; supporting research, preservation and promotion of Roma cultural heritage and identity (according to the Action Plan related to Specific Objective 5 of the Romanian Government's Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2022-2027 approved by Government Decision no. 560/2022); combating discrimination, anti-Roma discourse and anti-Roma attitudes generating hate speech or hate crimes (according to the Action Plan related to Specific Objective 6 of the Romanian Government's Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2022-2027 approved by Government Decision no. 560/2022).

In 2020, as a result of the restrictive and social distancing measures implemented to mitigate the negative effects of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, many of the activities and projects planned at the beginning of the year could not be carried out, the funding program for interethnic projects, for the promotion of cultural, linguistic, and religious identity and of the rights of citizens belonging to national minorities, as well as for projects aimed at combating intolerance, was carried out in the second half of 2020. Thus, in 2020, 50 projects were submitted, of which 24 were selected as winners.

In 2021, a total of 72 applications for grant funding were submitted, of which 40 projects were declared as winners.

In 2022, 69 applications for grant funding were submitted, of which 19 projects were approved and funded.

In 2023, 86 applications for non-reimbursable funding were submitted, of which 18 projects were approved.

In 2024, 60 projects were submitted and 17 projects with non-reimbursable funding were approved, of which 16 projects were reimbursed.

The Romanian Ministry of Culture, through its specialized directorates and subordinate institutions, ensures the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and of Law No. 282/2007 on the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, as well as the support of cultural actions and projects, taking into

account the free expression of the ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity of national minorities in Romania.

The Romanian Ministry of Culture has ensured the procedures for supporting and financing priority programs, in compliance with the provisions of art. 12 paragraph (3) of Government Ordinance no. 51/1998 on the improvement of the system for financing cultural programs, projects and actions, as approved by Law no. 245/2001, with subsequent amendments and additions.

The financial component for the implementation of these projects under the Priority Projects Program and/or Emergency Cultural Needs Program was 535,000 lei in 2019, 139,000 lei in 2020, 140,000 lei in 2021, 429,000 lei in 2022, and 628,000 lei in 2023 representing up to 80-90% of the total expenditure for each project. In 2024, the total value of the projects financed through this program amounted to 1,128,000 lei.

The funding is provided following an application for non-reimbursable funding submitted by the beneficiary non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Government Ordinance No. 51 of 11 August 1998 on the improvement of the system for financing cultural programmes, projects and actions. Due to the restrictive measures imposed during the pandemic, in 2020 and 2021 a significant number of cultural activities held in theaters or open to the public were either canceled or conducted online.

The funding program for cultural magazines and publications also provides support for cultural magazines/publications submitted by national minority associations in Romania. The total funding amounted to 295,000 lei for the period 2019-2022, distributed as follows: 95,000 lei in 2021, 105,000 lei in 2020, 95,000 lei in 2019.

I.4. Improving the legal framework to strengthen the application of the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Since the previous report, the legal framework in Romania has improved substantially. As of 3 September 2023, the Law on Pre-University Education no. 198/2023 and the Law on Higher Education no. 199/2023 entered into force. Both laws recognize and guarantee the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to preserve, develop and express their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, which constitutes one of the guiding principles of the entire education system.

The Law on Pre-University Education no. 198/2023 provides the regulatory framework for the organization and functioning of the pre-university education system in Romania. The provisions of the previous law regulating the organization of education for persons belonging to national minorities have been fully retained, ensuring continuity in guaranteeing a favourable framework for the study of mother tongue and the development of ethnic and cultural identity for the persons belonging to national minorities. Provisions relating to education for persons belonging to national minorities are contained in Chapter IV, Section 13.

Persons belonging to national minorities may enroll in pre-university educational institutions providing instruction in national minority languages, where all subjects are taught in the mother tongue, with the exception of Romanian language and literature (Art. 60(1)).

Alternatively, pupils belonging to national minorities who attend schools providing instruction in Romanian or in a language other than their mother tongue may, upon request and in accordance with the law, study Mother Tongue and Literature, History and Traditions of the respective national minorities, and Music Education as part of the common core curriculum (Art. 60(5)).

Within the framework of the educational reform, several aspects concerning the organization of pre-university education taught in the languages of national minorities should be highlighted.

The law guarantees the right to education in the mother tongue at all levels, types and forms of pre-university education for persons belonging to national minorities, each pupil being entitled to studying in his/her mother tongue in the nearest administrative-territorial unit where this is possible (Art. 59(1) and Art. 6).

To this end, in accordance with Article 1(1), which stipulates the provision of pre-university education in Romania, including in the languages of national minorities, the law provides for the establishment of educational units, groups/classes and study groups, with instruction in minority languages. Educational units offering instruction in national minority languages may be established by local or county public administration authorities, religious denominations recognised by law, private legal entities and by the Minister of Education (Art. 59(2)).

Depending on local needs, groups, classes or pre-university education units providing instruction in national minority languages may be organised at the request of parents, guardians, legal representatives or other entities (i.e. local or county public administration authorities, religious denominations recognised by law, private legal entities or the Minister of Education) (Art. 59(3)).

The law provides a number of derogations from the general provisions in order to create favourable conditions for the provision of education for persons belonging to national minorities. Thus, educational institutions providing instruction in the language of a national minority with a smaller number of pupils are granted legal personality, while lower secondary or high school institutions providing instruction in the languages of national minorities, which are the only such institutions in the municipality, town or commune, operate with legal personality regardless of the number of pupils (Art. 16 (8) and (9)).

Upon request, new study groups (classes) may be established for education in the mother tongue of a national minority or for the study of the language of the national minority, as well as the history, religions and traditions of the minority, and music education specific to a national minority, even where the number of pupils is below the minimum threshold provided by law (Article 23 (4) a).

The functioning of groups/classes of pre-school children or pupils for education in the mother tongue of a national minority, or of groups/ classes for the study of the language of the national minority, and other disciplines specific to the minority, may be approved even where the number of children/ pupils is below the minimum or above the maximum threshold provided by law, on the basis of a justified proposal from the board of directors of the educational institution or from the national minority organisation represented in the Romanian Parliament (Article 23 (4) b).

In addition, the organization, reorganization or dissolution of existing groups/classes providing education in the mother tongue of a national minority, or for the study of the language of the national minority and other disciplines specific to the minority, may be carried out with the approval of the Ministry of Education and of the national minority organization represented in the Romanian Parliament Article 23 (4) c).

Pupils who do not have the possibility to learn in their mother tongue in their administrative-territorial unit of residence are provided with free transport, accommodation and meals in boarding schools serving pre-university education institutions offering instruction in the languages of national minorities (Article 59 (5)).

In educational institutions providing instruction in the languages of national minorities, signage in common areas and the publication of information for pupils and teachers, etc. are displayed in both Romanian and the language of the respective minority (Art. 59 (11)). In addition, the language of instruction may also be used in internal communication and in communication with parents/legal representatives of pupils, pre-school and ante-pre-school children (Art. 60 (9)). School documents may also be issued in the language of instruction, upon request (Art. 4 (2)).

The promotion of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities is also reflected in curricular aspects

Throughout pre-university education, Romanian language and literature for pupils belonging to national minorities attending education in their mother tongue are taught according to curricula and textbooks developed specifically for the minority concerned, by teams of experts with knowledge of the language and culture of the respective minority (Art. 60 (2)). However, at the request of the parents/legal representative, of the organisation of the national minority represented in the Romanian Parliament, or of the parliamentary group of national minorities, the teaching of Romanian language and literature may be delivered based on the textbooks used in educational institutions providing instruction in Romanian (Art. 60 (3)).

In pre-university education, the teaching of mother tongue and literature, of the history and traditions of the respective national minorities, and of music education is carried out on the basis of specific syllabi and methodologies drawn up by groups of experts with knowledge of the language and culture of the respective national minority and approved by order of the Minister of Education (Art. 60 (4)).

The law provides that the history and traditions of national minorities in Romania are reflected in history curricula and textbooks (Art. 60 (14)).

Pupils and teachers in state education and in accredited/authorised private and denominational compulsory education benefit from free school textbooks, both for education in Romanian and for education in national minority languages (Art. 93(4)). In addition, the Ministry of Education provides school textbooks (in both print and digital formats) specific to the disciplines taught in the mother tongue, as well as textbooks developed in the language of instruction of national minorities and textbooks translated from Romanian, as applicable. Where textbooks in the language of a national minority cannot be printed due to the small number of pupils, the law provides for the possibility of importing textbooks approved by the Ministry of Education (Art. 59(10)).

The accessibility of education for persons belonging to national minorities is also reflected in assessment throughout the school year, with particular emphasis on the National Baccalaureate Examination.

As part of the national written examinations at the end of the 2nd, 4th and 6th grades, which include compulsory tests in language and communication, mathematics and science, students attending classes providing instruction in national minority languages are also assessed for their mother tongue as part of the language and communication test (Art. 99(4)).

The national assessment of 8th grade graduates consists of tests in Romanian language and literature, mathematics, and mother tongue for pupils who studied in a language of national minorities. The latter test is optional for pupils who have studied their mother tongue in educational institutions providing instruction in Romanian or in a language other than their mother tongue (Art. 101(1)).

In the National Baccalaureate Examination, pupils who have studied in their mother tongue during their secondary education take an oral test to assess their oral communication skills in their mother tongue, as well as a written test in mother tongue language and literature. Pupils who have studied their mother tongue in educational establishments with instruction in a language other than their mother tongue may take the written test in mother tongue and literature as an optional subject (Art. 101 (4)).

Admission and graduation examinations in pre-university education may be held in the language in which the respective exam subjects were studied, as provided by the law (Art. 60 (7)).

Another important aspect concerns the representation of the national minority at central and local pre-university levels.

As regards representation in the management structures, in educational establishments with instruction in national minority languages, one of the directors must be a teacher belonging to the respective national minority, while ensuring compliance with the criteria of professional

competence and knowledge of the national minority language (Art. 59 (7)). In addition, representatives of the national minorities (teachers, parents, pupils) must be included in the school's Management Board (Art. 128 (2) h).

National minorities have the right to representation, proportional to the number of classes, in the governing bodies of educational establishments, the County Directorates of Pre-university Education/ Bucharest Municipality Directorate of Pre-University Education, or equivalent institutions, while ensuring compliance with the criteria of professional competence, in accordance with the law (Art. 60 (8)).

The law provides for the representation of national minorities in the *National Council for the Financing of Pre-University Education* (Art. 139 (8)), *Commission for the Evaluation and Quality Assurance of Education* (Art. 234 (5)), established at the level of educational institutions, as well as for their participation as observers in the *Advisory Council for Pre-University Education*, established at county level (Art. 119(8)).

In addition, positions of inspectors for education for persons belonging to national minorities are provided in the establishment plan of the Bucharest Municipality Directorate for Pre-University Education and the County Directorates for Pre-University Education in counties where education is provided in the languages of national minorities. In counties or in the Bucharest Municipality where classes or groups for the study of a national minority language are organized, an additional inspector post is ensured. The appointment of inspectors for this type of education is made in consultation with the parliamentary group of national minorities (Art. 116 (7)).

Other reform issues are visible in the field of pre-university education.

In order to support the learning of Romanian by pupils in educational establishments with instruction in the language of a national minority, the law provides for the organisation of the *National Programme to Support the Learning of Romanian Language and Literature* throughout pre-university education, a new policy measure introduced by the Law on pre-university education (Art. 83 (16)).

Within the *Institute of Education Sciences*, an institution subordinated to the Ministry of Education whose main tasks are research, development and innovation in education, a research and innovation section for education provided in national minority languages will operate (Art. 121 (10)). Similarly, a department composed of specialists in education in national minority languages will operate within the *National Centre for Curriculum and Assessment*, institution subordinated to the Ministry of Education whose main tasks are the coordination of the design and periodic revision of the national curriculum, and the coordination of the national system of assessment and examination in pre-university education ((Art. 121 (10)).

The centres for continuous teacher training in the languages of national minority are fully financed from the state budget through the budget of the Ministry of Education and operate under its subordination (Art. 122).

The Law on higher education no. 199/2023 provides the regulatory framework for the provision of education, research and lifelong learning in higher education, and recognises and guarantees institutions.

As a general provision, the law stipulates that the Ministry of Education consults, in the process of exercising its powers, the Council of National Minorities, among other relevant institutions.

According to the above-mentioned law, the organisation of higher education institutions guarantees the right to education of persons belonging to national minorities.

The Law provides that higher education for national minorities is offered in: higher education institutions where faculties/study lines/programmes of studies are taught in the mother tongue; multicultural and multilingual higher education institutions, in which case study lines taught in national minority languages are established; and groups, sections or lines with instruction in national minority languages, which may be organised in higher education institutions under the conditions laid down by law (Art.24 (1)). In addition, in higher education for national minorities, instruction in the mother-tongue is provided for short-term studies, bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies, as well as postgraduate education (Art. 24 (4)). As a support measure, candidates who have attended education taught in a national minority language may take the entrance exam for higher education studies in their mother tongue (Art. 24 (8)).

The law provides for multicultural and multilingual state higher education institutions with instruction in the languages of national minorities (Art. 24 (6)). These include "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca – with instruction in Romanian, Hungarian and German, the "George Emil Palade" University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Târgu Mureş – with instruction in Romanian and Hungarian, and the University of Arts of Târgu Mureş – with instruction in Romanian and Hungarian (Art. 262). Other higher education institutions may acquire the status of *multicultural and multilingual higher education institution* (Art. 24 (7)).

Regarding funding, the basic funding of higher education institutions is calculated using an increased coefficient for students studying in a national minority language (Art. 24 (5)).

In view of stimulating participation in higher education, Baccalaureate graduates belonging to national minorities, alongside vulnerable categories of candidates, benefit from at least 25 budgeted places for bachelor's and master's degree programmes, within the framework of the approved enrolment figure (Art. 128 (8)). In addition, the law provides that PhD studies may be organized in a national minority language (Art. 64).

The management of higher education institutions is fully in line with the principle of multiculturalism.

In multilingual and multicultural higher education institutions, at least one of the deputy rectors is appointed on the proposal of the teaching and research staff of the section or study line conducted in a national minority language (Art. 135(2)). At the same time, equitable representation of study

lines/sections taught in national minorities languages must be ensured within each faculty of the respective higher education institutions (Art. 132 (8)).

Multiculturalism is also a prerequisite for ensuring quality in university education.

With regard to quality assurance, teaching staff or students belonging to national minorities may be members of the *Commission for Quality Assessment and Assurance* that operates at the level of each higher education institution in Romania (Art. 227(6)).

In the case of external evaluation of the quality of education, the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education may select evaluators from among representatives of national minorities. Multicultural universities may be represented on the board by two teachers from different study lines (who must be teachers of national minority language education) (Art. 255(4)).

Romania adopted Law No 2/2021 on certain measures to prevent and combat antigypsyism, published in Official Gazette no. 8 of 05.01.2021. The law comprehensively addresses antigypsyism by providing a legal definition of the concept and a brief overview of the measures adopted by the legislator to prevent and combat antigypsyism.

According to Article 2(a), antigypsyism is defined as both the perception of Roma expressed as hatred against them and verbal or physical acts motivated by such hatred and directed against Roma persons or their property, institutions/NGOs, community leaders or their places of worship, traditions and Roma language.

The Romanian Government's Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2022 – 2027 aims to improve the quality of life of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority, realize the socio-economic inclusion and the consolidation of the Roma cultural heritage. The new National Strategy for Roma Inclusion (SNIR) was adopted in May 2022 (Government Decision no. 560/2022) and represents one of the 14 conditions of support for the Roma community in its relations with the European Commission; SNIR is based on six chapters: 1. Housing and infrastructure; 2. Access to quality education; 3. Employment and entrepreneurship; 4. Access to healthcare; 5. The identity, traditions, and cultural heritage of the Roma minority; reconciliation with the past and recognition of the slavery of Roma, the Holocaust, and forced assimilation; 6. Combating discrimination and antigypsyism.

The implementation period of the "National Strategy to prevent and combat anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech" covered 2021-2023 and concluded in December 2023.

Therefore, in July 2023, an Inter-Ministerial Committee for the elaboration of the **National Strategy 2024-2027 for Preventing and Combating Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia, Radicalization and Hate Speech** started its work, together with its corresponding Action Plan.

The second National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia, Radicalization and Hate Speech, for 2024-2027, was adopted in 23 May 2024; its main overall

objectives are: education; victim protection (the creation of a digital platform for integrated services—incident reporting, informing citizens about their rights and providing legal counselling in the field, facilitating access to specialized support programmes through NGOs); training of relevant professional categories (magistrates and public order and safety personnel); prevention and combating of antisemitism, xenophobia, discrimination, and hate speech in sports and in the online environment; access to archives (including through digitization).

II. Steps for implementing general recommendations

1. (Authorities) to reconsider the thresholds for the official use of minority languages in administration;

In administrative-territorial units traditionally inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities, a decrease in the number of citizens belonging to the majority may also result in the number of persons belonging to national minorities falling below the minimum threshold established by law for guaranteeing the right to use their mother tongue in local public administration, before the courts, and in topographic signage.

Article 94 para. (1) of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 57/2019 on the Administrative Code, as subsequently amended and supplemented, regulates the use of the minority language in administrative-territorial units in which citizens belonging to a national minority represent at least 20% of the population, but also allows local authorities to ensure, by decision, the use of the minority language in administrative-territorial units where this threshold is not reached (paragraph (2) of the same article).

The Code also contains other provisions relevant to national minorities. It provides that the draft agenda of the local council shall be made available in the language of the national minorities (Art. 135 paragraph (5)); that the language of the national minorities may also be used during meetings of local and county councils (Art. 138 paragraph (3)); and that legal acts issued by the deliberative and executive authorities of the local public administration shall be published and communicated in the language of the national minorities (Art. 195 paragraph (2)). Furthermore, the prefect, as guarantor of the uniform application and observance of the laws (including the Constitution), "verifies the application of the legal provisions governing the use of the languages of national minorities in relations between local public administration authorities and decentralized public services, on the one hand, and citizens belonging to national minorities, on the other hand, in administrative-territorial units where they account for more than 20% of the population, according to the latest census" [art. 253 lit. f)]

With regard to the need to maintain the 20% threshold of the total population, reference is made to Romania's position set out on page 119 of the 3rd Report on Romania, drafted by the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages:

"It is understood, however, that the provision of such a criterion - in the form of a percentage – falls within the margin of appreciation of the States. Furthermore, it has not so far been demonstrated that the threshold established in Romanian legislation would in any way affect the protection granted by the Romanian authorities to national minorities on its territory. Thus, for the Romanian authorities, the 'number of residents' justifying the measures provided for in Article 10 of the Charter corresponds to a threshold of at least 20% of the inhabitants of a given administrative-territorial unit."

2. (Authorities) to ensure that classes established by way of derogation from the minimum threshold complete the full cycle of education without the need for annual approval;

The Government annually drafts the state budget and the state social insurance budget and submits them separately to the Romanian Parliament for approval.

The planning of the educational network, the approval of the schooling plan, and the approval of the number of places within the entire educational network are carried out on an annual basis. Financial allocations are likewise planned and executed annually. The annual approval of classes established by derogation from the minimum threshold applies to the education system as a whole. The rationale for this measure is to ensure compliance with the applicable legal framework and to enable the allocation of the financial and human resources necessary for the proper functioning of these classes.

3. (Authorities) to provide training of a sufficient number of teachers able to teach in Czech, German, Hungarian and Romani;

In Romania, the study of Czech, German, Hungarian and Romani language is provided at university level, therefore, the necessary prerequisites for the training of teachers and specialists in these languages are ensured.

With the adoption and implementation of the “Educated Romania” Project, which has set the policy priorities for 2030 in the field of education, Romania has embarked, through the Ministry of Education, on a process aimed at transforming the teaching profession in order to restore its prestige and attractiveness, thereby attracting more teachers and reducing attrition.

The main policy objectives in this field focus on restructuring and improving both initial and continuous teachers training, as well as on enhancing the management of the teaching profession, based on teachers’ competence profiles and professional standards. Within initial teacher training a great emphasis will be placed on practical training/ classroom practice, flexibility and support for teachers at the beginning of their careers. In addition, a flexible career management system, including differentiated career pathways, is being developed with a view to attracting and retaining teachers with excellent pedagogical skills within the education system.

Through the adoption of Law no. 198/2023 on pre-university education and Law no. 199/ 2023 on higher education, which entered into force in September 2023, a series of measures provided under the “Educated Romania” Project have been implemented. Among these, particular relevance for teachers delivering education to persons belonging to national minorities is attached to the possibility of obtaining tenure for only half of the didactical teaching load, as well as to more flexible options for initial training, including the possibility to change career pathways. In this context, prospective teachers may obtain a double specialization by pursuing a bachelor’s degree programme in teaching with a dual specialization. At the same time, practising teachers have the possibility to change their initial specialization through professional conversion postgraduate programmes designed for teaching staff.

Also relevant in this context is the implementation of the Didactic master’s degree, an initial training program for the teaching profession designed for bachelor’s degree graduates interested in pursuing a career in education. The Didactic master’s degree is currently offered by eight major Romanian universities, which includes didactic master’s degrees in some of the languages of national minorities across various fields of specialization.

Moreover, Law no. 199/ 2023 on higher education provides that students enrolled in bachelor’s degree programs in teaching with double specialization and in didactic master’s degree programs at state universities may receive a monthly scholarship equivalent to the net wage of an entry-level teacher. Furthermore, in order to ensure greater flexibility and provide additional incentives, the above-mentioned post-graduate professional conversion programs may be attended in parallel with the didactic master’s degree. Students who already hold a master’s degree funded from the state budget may also enroll in a didactic master’s degree tuition-free (likewise funded from the state budget).

With regard to teachers’ remuneration, the salaries of education employees (namely teachers, auxiliary teaching staff, and administrative staff) were increased in 2023 and 2024. In addition, as of the 2022-2023 school/ academic year, teachers and auxiliary teaching staff in the state education system, as well as administrative staff in state education institutions, have received a teaching career bonus. The teaching career bonus is intended to support teachers in adapting their professional competences through participation in professional development courses, in order to embrace digital transformation and to adapt/develop the corresponding digital skills and competences required in the education context, as well as to cover other specific teaching needs.

Through the reforms and investments funded under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the Romanian education system will undergo a significant transformation process aimed at increasing its quality and relevance, including through better endowment of schools, classes and laboratories (equipment and resources, particularly to support the digital transformation in education), support for schools facing difficulties (especially those at high risk of dropout), training programs (including a large-scale on the job teacher training programme focus on developing digital skills and competences), as well as reforms in education system governance and the

management of the teaching career. All these lines of action will improve the conditions offered to both teachers and pupils and are expected to have a substantial impact on enhancing the attractiveness of the teaching profession.

4. (Authorities) to extend the teaching provision for Romani, introduce the teaching of Tatar in mainstream education, and draw up an action plan for the revitalization of Yiddish, in co-operation with the speakers

Romani

The Ministry of Education regularly implements measures to ensure the training of a sufficient number of teachers for the Romani language, which is an essential prerequisite for expanding the provision of Romani language education.

For the initial training of prospective Romani language teachers and linguists, the University of Bucharest offers study programmes in the specialization *Romani language and literature*. In order to promote the study of the Romani language, the Ministry of Education provides Roma candidates with a number of reserved places at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature of the University of Bucharest.

In addition, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Section for Romani Language and Literature of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature of the University of Bucharest, have initiated steps to establish a retraining programme in the specialization Romani language, with a view to attracting more candidates to becoming Roma language teachers.

The annual *Summer course on Romani language, history and traditions*, open to teachers, educators, Roma school inspectors or national minorities inspectors continues to be organized as part of the Governmental Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma for the period 2022-2027.

In 2023, the Department for Interethnic Relations resumed the organization of the seminar "Roma Ethos", in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The event took place as a natural continuation of the project "Romani Language - preservation of history, customs, clothing, traditions, and practices", implemented during the period 2015 – 2022. The seminar brought together Roma and non-Roma teachers working with Roma students, as well as school mediators.

The seminar's main objective was to implement a series of activities and measures included in the Romanian Government Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2022-2027, Appendix no. 2 – The plan of measures related to the Specific Objective 2: Ensuring access of Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity to a quality inclusive education system, Action Direction 1.5 - Preserving cultural identity and building self-esteem among Roma students, activities/measures 1.5.1 – Revision of the curriculum/"programs of school subjects" and school textbooks of history, civic education, literature, etc., at all levels of education, and 1.5.3 – Training teaching staff at all education levels to teach the Romanian language and literature, the history and traditions of the Roma.

A total of 22 teachers and 10 school mediators participated in the seminar. Topics included in the programme were as follows:

- The history of education for Roma in Romania;
- The contribution of the Romani language to the development of the Romanian language;
- School programs of the discipline *Romani language and literature*;
- Romani personalities in Romanian society;
- Curriculum revision;
- Inclusive education within the school environment;
- The school programs of the subject *History and traditions of the Roma*;
- The contribution of the Roma to the development of Romanian society;
- Alternative teaching methods specific to the Romani language and to the history and traditions of the Roma;
- School textbooks for Roma pupils.

The results of the project contributed to the promotion of modern Roma culture, as well as to the preservation of cultural identity among Roma pupils.

The “Roma Ethos” programme continued in 2024 and was organised as three working seminars, grouped into two modules. It was addressed to Roma and non-Roma teachers working with Roma students, as well as to school inspectors and mediators. The focus was on inter-institutional cooperation to combat discrimination and segregation in schools, alternative teaching methods specific to the Romani language, and the creation of a support material, the *Caietul de 10*, designed for use in intercultural or diversity-related activities.

Teaching of Tatar in mainstream education

The main obstacle to providing Tatar language education in schools is the lack of Tatar linguists and qualified teachers for Tatar language. This results, on the one hand, in difficulties in developing the curriculum/ syllabus for teaching Tatar, as well as textbooks and other teaching and learning resources, and on the other hand, in a shortage of graduates in Tatar language and linguistics who could become Tatar teachers in schools.

Efforts are being made to identify a university interested in providing study programs for Tatar language on the medium term. However, due to the lack of Tatar linguists in Romania, such an initiative would need to rely on inter-institutional cooperation with a foreign university that offers such study programmes. Since the variety of Tatar spoken in Romania is Crimean Tatar, the possibility of establishing such cooperation is currently hindered by Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

As previously reported, Tatar language is studied in Romania within the optional discipline *Language, history and traditions of Tatar of Dobruja*, which is offered by three schools in

Constanța county, where Tatar ethnics are concentrated. At present, the optional discipline is being studied by 132 pupils.

In support of this initiative, under the Project *Competence and Efficiency in Teaching Romanian to Children and Pupils belonging to National Minorities in Romania*, the Ministry of Education has developed the following educational resources in the Tatar language: the syllabus and an auxiliary learning resource for the optional discipline *The Tatar Language and Culture in Romania*, as well as an auxiliary learning resource for the discipline *Religion – Muslim denomination/ cult for grades 0 – IV* (in three languages, including Tatar).

Revitalization of Yiddish

In Romania, the study of Hebrew is offered at the university level, and major Romanian universities have centres for Jewish and Israeli Studies, where research on Yiddish can be conducted within specific projects or as part of other academic initiatives.

For example, the syllabus of the *Jewish Studies* programme offered by the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures of the University of Bucharest includes courses on Yiddish culture and theatre. Research on Yiddish culture and language is also carried out within the Faculty's department concerned with Jewish Studies. One recent project was *"Yiddish Culture in Greater Romania (1918-1940): in the Aftermath of the Empires and Challenged by the New National State"*. In addition, the department contributes to the book collection *"Yiddish Literature Library"*, published by Hasefer.

In May 2023, the State Jewish Theatre organized the 8th Edition of the TESFEST - International Yiddish Theater Festival, with the support of the Department for Interethnic Relations and the Romanian Cultural Institute.

During the six days of the festival, professional Yiddish-language theater groups from all over the world (including USA, Israel, and Poland), as well as world-renowned klezmer bands and performers, took to the stage of the State Jewish Theater, presenting Yiddish culture to the public in all its aspects. The uniqueness of Yiddish culture was presented within the contemporary cultural context, raising awareness of the importance of intercultural dialogue through exchanges of experience with communities that promote Yiddish culture worldwide, the preservation of Jewish cultural tradition in Romania, and the transmission of Jewish cultural heritage through artistic means across the world.

Euro Iudaica 2023 was organized by DIR in collaboration with the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania. Organized as a festival of Jewish culture, it represented an unprecedented initiative within the Romanian landscape of similar cultural events. By integrating numerous components of Jewish culture and arts, both traditional and contemporary, the

organizers offered the general public an image of intercultural dialogue, highlighting the mutual influences among European cultures today, as well as the contribution of the Jewish community to culture. The festival programme included theater performances, music concerts, conferences, book launches, and various initiatives aimed at promoting the Jewish heritage of Oradea. The public had the opportunity to find exceptional acts of culture and science. The event contributed to the development of both the Romanian and the broader European artistic and scientific calendar, while also emphasizing the need for interethnic dialogue, combating anti-Semitism through knowledge of Jewish traditions and values, and underscoring the importance of preserving the Yiddish language.

The festival dedicated to Yiddish Language and Theater Day was organized on 30 May 2023 in Timișoara, at the Synagogue in Cetate and in Unirii Square. The event benefited from the support of the Ministry of Culture (50,000 lei); other supporters included the Caritatea Foundation, JDC and the German Forum in Romania. In collaboration with representatives of the Jewish community in Timișoara, several cultural activities were organized, bringing together members of the Jewish community of Timișoara, Oradea, Bucharest, and other invited guests.

The cultural actions carried out within the event included the conference "Timișoara Jewry in the context of Banat multiculturalism"; the presentation of the exhibition The Jewish Community of Timișoara. Personalities and Holidays, hosted at the Synagogue of Timișoara, which illustrated the history of the local Jewish community through 45 roll-up panels displaying archival documents and images; the performance "The Singer of His Hope: Yiddish", staged by the State Jewish Theater at the Synagogue in Cetate; and artistic performances by the Shalom choir and the Israeli dance group of the Jewish Community of Timișoara. The event concluded with a show performed by the Budapest Klezmer Band in Union Square.

The main objective of the project was achieved, namely to promote a better understanding of Jewish traditions and to strengthen cultural interconnectivity between the Jewish minority and other ethnic groups in Romania through the Yiddish language.

The project was broadcast through several communication channels, including Facebook, radio, and television. Representatives of the press attended the event and covered its cultural activities in a number of press articles.

During the event, 300 questionnaires were distributed to participants. Most of the responses were affirmative, particularly to questions regarding the role of the event in highlighting the contribution of Jewish communities to Romanian society, its capacity to highlight the history, culture, traditions, and cultural-religious heritage of the Jewish community, its contribution to promoting tolerance and combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia and the radicalization of hate speech, as well as its role in facilitating a better understanding of Jewish culture and traditions.

In 2023, DIR, in collaboration with the German State Theater in Timișoara and the State Jewish Theater in Bucharest, organized the event "Sidy Thal". 85 years after the anti-Semitic attack that

took place in Timișoara - during the tour of the ensemble led by the famous actress of the time, Sidy Thal, which resulted in four deaths and 70 injured people – the production was presented to the public, reconstructing this historical fact. The play brought together actors, instrumentalists, directors, scenographers, and other artists. It was performed in Yiddish, German and Romanian, with subtitles in Romanian and English. The premiere of the play took place on 4 November at the German State Theater in Timișoara, European Capital of Culture 2023, and on 12 November in Bucharest, on the stage of the State Jewish Theater.

At the same time, in 2023, the Ministry of Culture financed (80,000 lei) and promoted the 13th edition of the Bucharest Jewish Film Festival project, which took place between 12 and 16 November 2023. The festival, dedicated to the memory of director Dan Schlinger, was hosted by ARCUB, the Goethe German Cultural Institute, and St. Joseph's Cathedral. It highlighted the role that music, in its various forms and ramifications, has played and continues to play in universal history. Documentary and artistic films from Argentina, Germany, Israel, the Czech Republic, the USA, and South Africa presented to the Bucharest audience the power of music in overcoming adversity, as well as its ability to connect people. The festival programme was further enriched by a concert performed by Ethan Schmeisser and two debates addressing current topics.

In 2024, the Ministry of Culture received and approved two non-reimbursable funding applications supporting the achievement of the overall objective – promoting knowledge of Jewish culture, focusing on the history, social life, and cultural heritage of Jews in Romania. The first project is the 14th edition of the Bucharest Jewish Film Festival 2024, organized by the Semper Culturalia Association, which took place between 15 September and 3 December 2024 and was implemented from 25 October to 3 November 2024. For this edition, the Ministry of Culture allocated a total of 100,000 lei. The Bucharest Jewish Film Festival has become a tradition within Romania's socio-cultural life, being representative for the Jewish minority in particular, as well as for the general public, more broadly.

Another cultural project was the Sephardic Culture Days Festival, which aimed to promote, recover, and valorize the cultural heritage of the Sephardic community in Romania. This festival was organized by the Bnai Brith Dr. David Moses Rosen Forum and took place between 9 October and 30 November 2024, with the implementation period from 4 to 6 November 2024.

III. Steps for implementing individual recommendations concerning minority and regional languages

-concerning the Albanian language

- **Re-establish the study of Albanian at the university level**

Currently the Romanian universities are offering academic mobilities for the students enrolled in the language faculties in the Albanian universities, providing them the opportunity to learn Albanian.

-concerning the Albanian, Armenian, Macedonian, Romani, Ruthenian, Russian, Tatar, and Yiddish languages

- Provide forms and means for teaching and studying *Albanian, Macedonian, Ruthenian, Tatar, and Yiddish* in mainstream education, and carry out a promotional campaign to encourage a sufficient number of pupils to enrol in these classes
- Extend the teaching offer in/of *Armenian and Romani*, including at the pre-school level, considering the needs and preferences of the speakers
- Take measures to expand the use of *Russian* at the pre-school level

Information can be found in articles 7 and 8.

A more immediate solution, in the short term, for mitigating the potential loss of minority languages while addressing the needs of persons belonging to national minorities is to ensure the study of the minority language as an optional discipline within the school curriculum, which pupils can choose from.

Equally essential to ensuring the availability of specialists and language teachers for the languages of national minorities, as well as the necessary curriculum framework, is fostering the interest of persons belonging to national minorities in studying their mother tongue. To this end, the Ministry of Education will use its website (including by posting information in the languages of national minorities), as well as the network of County Directorates of Pre-university Education/ Bucharest Municipality Directorate of Pre-University Education (former Country Schools Inspectorate/ The School Inspectorate of Bucharest Municipality) to promote the study of mother tongues among national minorities.

Regarding the extension of minority language teaching at pre-school level, it should be noted that for the Russian minority, the teaching of Russian at pre-school level is provided through the optional discipline "Let's not forget our language", offered at the request of parents. As for Romani, teaching at the pre-school level is provided in 8 counties (Bacău, Bihor, Buzău, Cluj, Iași, Olt, Sălaj, Timiș), in 15 educational establishments, for 400 children.

Relevant measures promoted by the Ministry of Education regarding Roma children and youth

At the level of the Ministry of Education, the position of Undersecretary of State for Roma Education has been established. Within the Ministry's structure, there is a Directorate responsible

for Education in Minority Languages, which includes the position of Inspector for Education in Romani.

At the county level, there is a network of 42 inspectors responsible for Roma education, of whom 12 are specifically dedicated to Roma education, while the remaining inspectors cover education for other minorities, including Roma.

The National Committee for Desegregation and Educational Inclusion was established in 2019 as a specialized body of the Ministry of Education. Its role is to monitor the implementation of corrective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of school segregation, in collaboration with the county school inspectorates/School Inspectorate of Bucharest Municipality.

School mediators were introduced in 2003 to promote and strengthen the link between schools and Roma communities by providing opportunities for the reintegration of disadvantaged communities into the education system, supporting the effective development of Roma schools and working with all community stakeholders to reduce school dropout among Roma children. There are 456 school mediators working in the education system, 75% of whom are Roma. Since 2003, a total of 1200 Roma school mediators have been trained.

In the 2021–2022 school year, regarding education addressed to Roma students and teachers, the following measures are to be noted:

- Allocation of separate places for Roma students in high school admissions for various specializations, as well as in vocational and dual education (in the 2021–2022 school year, 1,762 students were admitted to high school, 9th grade, and 328 students to vocational and dual education programs);
- Continuation of school mediation services provided by school mediators; in the 2021–2022 school year, 397 school mediators were active within the education system;
- Continuation of summer preparatory kindergartens organized by school inspectorates, educational institutions, local authorities, and NGOs (such as Save the Children, OvidiuRo Association, etc.) for Roma children who had not attended kindergarten;
- Conducting monitoring activities on school segregation in pre-university education within the National Committee for Desegregation and Educational Inclusion (CNDIE), including the development of the Technical Guide for the implementation of the pilot methodology for monitoring school segregation in partnership with UNICEF Romania;
- Continuation of measures to preserve the Romani language, history, and culture in the educational context (by ensuring the continued teaching of 3–4 hours per week of Romani mother tongue from grades I–XII, and 1 hour per week of Romani history and traditions in grades VI and VII across 39 counties; currently, 18,092 students study the Romani language, and 3,498 students study Romani history and traditions);
- Continuation of measures to provide Romani mother tongue instruction at the pre-school level, including bilingual approaches (Romani–Romanian, Romani–Hungarian);

- Continuation of measures to provide Romani mother tongue instruction in preparatory classes, primary school (grades I–IV), and lower secondary education;
- Continuation of initial teacher training at the university level for future Romani language teachers and specialists in Romani linguistics.

In the 2021–2022 school year, a total of 58,385 Roma students were enrolled in the education system (including students participating in the “Second Chance” program and in special education), distributed as follows: ante-preschool level – 1 student; pre-school level – 7,883 students; primary level – 25,145 students; lower secondary level – 18,844 students; high school level – 2,803 students; vocational education – 3,548 students; post-secondary education – 161 students.

To ensure the educational inclusion of students belonging to the Roma minority, affirmative measures were adopted through the Ministry of Internal Affairs to encourage their integration into pre-university and university education.

As provided in the Measures Plan under the Romanian Government Strategy for the Inclusion of Romanian Citizens Belonging to the Roma Minority for 2022–2027, under specific objectives 2 and 6, activity 1.2.2 – Continuation of affirmative measures for Roma students in lower secondary, high school, post-secondary, and university education and the promotion of these measures – the Ministry of Internal Affairs has approved enrollment quotas to ensure the targeted recruitment of citizens belonging to national minorities.

In this context, in 2023, within the educational institutions under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a total of 6,225 places were opened for competition, of which 117 were allocated for candidates from other ethnic groups. For post-secondary institutions, two admission sessions were organized, with 32 places per session allocated to Roma candidates and 20 places for other national minorities. Regarding university studies at the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy, 5 places were allocated for Roma candidates, 4 for Hungarian candidates, and 4 for candidates from other minorities.

In the 2023-2024 school year, the Romani language is taught by 263 teachers: 13 preschool teachers; 22 teachers in primary education teaching in Romani; 75 Roma teachers teaching other subjects in Romani; 115 teachers teaching History and traditions of the Roma; and 3 teachers teaching music in Romani.

In order to ensure access to quality education, the following programmes and measures have continued:

- Continuation of measures aimed at providing instruction in the Romani mother tongue at the pre-school level;
- Continuation of measures to provide instruction in the Romani mother tongue in preparatory classes, primary education (grades I–IV), and lower secondary education;

- Continuation of initial university-level training for future Romani language teachers and specialists in Romani linguistics;
- Allocation of 6,151 separate places for Roma students in high school admissions for various specializations (for the 2023–2024 school year, 3,177 students were admitted to the 9th grade on such places, of whom 2,604 enrolled in high school education and 573 in vocational and dual education);
- Continued organization, where appropriate, by school inspectorates, educational institutions, local authorities, and NGOs (Save the Children, OvidiuRo Association, etc.) of summer preparatory kindergartens for Roma children who had not previously attended kindergarten;
- Implementation, within the National Commission for School Desegregation, of activities to monitor school segregation in pre-university education, including the Integrated Framework of Indicators for Monitoring School Segregation;
- Continuation of measures to preserve the Romani language, history, and culture in the educational context (by ensuring the continued teaching of 3–4 hours per week of Romani mother tongue in grades I–XII, and 1 hour per week of Roma history and traditions in grades VI and VII in 39 counties). A total of 669 students are enrolled in classes with instruction in Romani at the ante-preschool, pre-school, primary, and lower secondary levels;
- Establishment of a network of school inspectors to support school management teams in implementing measures aimed at monitoring the segregation of Roma children and students. There is a network of 12 Roma school inspectors at county level, alongside 19 inspectors responsible for minorities and Roma;
- Organization of extracurricular activities promoting understanding of ethnic diversity and intercultural dialogue, attended by 18,889 students, as well as 2,492 actions carried out at county and school level to encourage Roma parents to participate in the educational process, both within and outside school. A total of 315 school mediators are active within the education system, approximately 75% of whom are of Roma ethnicity. These mediators promote opportunities for reintegration and retention of Roma children in the education system within disadvantaged communities, support effective development in Roma schooling, and collaborate with all community stakeholders to reduce dropout among Roma children. The Roma human resources within the education system include: 258 teachers of the Romani language; 15 pre-school teachers providing instruction in the Romani mother tongue; 23 primary school teachers teaching in the Romani mother tongue; 83 Roma teachers teaching other subjects; 121 teachers of Roma history and traditions; and 19 teachers teaching music in Romani.

For the 2023–2024 school year, the total number of Roma students (based on self-identification) enrolled in SIIIR is 111,247. By comparison, in the 2022–2023 school year, the total number of Roma students enrolled in SIIIR was 88,595.

Measures to improve Roma access to quality education – monitored within the Romanian Government Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2022-2027

- a) Roma students can be admitted to secondary school through places exclusively allocated for Roma students

Statistical situation:

- school year 2023-2024: 6151 places allocated for upper secondary education, of which 2604 were filled; 1963 places allocated for vocational/dual education, of which 573 were filled.

- school year 2022-2023: 6382 places allocated for gymnasium, of which 2203 were filled; 2418 places allocated for vocational/dual, of which 372 were filled.

- b) Young Roma can be admitted to higher education through places exclusively allocated for Roma students

Statistical situation:

-academic year 2022-2023: 314 places allocated for bachelor's degrees; 78 places allocated for master's degrees, and 5 places allocated for doctoral degrees.

-academic year 2023-2024: 484 places allocated for bachelor's degrees; 214 places for master's degrees, and 75 places for doctoral degrees.

-concerning the Albanian, Armenian, Bulgarian; Croatian, Czech; Greek; Hungarian; German; Italian; Macedonian; Polish; Romani; Russian; Ruthenian; Serbian; Slovak; Tatar; Turkish; Ukrainian; and Yiddish languages

Information can be found in articles 7 and 8.

- **Raise awareness about national minorities of Romania and their language, culture and history in the general curriculum: Albanian, Armenian, Bulgarian; Croatian, Czech; Greek; Hungarian; German; Italian; Macedonian; Polish; Romani; Russian; Ruthenian; Serbian; Slovak; Tatar; Turkish; Ukrainian; Yiddish.**

Topics pertaining to the language, culture and history of national minorities in Romania are included in the general curriculum across several core disciplines (such as *History, Social Education, Music Education, Romanian Language and Literature*, and *Romanian Language and Literature for pupils studying in their mother tongue*), at different grades and cycles of education, as detailed in **Annex no. 1**.

This transversal disciplinary approach, together with the general competences targeted and the relevant topics selected to support their development, ensures the preparation of all pupils, irrespective of their ethnicity, for life in multicultural societies. It enables them to engage in

meaningful intercultural dialogue and interaction, while appreciating and harnessing diversity in the spirit of democratic civic values.

In addition, optional disciplines addressing the topic of national minorities complement the core disciplines mentioned above. One example is the optional discipline *The History of National Minorities in Romania*, studied in high school, which is a standalone course entirely dedicated to the topic of national minorities in Romania.

- **Provide up-to-date textbooks for teaching in Slovak at all appropriate levels.**

As mentioned in the presentation of the new legal framework applicable in the field of education, Law on pre-university education no. 198/2023 provides the possibility to translate existing textbooks into Slovak or to import such textbooks where their development is not possible. With regard to the provision of textbooks for education in the Slovak language, the main difficulty lies in identifying specialists capable of translating such materials; however, the Ministry of Education is making efforts to address this situation.

IV. Part II. Evaluation with regard to the minority languages covered by Part II of the Charter. Article 7

In Romania, the provisions of Part II of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages apply to the Albanian, Armenian, Greek, Italian, Yiddish, Macedonian, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian and Tatar languages.

In Romania, the Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR), within the General Secretariat of the Government, is responsible for monitoring the implementation of domestic and international legal acts concerning the protection of persons belonging to national minorities. DIR is subordinated to the Prime Minister and operates under the coordination of the General Secretariat of the Government. Its organization and functioning are regulated by Government Decision no. 111 of 24 February 2005, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

The Department for Interethnic Relations carries out its activity in close collaboration with ministries, other specialized bodies of the central and local public administration, as well as with international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Council of National Minorities is a consultative body of the Government of Romania, operating under the coordination of the Department for Interethnic Relations, whose role is to ensure relations with legally constituted organizations of citizens belonging to national minorities. A working group for education and youth operates within the Council. Among the Council's attributions are the analysis and proposal to the Government of measures concerning the provision of education in the languages of national minorities.

The Romanian authorities have continued to implement policies, legislation, and practices regarding regional or minority languages, considering the needs and preferences expressed by the groups using these languages, and recognising that regional or minority languages represent an expression of the cultural wealth of a country.

Regarding the facilitation and/or promotion of the use of minority languages in oral or written forms, the Romanian authorities encourage their use in both private and public spheres. For the languages covered by the provisions of Part II of the Charter, where the number of speakers is small and their geographical distribution makes it impossible to teach them in the public education system, the task of promotion is primarily undertaken by the representative associations of the respective national minorities. With financial support from the Government and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Research or other institutions, these associations provide educational offerings tailored to the specific requests of minority members.

Relations between persons belonging to national minorities are maintained through the exchange of publications, as well as through interethnic and intercultural events hosted or financed by the Government of Romania, including through the DIR. The general public, including persons belonging to national minorities and representatives of their organizations, also participate in numerous events hosted by the Government of Romania, through the Ministry of Culture or the DIR.

Appropriate forms and means have been provided to support the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all stages.

Between February and May 2023, 20 national school olympiads were held for students belonging to national minorities, financed by the Ministry of Education, covering the following mother tongues: Hungarian, German, Slovak, Ukrainian, Romani, Turkish, Russian, Serbian, Czech, Croatian, Neo-Greek, Italian and Polish. In the same year, a series of national and regional competitions were organized, including 27 financed and 20 unfinanced events. These competitions followed the approved calendar and were also open to students attending education in the languages of national minorities.

In the 2022-2023 school year, the situation of students learning in their mother tongue and the situation of students studying the mother tongue, history and traditions of national minorities was as follows:

The situation regarding the teaching and learning of the subject Mother Tongue and Literature by counties:

Form of education	Mother tongues	Counties
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Studying in the mother tongue	11 - <i>Hungarian, German, Romani, Ukrainian, Slovak, Serbian, Croatian, Italian, Bulgarian, Czech, Turkish</i>	<i>Alba, Arad, Bacău, Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Brașov, Buzău, Caraș-Severin, Cluj, Constanța, Covasna, Harghita, Hunedoara, Ilfov, Maramureș, Mureș, Olt, Sălaj, Satu-Mare, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiș and București</i>
The study of mother tongue	14 - <i>Romani, Neo-greek, Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, Croatian, Serbian, Hungarian, German, Bulgarian, Slovak, Armenian.</i>	39 counties and the city of Bucharest

In the 2023–2024 school year, the situation of students learning in their mother tongue, as well as the situation of students studying the mother tongue, history, and traditions of national minorities, was as follows:

The situation regarding the teaching and learning of the Mother Tongue and Literature subject by counties:

Form of education	Mother tongues	Counties
Studying in the mother tongue	11 - <i>Hungarian, German, Romani, Ukrainian, Slovak, Serbian, Croatian, Italian, Bulgarian, Czech, Turkish</i>	<i>Alba, Arad, Bacău, Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Brașov, Buzău, Caraș-Severin, Cluj, Constanța, Covasna, Harghita, Hunedoara, Ilfov, Maramureș, Mureș, Olt, Sălaj, Satu-Mare, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiș and București</i>
The study of mother tongue	14 - <i>Romani, Neo-greek, Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, Croatian, Serbian, Hungarian, German, Bulgarian, Slovak, Armenian.</i>	39 counties and the city of Bucharest

The Ministry of Education provides textbooks developed in the mother tongue of national minorities as well as textbooks translated from Romanian.

In the 2022-2023 period, the Ministry of Education, in partnership with "Babeş Bolyai" University of Cluj Napoca, the Center for Continuing Education in the Hungarian Language Oradea (CFCLM), and the "Apáczai Csere János" Teaching Staff House Harghita (CCDHR), implemented the project "Competence and efficiency in teaching the Romanian language to children and students belonging to national minorities in Romania". The project aimed to reduce and prevent early school dropout and to promote equal access to quality preschool, primary, and secondary education, including formal, non-formal, and informal learning pathways for reintegration into education and training.

The project supports teachers and implicitly children and students belonging to national minorities, by developing educational resources such as methodological guides, School Programs for Optional Subjects (CDS), and teaching aids in two languages: Romanian and the mother tongue for each national minority in Romania. By September 2023, 37 methodological guides for teachers, 68 CDS resources and teaching aids have been developed, nine teacher training programs for preschool, primary, middle school/lower secondary education had been accredited, and national trainers were trained. In addition, 4,079 teachers from the above-mentioned educational levels received training, pilot testing of educational resources was conducted, and a national study on the impact of Romanian language learning activities for children and students belonging to national minorities was developed.

To support the training activity, 165 laptops, an e-learning platform, and IT equipment were purchased to create two language laboratories. To prepare students for national exams, the Ministry of Education published exam models in national minority languages, which accessible online on the website of the National Center for Education Policies and Evaluation (CNPEE). Training tests were also made available to support students studying in national minority languages in their exam preparation.

In the 2021-2022 school year, the study of History and Traditions of National Minorities and Music Education in the Mother Tongue, and the situation regarding the teaching and learning of the subject Mother Tongue and Literature by counties is as follows:

Form of education	Mother tongues	Counties
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Studying in the mother tongue	11 - <i>Hungarian, German, Romani, Ukrainian, Slovak, Serbian, Croatian, Italian, Bulgarian, Czech, Turkish</i>	<i>Alba, Arad, Bacău, Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Brașov, Buzău, Caraș-Severin, Cluj, Constanța, Covasna, Harghita, Hunedoara, Ilfov, Maramureș, Mureș, Olt, Sălaj, Satu-Mare, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiș and București</i>
The study of mother tongue	14 - <i>Romani, Neo-greek, Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, Croatian, Serbian, Hungarian, German, Bulgarian, Slovak, Armenian.</i>	39 counties and the city of Bucharest

Between February and May 2022, 20 national school olympiads were held for students belonging to national minorities, funded by the Ministry of Education. The Olympiads covered the following mother tongues: Hungarian, German, Slovak, Ukrainian, Romani, Turkish, Russian, Serbian, Czech, Croatian, Neo-Greek, Italian, and Polish.

In 2022, a series of national and regional competitions were organized, also addressing students in education in national minority languages; of these, 17 competitions were funded and 15 were not funded.

To prepare students for national exams, the Ministry of Education published exam models in national minority languages, accesible online on the website of the National Centre for Education Policies and Evaluation (CNPEE). In addition, practice tests were published to prepare students studying in national minority languages for their exams. The tests were published online, on the CNPEE website.

The Ministry of Education, together with the CNPEE coordinated the provision of translator teachers for national exams (EN II, EN IV, EN VI, EN VIII, Baccalaureate, and tenure exams) and for competitions to fill vacant positions, as well as the development/updating of programs for final and tenure exams in education (for educators, teachers, and teachers of mother tongue, history and traditions of minorities, etc.).

In the 2023–2024 school year, 17 national school Olympiads were held for students belonging to national minorities, covering the following mother tongues: Hungarian, German, Slovak, Ukrainian, Romani, Turkish, Russian, Serbian, Czech, Croatian, Neo-Greek, Italian, and Polish. In addition, a series of national and regional competitions were organized, also addressing students enrolled in education in national minority languages, of which 22 competitions were funded and 20 were not funded. To provide guidance and support to teachers in planning, designing, and

organizing the teaching-learning-assessment process, the Ministry of Education, through the CNPEE, developed the “Methodological Guidelines for the Implementation of the Curriculum,” including for the subject Mother Tongue and Literature.

Within the *Teleșcoală* program, as a learning alternative for students without access to appropriate technology for online learning, lessons in the languages of national minorities were also organized and broadcast. The Ministry of Education also held a series of online meetings, consultations/video conferences for all national minorities to address the specific aspects of education provided for national minorities in Romania.

The Ministry of Education provides school textbooks³ developed in the language of instruction of national minorities, as well as textbooks translated from Romanian. Students belonging to national minorities, studying in schools/sections with mother tongue instruction, have free access to online educational resources.

The use of educational resources in the pre-university education system corresponds to the requirements of the school programs for the national compulsory curriculum and the optional curriculum, as well as to the standards for the implementation of each type of educational resource. Lists of approved educational resources have been published on the website www.edu.ro

The Centre for Continuing Education in the German Language Mediaș supports education in the German language by organizing training courses, seminars, conferences, and workshops. The magazine Zett⁴ and the CFCLG⁵ website provide support to teachers by presenting new educational approaches in teaching the German language.

For information regarding the education of Roma students and youth, see **Relevant Measures promoted by the Ministry of Education concerning Roma children and youth**, under **III. Stages for the implementation of individual recommendations regarding minority and regional languages**.

According to the provisions of the Law on Pre-University Education No. 198/2023 (Art. 9) and the Law on Higher Education No. 199/2023 (Art. 1(2)), the Romanian state ensures equitable access, without any form of discrimination, to all levels and forms of pre-university education for: Romanian citizens, citizens of European Union member states, citizens of European Economic Area member states and of the Swiss Confederation, minors who request or have been granted a form of protection in Romania, foreign minors and stateless minors whose residence in Romania is officially recognized according to the law, as well as citizens from non-EU countries legally present in Romania, and British citizens and their family members.

³ <https://www.manuale.edu.ro/>.

⁴ <https://zfl.ro/zett.php>.

⁵ <https://zfl.ro>.

Studies and research on regional or minority languages have also been promoted at universities and equivalent institutions, including through the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges in the fields covered by the present Charter, for regional or minority languages.

Presented below is: the situation of foreign teachers who carried out their activity within state pre-university education institutions in Romania in the 2023–2024 school year (Table 1), and the situation by country and university of foreign lecturers who carried out their activity within state higher education institutions in Romania in the 2023–2024 academic year (Table 2).

Situation of foreign teachers who carried out their activity within state pre-university education institutions in Romania in the 2023–2024 school year

No.	Country	County School Inspectorate / ISMB	Number of Teachers and Financial Conditions Offered in the 2023–2024 School Year
1	BULGARIA	Bucharest	1
2	GERMANY	Alba	1
		Arad	1
		Bucureşti	11
		Bihor	1
		Cluj	1
		Constanţa	1
		Ilfov	1
		Iaşi	1
		Mureş	2
		Satu Mare	1

No.	Country	County School Inspectorate / ISMB	Number of Teachers and Financial Conditions Offered in the 2023–2024 School Year
		Sibiu	4
		Suceava	1
		Timiș	7
3	ISRAEL	Bucharest	2
6	ITALY	Bucharest	2
		Cluj	1
		Bihor	1
7	POLAND	Suceava	2
8	SLOVAKIA	Bihor	1
9	SPAIN	Bucharest	2
		Bihor	1
		Brașov	1
		Cluj	2
		Constanța	1
		Ilfov	1
		Prahova	1
		Timiș	1

No.	Country	County School Inspectorate / ISMB	Number of Teachers and Financial Conditions Offered in the 2023–2024 School Year
10	TÜRKİYE	Constanța	12

Situation by country and university of foreign lecturers who carried out their activity within state higher education institutions in Romania in the 2023–2024 academic year

No .	Country	Host University	
1	ARMENIA	University of Bucharest	1 lecturer
2	AUSTRIA	University of Bucharest	1 lecturer
		”Babeş-Bolyai” University Cluj-Napoca	1 lecturer
		”Ovidius” University Constanța	1 lecturer
		West University of Timișoara	1 lecturer
		”Al. I. Cuza” University Iași	1 lecturer
3	BULGARIA	University of Bucharest	1 lecturer

		University of Craiova	1 lecturer
4	CZECHIA	University of Bucharest	1 lecturer
5	CROATIA	University of Bucharest	1 lecturer
6	FINLAND	"Babeş – Bolyai" University Cluj Napoca	1 lecturer
7	FRANCE	University of Oradea	2 lectures
		POLITEHNICA University of Bucharest	1 lecturer
		University of Bucharest	1 lecturer
8	GERMANY	University of Bucharest	1 lecturer
			1 assistant
		"Al. I. Cuza" University Iaşi	1
			-
		"Babeş-Bolyai" University Cluj-Napoca	2 lectures
			-
		"Lucian Blaga" University Sibiu	1

		POLITEHNICA University of Bucharest	1
		Politehnică University of Timișoara	1
		Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest	1 assiste nt
10	GREECE	University of Bucharest	3
		”Al. I. Cuza” University Iași	-
11	ITALY	”Babeș- Bolyai” University Cluj-Napoca	1
		West University of Timișoara	1
		University of Bucharest	1
12	NORTH MACEDONIA	University of Bucharest	1
13	NETHERLANDS	University of Bucharest	1
14	POLAND	University of Bucharest	1
		”Al. I. Cuza” University Iași	1
		”Babeș- Bolyai” University Cluj-Napoca	1

15	PORTUGAL	University of Bucharest	1
16	SERBIA	University of Bucharest	1
		West University of Timișoara	1
17	SLOVAKIA	University of Bucharest	2
18	SLOVENIA	University of Bucharest	1
19	SPAIN	University of Bucharest	1
		West University of Timișoara	1
		"Babeș-Bolyai" University Cluj-Napoca	1
20	SWEDEN	University of Bucharest	1
21	TÜRKİYE	"Ovidius" University Constanța	1
		"Al. I. Cuza" University Iași	1
		"Babeș-Bolyai" University Cluj-Napoca	1
		"Dunărea de Jos" University Galați	1
22	HUNGARY	University of Bucharest	1
		"Babeș-Bolyai"	2

		University Cluj-Napoca	
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The Romanian authorities have promoted, through appropriate measures, mutual understanding among all linguistic groups in the country, and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding, and tolerance regarding regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided in their countries, while also encouraging the media to pursue the

In 2023, the *Secret Discussion* – Festival of Romanian Literatures, a project funded by the Department for Interethnic Relations and implemented in collaboration with the Group for Cultural Management and Mediation, took place in Bucharest, Comana and Cluj-Napoca. The project is dedicated to young literature and brings together Romanian and Hungarian writers, translators working from and into Romanian, Hungarian and German, as well as artists, photographers, musicians, and academics.

"Cultural Diversity Month" - In the context of celebrating the World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, on 21 May, the Department for Interethnic Relations, together with the National Museum of Romanian Literature, organized the event Cultural Diversity Month. The event included a panel exhibition featuring fragments of prose and poetry by writers belonging to national minorities in Romania, as well as a round table held on 23 May 2023 at the National Museum of Romanian Literature.

Writers belonging to the following national minorities in Romania participated in the event: Armenian (Bedros Horasangian), Bulgarian (Ioan Vasilcin), Croatian (Mihai Șera), Jewish (Andrei Oișteanu), German (Eginald Norbert Schlattner), Greek (Marina Costa), Italian (Coleta De Sabata), Macedonian (Mariana Venera Popescu), Hungarian (György Alida, Káli István), Roma (Sorin Aurel Sandu), Ruthenian (Gaál Francisc Oscar), Serbian (Slavomir Gvozdenovici), Slovak (Ivan Miroslav Ambruș), Tatar (Neriman Ibraim), Turkish (Gülten Abdula-Nazare) and Ukrainian (Mihai Hafia Traista). The exhibition was open to the public until the end of May and was displayed on the facade of the National Museum of Romanian Literature building.

"21 February - International Mother Tongue Day" - *Behind the numbers are people and communities of different cultures, customs, traditions and mother tongues* - a brochure produced by the National Institute of Statistics in collaboration with the Department for Interethnic Relations. On the occasion of International Mother Tongue Day, on 21 February, both in 2022 and 2023, the National Institute of Statistics and the Department jointly created an information platform aimed at both the majority public and the members of the national minorities. Through this platform, the authorities wanted to present the results of the 2021 Population and Housing Census related to mother tongue, as well as aspects of the way in which members of national minorities perceive their own languages.

The GAUDEAMUS Radio Romania Book Fair took place between 22 -26 November 2023. The Department for Interethnic Relations provided a Stand of ethnic diversity, specially dedicated to

the literature, press and traditions of national minorities. The 15 national minority organizations that participated in the book fair exhibited books, magazines, photographs and CDs, and some of them also organized, in specially arranged spaces, launch events for recent publications. The following organizations of national minorities in Romania, members of the Council of National Minorities, participated in the activities of the Book Fair:

- the Association of Italians in Romania RO.AS.IT
- the Association of Macedonians in Romania
- the Association of the Roma Party "PRO-EUROPA"
- the Lipovean Russian Community in Romania
- the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania
- the Hungarian Democratic Union in Romania
- the Union of Armenians in Romania
- the Bulgarian Union of Banat - Romania
- the Union of Croats in Romania
- the Cultural Union of Ruthenians in Romania
- the Democratic Union of Turkish-Muslim Tatars in Romania
- the Hellenic Union in Romania
- the Union of Poles in Romania
- the Union of Serbs in Romania
- the Union of Ukrainians in Romania.

During the fair, the album "The Holocaust against the Roma - an album of memory and gratitude" was launched, published under the aegis of the Department for Interethnic Relations.

In September 2022, on the occasion of the European Day of Languages, DIR organized the conference entitled "Using new technologies for multilingual learning. A perspective on alternative pedagogies. Challenges and opportunities." The event took place in a hybrid format with the support of the Museum of Romanian Literature and had as its starting point the theme chosen by UNESCO in 2022 for the International Day of Mother Tongue.

During 2022, DIR carried out the third stage of a large project initiated in 2021 under the title "The Image of Turks and Tatars in Modern Romanian Art". This tripartite project consisted of a virtual exhibition that opened the temporary exhibition section of MIRAS - the Virtual Museum of Turks and Tatars in Dobrogea, a documentary film about this exhibition, and an art album of the same name, created and released in 2022.

In August 2022, DIR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, organized the 6th edition of the project "Romani Language - Preservation of the History, Customs, Traditions and Practices of the Roma", which was attended by 31 Roma teachers who teach the Romani language and Roma History. The following topics were discussed: "The Contribution of the Roma to the Development of Romanian Society"; "Roma Personalities in Romanian Society"; "School Programs for the Subject of Romani Language and Literature and for the Subject of Roma History and Traditions -

Curriculum Review"; "Legislation on Anti-discrimination, Segregation and Bullying in the School Environment"; "The importance of studying the Romani language in preschool and primary education".

"Roma Ethos" - DIR resumed the organization of the "Roma Ethos" seminar, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The event was held as a natural continuation of the project "The Romani language - preserving history, customs, clothing, traditions and practices", implemented between 2015 and 2022. The seminar brought together Roma and non-Roma teachers working with Roma students, as well as school mediators.

The seminar aimed to implement activities and measures included in the Strategy of the Government of Romania for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2022-2027, specifically those outlined in Annex no. 2 – Plan of measures related to Specific Objective 2: Ensuring the access of Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity to a quality inclusive education system, Action Direction 1.5 - Preserving cultural identity and building self-esteem among Roma students, activities/measures 1.5.1 – Reviewing the curriculum/“school subject programs” and school textbooks for history, civic education, literature, etc., at all levels of education and 1.5.3 – Training teachers for all levels of education to teach the Romanian language and literature, as well as the history and traditions of the Roma.

Projects carried out by DIR, either independently or in partnership, to promote minority or regional languages are presented in **Annex 2**.

Part III. Evaluation with regard to minority languages covered by Part III of the Charter

Romania has undertaken to protect the following minority languages under Part III of the Charter: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, German, Hungarian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Turkish and Ukrainian.

Article 8 – education

Romania has ratified Article 8 of the Charter as follows:

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (ii), b) (ii), c) (iii), d) (iv), e) (ii), g), h), i), and paragraph 2 for the Bulgarian language;

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (ii), b) (ii), c) (iii), d) (iv), g), i), and paragraph 2 for the Czech language;

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (i), b) (i), c) (ii), e) (iii), g), h), i), and paragraph 2 for the Croatian language;

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (i), b) (i), c) (i), d) (i), e) (i), f) (iii), g), h), i), and paragraph 2 for the German language;

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (i), b) (i), c) (i), d) (i), e) (i), f) (i), g), h), i), and paragraph 2 for the Hungarian language;

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (iii), b) (iii), c) (iii), d) (iv), e) (ii), f) (iii), g), h), i), and paragraph 2 for the Russian language;

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (ii), b) (i), c) (i), d) (iv), e) (ii), g), h), i), for the Serbian language;

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (i), b) (i), c) (i), d) (iv), e) (ii), g), h), i), and paragraph 2 for the Slovak language;

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (i), b) (i), c) (i), d) (iv), e) (ii), f) (iii), g), h), i), and paragraph 2 for the Turkish language;

Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (i), b) (i), c) (i), d) (iv), e) (iii), f) (iii), g), h), i), and paragraph 2 for the Ukrainian language.

For the legislative framework, please see *I.4. Improving the legislative framework to strengthen the application of the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*

In Romania, the right of persons belonging to national minorities to study their mother tongue, as well as their right to study in their mother tongue, as provided for by the Constitution, is monitored by several institutions and bodies. These monitoring activities are carried out on the basis of inter-institutional cooperation and dialogue.

The process of monitoring the measures taken to ensure the quality of education for persons belonging to national minorities, as well as the progress made, **is the same for all national minority languages taught in schools.**

The Ministry of Education (ME) of Romania is responsible for the development and implementation of the national policy in the field of pre-university education, which includes education for persons belonging to national minorities.

The various aspects related to the organization, functioning and development of the national education system are implemented and monitored either at central level, by the ME or through its subordinate institutions and structures. In this context, the monitoring of education for persons belonging to national minorities includes school inspections, as well as the periodic external evaluation of the quality of pre-university education units. These activities are carried out by the County School Inspectorates/Bucharest School Inspectorate and the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-university Education.

The teaching of minority languages is also monitored through national assessments and examinations taken by students in pre-university education. These include the national assessment for students in grades II, IV, VI, and VIII, as well as the Baccalaureate exam. All assessments include a written test evaluating students' competences in their mother tongue, while the

Baccalaureate exam includes both an oral test assessing communication skills in the mother tongue, and a written test on the mother tongue and literature.

Examples of outcomes with a positive impact on minority language education as a result of the monitoring process include: approving the operation of classes/study groups for education in the mother tongue of a national minority even when the number of students is below the minimum number (threshold) established by law; extending education in the language of persons belonging to national minorities to subsequent levels or types of education, in accordance with the needs expressed by national minorities; and ensuring mother tongue instruction for other national minorities.

In terms of reporting, the school inspectorates include, in their annual reports on the state of education in the respective county and in Bucharest, relevant information or even a separate section on the state of education provided to persons belonging to national minorities. These reports are public and available on the websites of the school inspectorates.

In addition, the Ministry of Education prepares the annual national report on the state of pre-university education in Romania, drawing also on information provided by the reports submitted by the school inspectorates. The report is published on the ministry's website and includes a section dedicated to education for persons belonging to national minorities.

Students belonging to national minorities who study in their mother tongue also learn the following subjects, in addition to the core subjects of the Romanian national curriculum for pre-university education: the history and traditions of their national minority and music education specific to each national minority for which instruction in the mother tongue is provided.

Students belonging to national minorities studying in Romanian may request to study their mother tongue, as well as History and Traditions of the National Minority and Musical Education of the National Minority.

The subject History and Traditions of the National Minority is studied in grades 6 and 7 (1 hour/week), while Musical Education is studied in primary education (1-2 hours/week depending on the grade) and middle school (1 hour/week).

The two subjects are taught in the languages of national minorities, following specific programs developed by expert groups with knowledge of the language and culture of the respective national minority and approved by order of the Ministry of Education. Curricula and textbooks have been developed for each of the national minorities for which instruction in the mother tongue is provided, also approved by the Ministry of Education. To further support teachers in teaching these subjects, additional teaching resources have been developed, including methodological guides, bilingual auxiliary materials and open educational resources.

In addition, relevant topics regarding national minorities are included in the 4th, 8th and 12th grade curriculum of the core subject *History*, which is studied by all students, regardless of the language

of instruction. In high school, students can also choose to study the optional subject *History of National Minorities in Romania* in the 10th grade.

At the same time, Romania has introduced the core subject *History of the Jews. The Holocaust* into the high school curriculum. The teaching of this new subject began in the 2023-2024 school year.

From the 2025-2026 school year, the subject *History, Slavery and Deportation of the Roma* will be available as an optional subject.

Measures promoted by the Ministry of Education in support of displaced students from Ukraine

In the 2021-2022 school year, one of the main priorities of the Ministry of Education regarding displaced students from Ukraine was the rapid adoption of legislative and administrative measures to ensure their access to kindergartens and schools under the same conditions as those provided for Romanian children.

To facilitate their integration into the Romanian education system, displaced Ukrainian children have had access to Romanian language learning programs and extracurricular activities in schools, as well as to activities organized within clubs and centers (palaces) for children. Participation in extracurricular activities is not dependent of attending as a student.

Displaced Ukrainian children were eligible for all social support programs and, in addition, they were offered scholarships, free school accommodation, transportation, emergency medical assistance, and personal goods. They also benefited from counseling and psychological support. Furthermore, the obligation to take the national exam for the transition from lower to upper secondary education was waived to further facilitate their right to education.

To further strengthen its response to the Ukrainian crisis, Romania adopted a National Plan of Measures for the Protection and Inclusion of Displaced Persons from Ukraine, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Romania, which, in addition to emergency response measures, also addresses medium and long-term protection measures. In the field of education, the measures aim to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian children so they can continue their studies, to ensure the necessary human resources, as well as to ensure the resources required for the teaching-learning and assessment process.

In cooperation with UNICEF, the Romanian Ministry of Education has developed a platform to facilitate the collection of data on Ukrainian children enrolled in schools in Romania (<https://refugees.qie.ro/home>) and to provide information on the requirements of Romanian schools where Ukrainian children are enrolled.

With the support of local authorities, "educational hubs" were established in several schools across the country, enabling displaced Ukrainian children to participate in educational activities in the

Ukrainian language, using platforms provided by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education. As of 9 December 2022, 3,969 Ukrainian students/children were enrolled in the Romanian pre-university education system, as follows: 1,380 in pre-primary education, 1,358 in primary education, and 1,231 in lower and upper secondary education.

Regarding the recognition of the qualifications of persons benefiting from a form of international protection on the territory of Romania, by order of the Ministry of Education no. 3691/2022, the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees was introduced. A dedicated section was also created on the CNRED website "Alongside Ukraine".

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Ministry of Education completed and amended the regulatory framework to facilitate the inclusion of Ukrainian students in the education system. In this regard, the following methodologies were developed and approved: *Special methodology for attesting pre-university studies for foreigners who have obtained international protection in Romania and who do not have documents proving their studies, or who, for objective reasons, are not covered by the current legal provisions on the recognition and attestation of studies of foreigners in Romania, in order to facilitate access or continuation to the labor market; Methodology regarding schooling and the organization and conduct of the Romanian language initiation course for minors who have acquired a form of international protection or a right of residence in Romania, as well as for minors who are citizens of the Member States of the European Union, the European Economic Area, and the Swiss Confederation; Methodology regarding the organization and conduct of the Romanian language initiation course for adult foreigners who have acquired a form of international protection or a right of residence in Romania, as well as for citizens of the Member States of the European Union, the European Economic Area, and the Swiss Confederation.*

At the level of the county school inspectorates, the registration of Ukrainian students continued, and the Ministry of Education monitored both the registration process and the activities carried out. At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, there were 17,620 Ukrainian students attending educational activities and 8,607 students enrolled, as follows: preschool level: 5,083 attending, 2,309 enrolled (total: 7,392); primary level: 5,565 attending, 2,680 enrolled (total: 8,245); secondary level: 6,972 attending, 3,618 registered (total: 9,466).

To intensify the efforts of national authorities to address disparities in the results of the baccalaureate exams between students receiving instruction in Hungarian language and those studying in Romanian-language schools, the Ministry of Education has taken several measures.

As previously reported, the Ministry of Education has taken additional measures to support children and students belonging to national minorities in developing adequate communication skills in Romanian, by implementing the project Competence and Efficiency in Teaching the Romanian Language to Children and Students belonging to National Minorities in Romania. The project was implemented in partnership with the "Babeş Bolyai" University in Cluj Napoca, the Center for Continuing Education in the Hungarian Language in Oradea and the "Apáczai Csere János" Teacher Training Center in Harghita. It aims to reduce and prevent early school dropout

and to promote equal access to quality pre-primary, primary, and secondary education, by developing modern and attractive learning resources and a unitary and specific continuous training for teachers.

Within the project, educational resources were developed in two languages - Romanian and the mother tongue of each national minority in Romania - to support teachers. These new resources are available through a specialised learning platform. They include: methodological guides for developing communication skills in Romanian, as well as bilingual communication skills (Romanian and the mother tongue) that teachers can use as teaching and learning resources; auxiliary learning materials in the languages of national minorities; bilingual auxiliary learning resources for different subjects, designed to support students belonging to national minorities in their learning process; as well as a curriculum, upon the school decision, on *Communication in Romanian* for schools and sections with teaching in Romanian, for grades 0, I and II.

In addition, as mentioned in the section presenting the new legal framework for the field of education, the Law on Pre-university Education no. 198/2023 provides, in art. 83 (16), for the organization of the *National Program for Supporting the Learning of Romanian Language and Literature for students enrolled in educational institutions with instruction in the languages of national minorities, throughout pre-university education*. The program specifically targets students whose average results in the Romanian Language and Literature test in national assessments and Baccalaureate are below the national average recorded for classes with instruction in Romanian.

Article 9 – Judicial authorities

Romania has ratified Article 9 for all languages protected by the Charter as follows:

- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (ii), a) (iii), b) (ii), b) (iii), c) (ii), c) (iii), d), paragraph 2 ,subparagraph a), and paragraph 3.

Article 128 of the Constitution regulates the right of minorities to use their mother tongue before courts of law. It provides that Romanian citizens belonging to national minorities have the right to express themselves in their mother tongue before courts of law, under the conditions established by the organic law. These provisions establish the modalities for exercising this right, including through the use of interpreters or translators, without hindering the proper administration of justice and without entailing additional expenses for the persons concerned.

In application of the aforementioned constitutional provision, Article 16 of Law no. 304/2022 on judicial organization provides that, if a Romanian citizen belonging to a national minority requests to express themselves in their mother tongue, the court must ensure, free of charge, the service of an authorized interpreter or translator - a norm of general applicability, therefore applying also to civil trials (*lato sensu*).

Also, where all parties request or agree to express themselves in their mother tongue, the court must ensure the exercise of this right while safeguarding the proper administration of justice, in compliance with the principles of adversarial proceedings, orality and publicity. The debates conducted by the parties in their mother tongue are recorded, noting them in Romanian, and the interpreter or translator signs all documents drawn up when their drafting or recording has been based on the interpreter's or translator's translation.

With regard to the implementation of these provisions at the level of secondary legislation, art. 16 of the Order of the Ministry of Justice no. 1054/2005 provides as follows: "(1) The provision of services by the interpreter and translator, as well as the remuneration for such services, established in accordance with the joint Order of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Finance, shall be recorded by the court at the end of the hearing or, as the case may be, by the criminal investigation body, by means of an ordinance. (2) A copy of the documents referred to in paragraph (1), in accordance with the original, shall be transmitted, through the court or, as the case may be, through the criminal investigation body, to the economic-administrative department of the court or of the prosecutor's office attached to it, in the territorial district in which the court or the criminal investigation body where the service was provided is located, in order to make the payment".

Therefore, Romanian law explicitly regulates the right of persons belonging to national minorities to use their mother tongue in judicial proceedings, even if they are proficient in Romanian, as well as the corresponding obligation of the authorities to ensure the exercise of this right.

According to art. 12 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Romanian citizens belonging to national minorities have the right to express themselves in their mother tongue before the courts, with procedural documents being drawn up in Romanian. At the same time, parties and subjects of proceedings who do not speak or understand Romanian, or who cannot express themselves, are guaranteed, free of charge, the possibility to review the case file, to speak, and to submit conclusions in court, through an interpreter (art. 12, paragraph 3).

Furthermore, article 83 provides that the accused has the right to benefit, free of charge, from an interpreter when they do not understand, can not express themselves properly, or cannot communicate in Romanian. The same rights are also granted to victims, with the specification that, according to art. 81, paragraph 1. letter g1, in urgent cases, technical means may also be used if deemed necessary and if they do not hinder the exercise of the victim's rights. Moreover, victims have the right to receive, in a language they understand, a translation of any decision not to bring the case to trial, when they do not understand Romanian.

As regards evidence, art. 97 paragraph (2) generally lists the means by which evidence may be obtained. The list provided in paragraph (2) does not impose any limitation on the use of evidence prepared in other languages.

According to art. 18, paragraph (2), of the Code of Civil Procedure adopted by Law no. 134/2010, Romanian citizens belonging to national minorities have the right to express themselves in their

mother tongue before the courts, in accordance with the law. Paragraph (4) of the same article further provides that requests and procedural documents shall be drawn up exclusively in Romanian.

At the same time, according to art. 225 of the Code of Civil Procedure, when one of the parties or persons to be heard does not understand Romanian, the court shall use an authorized translator; however, if the parties agree, the judge or the judicial clerk may act as translator.

With regard to procedural documents and other filings, according to art. 150, paragraph 4, of the Code of Civil Procedure, a translation prepared by an authorized translator shall be attached to documents in a foreign language. In the absence of an authorized translator for the language in which the documents are drafted, translations made by trusted persons proficient in the respective language may be used, in accordance with the provisions of the special law.

In addition to the above, art. 16, paragraph 6 of Law no. 304/2022 provides that debates held by the parties in their mother tongue shall be recorded in Romanian. Objections raised by those interested regarding the translations and their recording shall be resolved by the court before the conclusion of the debates in that file, and noted in the conclusion of the hearing.

Law no. 554/2004 on administrative litigation does not contain any other express provisions regarding the language used in administrative litigation procedures. Art. 28 provides that its provisions are supplemented by those of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure, to the extent that they are not incompatible with the specifics of the relationships between public authorities, on the one hand, and persons whose legitimate rights or interests have been violated, on the other.

Therefore, in the administrative proceedings, and within the limits mentioned above, the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure apply, ensuring that the procedural rights of persons belonging to national minorities are protected.

According to the provisions of Article 272, paragraphs (4) and (5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the interpreter is entitled to remuneration for performing their duties, in the cases and under the conditions provided by law. The remuneration is paid on the basis of the provisions issued by the body that ordered the summons, before which the interpreter appeared, from the specially allocated judicial expenses fund.

According to the final provisions of Law No. 202/1998*) on the organization of the Official Gazette of Romania, "The Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, is also published in Hungarian translation. The publication expenses for Part I in Hungarian are covered by the budget of the General Secretariat of the Government"⁶.

⁶ http://www.monitoruloficial.ro/article--Monitorul_Oficial_Parteia_I_%C3%AEn_limba_maghiar%C4%83_-_acte_normative--111.html

We present, in the annex, an overview of the use of minority languages at the level of the Courts of Appeal (**Annex 3**).

Article 10 –Administrative authorities and public services

Romania has ratified Article 10 of the Charter, as follows:

- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (ii), a) (iii), a) (iv), a) (v), paragraph 2, subparagraphs b), c), d), e), f), g), paragraph 3, subparagraphs a), b), c), paragraph 4, subparagraphs b), c) and paragraph 5 for the Bulgarian and Czech languages;
- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (ii), a) (iii), a) (iv), a) (v), paragraph 2, subparagraphs b), d), f), g), paragraph 3, subparagraphs a), b), paragraph 4, subparagraphs b), c) and paragraph 5 for the Croatian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak languages;
- Paragraph 1 with subparagraphs a) (ii), a) (iii), a) (iv), a) (v), paragraph 2 with subparagraphs b), d), e), f), g), paragraph 3, paragraph 4 with subparagraphs b), c) and paragraph 5 for the Turkish language;
- Paragraph 1 with subparagraphs a) (ii), a) (iii), a) (iv), a) (v), paragraph 2, subparagraphs b), d), e), f), g), paragraph 3, subparagraphs a), b), c), paragraph 4, subparagraphs b), c) and paragraph 5 for the Ukrainian language;
- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (ii), a) (iii), a) (iv), a) (v), b), c), paragraph 2, subparagraphs b), c), d), e), f), g), paragraph 3, subparagraphs a), b), c), paragraph 4, subparagraphs b), c) and paragraph 5 for the German language;
- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (ii), a) (iii), a) (iv), a) (v), b), c), paragraph 2, subparagraphs b), c), d), e), f), g), paragraph 3, paragraph 4, subparagraphs b), c) and paragraph 5 for the Hungarian language;

Article 94 paragraph (1) of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 57/2019 on the Administrative Code, as subsequently amended and supplemented, provides for the use of a minority language in administrative-territorial where citizens belonging to that minority represent at least 20% of the population, but additionally allows local authorities to decide to ensure the use of the minority language also in administrative-territorial units where this threshold is not reached [paragraph (2) of the same article]. This provides an additional guarantee for the protection and promotion of the linguistic rights of Romanian citizens belonging to national minorities.

The Administrative Code also contains other relevant provisions regarding national minorities, such as: the notification of the draft agenda of the local council also in the language of national minorities [art. 135 paragraph (5)]; the possibility of using the language of national minorities during local and county council meetings [art. 138 paragraph (3)]; as well as the publication and communication of acts issued by the deliberative and executive authorities of the local public administration also in the languages of national minorities [art. 195 para. (2)].

Also, the prefect, as the guarantor of the uniform application and observance of laws (including the Constitution), “verifies the application of the legal provisions regulating the use of the languages of national minorities in the relations between local public administration authorities and decentralized public services, on the one hand, and citizens belonging to national minorities, on the other, in the administrative-territorial units in which they represent more than 20% of the population, according to the latest census” [art. 253 letter f)]

With regard to human resources policies, educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI) provide each year a number of dedicated places for persons belonging to national minorities, both at the Police Academy and at post-secondary schools.

Within the MAI, there are several people capable of receiving and responding to requests submitted by citizens belonging to national minorities. In addition, there are approximately 200 Ukrainian-speaking people within the MAI, mainly in the structures of the Romanian Border Police and the Romanian Police, and several MAI employees have participated in introductory Ukrainian language courses.

Access to healthcare for persons belonging to national minorities is regulated by Law no. 180/2017 for the approval of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 18/2017 on community healthcare:

- according to art. 7, letter m) of Law no. 95/2006 regarding the reform in the field of health, republished, with its subsequent amendments and additions, one of the principles underlying public healthcare is the provision of ensuring, in healthcare units, of medical or social specialists, as appropriate, who are proficient in the languages of national minorities in administrative-territorial units where citizens of national minorities either represent more than 20% of the population, or number at least 5,000. Accordingly, an alternative numerical threshold to the 20% proportion has been introduced, contributing to the broadening of the scope of linguistic rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

- according to art. 8 of the Patient's Rights Law no. 46/2003, with subsequent amendments and additions, information must be provided to the patient in a respectful and clear manner, with the minimization of specialized terminology. If the patient does not speak Romanian, the information shall be provided in his or her native language or in a language he or she understands or, where necessary, another appropriate form of communication shall be used. If the patient is not a Romanian citizen, the information shall be provided in an international language or, where necessary, another appropriate form of communication shall be used.

Community healthcare includes the set of programs, health services, and public health actions provided at the community level, aimed at increasing access to healthcare for the population, and especially for vulnerable groups, including the Roma population, with a particular focus on preventive services. In this context, the community healthcare network consists of a community nurse and, where appropriate, a health mediator, in communities where at least 700 potential Roma beneficiaries have been identified, according to Government Decision 459/2010 regarding the

approval of the cost/year standard for services provided in medico-social units and certain regulations concerning the staff of medico-social assistance units and personnel carrying out community medical assistance activities.

By Government Decision no. 324/2019, approving the Methodological Norms regarding the organization, operation, and financing of community healthcare activities, the role of the health mediator is specified in relation to the communication and support of Roma beneficiaries, as well as the conditions a person must meet to be employed as a health mediator.

Article 13 regulates the scope of the health mediator's duties as follows:

- participates, by facilitating communication, together with the community medical assistant, in the active detection of tuberculosis and other contagious diseases, under the guidance of the family doctor or the medical staff of the public health department or the pneumophthisiology dispensary;
- accompanies the medical staff in the activities related to the prevention or control of epidemic situations, facilitating the implementation of appropriate measures, and explaining to the members of the local community the role and purpose of the measures to be followed;
- facilitates communication between local public authorities and the community they belong to, as well as communication between community members and the medico-social staff serving the community.

Regarding the issuance of official public documents, the specific procedures applicable in the field of civil status establish the following situations:

- If civil status events were registered in other States, in accordance with their national legislation, the surname and first name shall be entered in the civil status registers in Romania exactly as they appear on the original document submitted, issued by the authorities in those States;
- When civil status events are registered in Romania, official documents are issued in accordance with the provisions of the national legal framework. In such cases it is possible to modify the surname and first name by adding specific endings depending on the gender of the document holder.

During the period 2020–2021, the Department for Interethnic Relations carried out a data collection process regarding the implementation of legal provisions on the use of the mother tongue in local public administration, in administrative-territorial units where the share of citizens belonging to national minorities exceeds 20% of the population. The initiative, conducted on the basis of Emergency Ordinance No. 57/2019 on the Administrative Code, was completed in 2022 with the publication of the analysis entitled “Monitoring the implementation of legal provisions regulating the right of citizens belonging to national minorities to use their mother tongue in local public administration.”

Article 11 – Media

Romania ratified Article 11 of the Charter as follows:

- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (iii), b) (ii), c) (ii), d), e) (i), g), paragraphs 2 and 3 for the Bulgarian, Czech, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Turkish, Ukrainian languages;
- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (iii), c) (ii), d), e) (i), g) and paragraph 2 for the Croatian language;
- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (iii), b) (ii), d), e) (i), f) (i), g), paragraphs 2 and 3 for the German language;
- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) (ii), b) (i), c) (i), d), e) (i), f) (i), g), paragraphs 2 and 3 for the Hungarian language.

Romania has consistently attached special attention to freedom of expression, media freedom, media pluralism and the protection of journalists, as guaranteed by the Fundamental Law through articles 29 (freedom of conscience), 30 (freedom of expression) and 31 (right to information). These constitutional guarantees are further elaborated in the Civil Code (section 3 on respect for private life and personal dignity), as well as in Law no. 504/2002 on audiovisual media.

The Ministry of Culture of Romania is responsible for implementing strategies and policies related to cultural heritage, the arts and the audiovisual sector, in collaboration with the National Audiovisual Council (CNA), an autonomous public authority under parliamentary control that serves as the sole regulatory body for audiovisual media services. The CNA operates in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 504/2002 on audiovisual media, as subsequently amended by Law no. 190/2022, which transposes Directive 2018/1808/EU - amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain laws, regulations, and administrative provisions in the Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) in the context of evolving market realities.

Regarding the explicit recognition of media pluralism, Art. 3(1) of the Audiovisual Law provides that political and social pluralism, as well as cultural, linguistic and religious diversity, information, education and public entertainment are achieved and ensured through the broadcasting and retransmission of programme services, with due respect for fundamental freedoms and rights.

The National Audiovisual Council (CNA), as guarantor of the public interest in the field of audiovisual communications, ensures the “protection of the Romanian culture and language, as well as the culture and languages of national minorities”.

In addition, Article 17 paragraph d) of the Audiovisual Law no. 504/2002, as subsequently amended and supplemented, entitles the National Audiovisual Council to “issue, in order to apply the provisions of this law, regulatory decisions [...] regarding [...] the correct monitoring of expression in Romanian and in the languages of national minorities”. It also grants persons belonging to national minorities the right to benefit from the free broadcasting of programmes in

their languages if the minority concerned represents more than 20% of the total population in a given administrative-territorial unit.

The Romanian Television Society (TVR) is the only television in Romania that promotes the cultural identity, lifestyle and traditions of the country's national minorities. TVR broadcasts programmes in several minority languages, including Hungarian, German, Romani, Serbian, Russian-Lipoveni, and Ukrainian.

Exclusively within the Romanian media, TVR allocates significant broadcasting time to programmes for national minorities and in the languages of national minorities, both on national channels and on those of its regional studios, as required by law.

At the local level, the regional studios of the Romanian Television Society are located in key cities across Romania and play an important role in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity in the country by producing programmes specifically targeted at persons belonging to national minorities. The programmes cover topics of interest to these communities, ranging from news and current affairs to culture, education, and entertainment.

The programmes produced by these studios are not only broadcast locally but are also available on TVR's YouTube channels and on the tvrplus.ro platform, thereby allowing for wider dissemination of the content to audiences across the country.

Additionally, there are approximately 40 other TV channels that broadcast content in minority languages, many of which broadcast exclusively in Hungarian. These channels typically have their own YouTube and/or Facebook channels, and some are also available on online streaming platforms.

At its central studio in Bucharest, the Public Television has three specialised editorial units producing content dedicated to persons belonging to national minorities: the Hungarian Section, the German Section, and the Other Minorities Section. These programmes are broadcast on TVR channels, streamed online on the editorial unit's Facebook page, and made available on the TVR+ website. Significant events in the life of persons belonging to national minorities are also promoted on Facebook in Romanian.

On its official website, TVR includes a dedicated section for minority programmes—minoritati.tvr.ro—highlighting broadcasts on national minorities in Romania, promoted in Romanian.

These productions, including news programmes, reports, interviews, and studio debates, are broadcast live on Facebook and/or uploaded to the YouTube channels of the respective studios.

a) The Hungarian Section

The Hungarian Section, part of the Minority Department, produces Hungarian-language programmes for TVRI, TVR2, TVR3 and TVR CULTURAL.

The programmes produced by the Hungarian Section are:

- Maghiara de pe unu (TVR1): Monday's edition focuses on the social and political realities of the Hungarian community, while Tuesday's edition focuses on cultural aspects;

- Cultura minorităților (TVR2) - Thursday and Friday;

- Toți împreună (TVR3)

- Tuesday's Hungarian, a rebroadcast selection of our programmes;

- Kultikon (TVR CULTURAL) - Monday and Thursday.

The Hungarian Language Programme, a magazine-format show, is broadcast live Hungarian on a dedicated Facebook page. It is later available in full on TVR+, Romanian Television's video platform, and on the programme's YouTube channel. Viewers can also watch reports from the programme on YouTube, where they are promoted separately.

The new YouTube channel of the Hungarian Language Programme, available from November 2022, has attracted 170,000 visitors, while the old channel on the same platform continues to attract up to 700.000 visitors.

b) The German Section

For 2023, the German Section has set a number of objectives, including maintaining its presence in the TVR channel grids and on the TVR+ online platform, as well as improving the promotion of its broadcasts through internal means and outside TVR.

The German Section's programmes were also promoted with the help of German newspapers in Romania (Allgemeine Deutsche Zeitung, Hermannstaedter Zeitung, Schwabenpost), as well as newspapers referring to the German community and published in Germany (Siebenbuergische Zeitung, Banater Post).

The same type of partnership has also been established with Romanian radio stations, both for on-air and online broadcasts, as well as with all German institutions and publications in Romania (the Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania, the Evangelical Church of the Augustan Confession in Romania, the Dioceses of the Roman-Catholic Church, and the German Cultural Centers in the country), with all German institutions represented in Romania (Goethe Institut, German Embassy, German Businessmen Clubs, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Foundation), with the German broadcaster Deutsche Welle, as well as with German associations and cultural centres in Germany (Associations of displaced persons of the Saxons, the Saxon Cultural Foundation in Munich).

Under the title "Akzente," the German Section produces current affairs programmes, including news and a German-language press review, as well as magazine-format shows featuring reports, documentaries, cultural segments, and entertainment. These programmes are dedicated to those

interested in the German language and culture. The content is also available online via TVR+, the Romanian Television's video platform, and is promoted on TVR's Facebook pages.

c) The Other Minorities Section

The Other Minorities Section produces 10 programs for all TVR channels, with and about national minorities (18 in total, represented in the Romanian Parliament) other than the Hungarian and German minorities.

Efforts have been made to produce journalistic materials that also present the problems faced by these national minorities. Program formats and content have been improved, and the development and promotion of the Section's online platforms have continued: the Facebook page *Other Minorities* and the YouTube channel *Minorities on TVR*.

The production of the first podcast in Romania dedicated to national minorities, *Podcasturile TVR*, continued in 2023 on the following platforms: Google Podcasts, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, as well as on TVR's YouTube channel.

d) Regarding TVR territorial channels, we highlight the activity of TVR Târgu Mureș and TVR Timișoara

In the case of TVR Târgu Mureș, the achievements of 2023 also include the expansion of online visibility and services for its own productions.

Consistent online promotion of its programmes and productions led to increases in 2023 compared to 2022. The Facebook page of TVR Târgu Mureș has 26,908 followers (61.6% women and 38.4% men). New likes grew by 171.5% compared to the previous year and Facebook impact stands at 4,676,264, 7% higher than in 2022.

Since 2023, the activity of TVR Timișoara has been marked by a series of achievements, including: increased online visibility; the largest online audience among all Territorial Studios; recognition as the most important regional television in western Romania; and the greatest diversity of audiovisual productions. TVR Timișoara contributes the greatest diversity of programmes to TVR's national channels. Online, TVR Timișoara's productions exceeded 100 million minutes viewed in 2023.

In Romania there are numerous television and radio broadcasting services, with local or regional coverage, that broadcast programmes in the languages of persons belonging to national minorities, mainly in Hungarian - in cities located in the counties of Harghita, Covasna, Mureș, Satu Mare, Bihor, Cluj, Sălaj, Brașov.

In addition, programmes are also broadcast for persons belonging to the following minorities: Roma, German, Bulgarian, Serbian, Turkish, Tatar, Ukrainian, Russian-Lipovian, Slovak, Croatian, Italian, Czech, and Polish.

Regarding television broadcasting, out of the 332 audiovisual licences granted for broadcasting television programmes via electronic communications networks (including satellite and DVB-T system), 27 programme services broadcast exclusively in Hungarian (of which 4 are videotext-only services). Additionally, 14 private programme services and 5 programmes from the Romanian Television Society (TVR) broadcast in the languages of national minorities.

There is also an Italian-language channel (Telestar 1), as well as other central programme services with national and international coverage (mainly Europe), broadcasting in the Hungarian, Bulgarian, Czech, and Polish languages.

Regarding radio broadcasting, out of the 628 audiovisual licences granted for broadcasting programme services via terrestrial analogue or electronic communications networks (including satellite), 38 private radio programmes broadcast exclusively in Hungarian, mainly in cities located in the counties of Harghita, Covasna, Mureş, Satu Mare, Bihor, Cluj, Sălaj, and Braşov.

Another 26 private radio programme services have also included broadcasts for persons belonging to the following national minorities in their schedules: Roma, German, Bulgarian, Serbian, Turkish, Tatar, Ukrainian, Russian-Lipovene, Slovak, and Croatian.

In addition, there are the radio programmes produced and broadcast by the Romanian Television Society (TVR) through the "Hungarian-German Programme", in Hungarian and German, as well as through the regional studios in Târgu-Mureş, Cluj-Napoca, Constanta, Timisoara, Reşita, Sighet and Iaşi. These regional studios broadcast radio programmes for local communities in Hungarian, German, Romani, Bulgarian, Armenian, Greek, Turkish, Tatar, Italian, Russo-Lipovian, Czech, Slovak, Serbian, Croatian, Yiddish and Ukrainian.

In addition, radio programmes in Romanian, English, French, German, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Italian, Serbian, and Ukrainian are broadcast through the following channels: Radio Romania International 1, Radio Romania International 2 and Radio Romania International 3.

The retransmission of programme services in Romania is carried out in accordance with the provisions of *Audiovisual Law no. 504/2002, with subsequent amendments and modifications*, as well as National Audiovisual Council (NAC) *Decision no. 72/2012, with subsequent amendments and modifications*, and NAC *Decisions no. 113/2002 and no. 199/2005*. The distributor of programme services determines its offer of retransmitted programme services, in compliance with the applicable legal provisions and the retransmission agreements/contracts concluded with the broadcasters.

In order to comply with art. 82 para. (4) of the Audiovisual Law, in territorial-administrative units where persons belonging to national minorities constitute at least 20% of the population, distributors also provide services of transmission of programmes that are free for retransmission in the language of the respective minority. For example, Erdely TV, a regional programme in Hungarian intended for the Hungarian minority in Romania, covers the following counties: Alba,

Arad, Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Brașov, Caraș-Severin, Cluj, Covasna, Harghita, Hunedoara, Maramureș, Mureș, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Sibiu and Timiș.

In Romania, television programme services licenced in the country, that broadcast programmes in the languages of persons belonging to national minorities, as well as other programme services, are retransmitted through electronic communications networks as follows:

- from Hungary: BONUM TV, DUNA TV, DUNA WORLD, FILM4, GALAXY4, HIR TV, LIFE TV, M, M2, M4 SPORT, M4 SPORT+, M5, MAGYAR ATV, MAGYAR SLAGER TV, OZONE TV, PAX TV, RADIO BARTOK, RADIO DANKO, RADIO KOSSUTH, RADIO PETOFI, REFLEKTOR, RTL, STORY 4, SUPER TV2, TV2, TV4;

- from other EU Member States, broadcast in Hungarian: HISTORY CHANNEL HU, VIASAT 3 HU, COMEDY CENTRAL HUNGARY, MINIMAX HU, NICKELODEON HU, PARAMOUNT CHANNEL HU, TV PAPRIKA HU, VIVA HUNGARY, HISTORY CHANNEL HU, HISTORY2 HUNGARY, ROMANCE TV MAGYAR, COOL TV, FILM+, GALAXY 4, MUZSIKA TV, RTL GOLD, RTL KETTO, RTL HAROM, SOROZAT+, DISCOVERY CHANNEL HU, DISCOVERY SCIENCE HU, DTX HU, ID INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY HU, NICK JUNIOR (HUNGARY), NICK TOONS (HUNGARY);

- from Moldova: JURNAL TV, BUSUIOC TV, 10 TV, NOROC;

- from Serbia: RTS 1, RTS 2;

- from Bulgaria: BALKANIKA MUSIC TELEVISION, FEN FOLK TV;

- from Germany: AUTO MOTOR UND SPORT CHANNEL, DEUTSCHE WELLE, KABEL EINS, N-TV, PRO SIEBEN, RTL NITRO, SAT.1, SUPER RTL, VOX, WELT.

In the context of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, cable companies in Romania were informed about the possibility of retransmitting the Espresso and Rada TV programme services, in the absence of retransmission agreements.

Most distributors included packages of programmes intended for persons belonging to national minorities in their retransmitted service offerings, depending on the coverage area of the electronic communications network.

Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

As regards the application of Article 12 of the Charter, Romania has ratified paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 for all languages protected in Part III.

As a general clarification, the Romanian State finances, through the state budget and sectoral programs and projects, the activities of organizations of persons belonging to national minorities, both for organizing a wide range of activities and for supporting the main cultural organizations

and activities. Budgets are allocated annually by the Government of Romania, through the Ministry of Culture, the DIR, and the organizations representing national minorities.

Each year, the Government of Romania, through the Ministry of Culture, promoted intercultural dialogue and the cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities, as well as the fight against intolerance, by collaborating with public institutions, NGOs and other entities to advance these values. The national minorities involved included Hungarian, Yiddish, Romani, German, Slovak, Bulgarian, Italian, Czech, Serbian, Greek, Ukrainian, Albanian, Turkish, Tatar, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Armenian, etc.

Annex No. 4 presents the projects financed by the Ministry of Culture through the programme for supporting and promoting the culture of national minorities.

Promoting intercultural dialogue through theatre

Mother tongues/minorities involved: Hungarians, Jews, Roma, Germans, etc.

The Ministry of Culture annually subsidizes cultural institutions of national minorities, such as the Hungarian State Theatre of Cluj, the Hungarian Opera of Cluj, and the National Theatre of Targu-Mures - subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, which, by definition, serves Romanian-Hungarian interculturality through its two constituent companies: the "Liviu Rebreanu" Company (which performs in Romanian), and the "Tompá Miklós" Company (which performs in Hungarian). All performances are subtitled, allowing both ethnic groups to strengthen socio-cultural ties. At the same time, each company's repertoire includes works from the other culture. Translations are financed from the production of the performances.

There are also theatres in national minority languages funded by local authorities: the German State Theatre in Timișoara, the Radu Stanca Theatre in Sibiu - German Section, the Csiki Gergely Hungarian State Theatre in Timișoara, the Tamási Áron Theatre in Sfântu Gheorghe, the Tomcsa Sándor Theatre, the Jewish Theatre of Romania, Giuvlipen (the first independent Roma feminist theatre company in Romania), the Harag György Theatre Company - Hungarian section of the Northern Theatre of Satu Mare, the "Szigligeti" Theatre of Oradea, and the "Csíki Játékszín" Theatre of Miercurea Ciuc.

There is also collaboration between national minority theatre institutions under the Ministry of Culture and those funded by local authorities. For example, **The Inter-Ethnic Theatre Festival-IFESZT** is a theatre project organized every two years in different localities. It holds great importance in the cultural landscape of national minorities in Romania and is the only theatre festival in which all minority theatres in the country participate. It provides an appropriate framework for analyzing the situation of these institutions, discussing challenges, and presenting the theatre life of national minorities.

The 11th edition of the festival took place in Satu Mare, from 14 to 24 November 2024, and featured 14 theatres and theatre workshops representing the national minorities in Romania, with

performances in Hungarian, German, Yiddish and Roma. Participating institutions included: the Hungarian State Theatre of Cluj Napoca, the National Theatre of Targu Mures - Tompa Miklós troupe, the Szigligeti Theatre of Oradea, the Csiky Gergely Hungarian State Theatre of Timișoara, the Tamási Áron Theatre of Sfântu Gheorghe, the Figura Theatre of Gheorgheni, the Tomcsa Sándor Theatre of Odorheiu Secuiesc, the Csiki Játékszin Theatre in Miercurea Ciuc, the Târgu Secuiesc City Theatre, the Jewish State Theatre of Bucharest, the Northern Theatre of Satu Mare - Harag György Theatre Company, and the Roma independent theatre company – Giuvlipen Theatre Company of Bucharest. In addition to theatrical performances, the festival included exhibitions, workshops, reading performances, and book launches.

The presence of Romanian-speaking specialized press and critics, together with the subtitling of performances in Romanian, fosters communication between Romanian and non-Romanian professionals, serving as an example of intercultural dialogue.

The **Tomcsa Sandor Theatre** received a grant for organizing the Contemporary Drama Theatre Festival in Odorheiu Secuiesc between 2019 and 2023. The Festival promoted mutual understanding and knowledge through culture and through Romanian and Hungarian contemporary drama.

The **Figura Studio Theatre in Gheorgheni**, in partnership with the Figura Association and with the support of the Ministry of Culture, organized the theatre festival *Colocviul Teatrelor Minorităților Naționale*, from 11 to 20 October 2019 in Gheorghieni, Harghita County. The festival showcased the most notable performances of the previous two seasons from theatre institutions performing in the languages of national minorities in Romania (Hungarian, German and Yiddish), as well as productions by experimental theatre groups and universities, and performances of Hungarian-language theatres from Serbia, Hungary and Romania. The festival also featured debates, conferences, and workshops for students on current topics in theatre arts and cultural management, along with exhibitions, book launches etc.

Promoting literature in national minority languages and access for all to minority culture

a. Promotion of minority literature

Book fairs:

International Book Fair in Târgu Mureș, editions XXV-XXVIII (2019-2022)

The Association of the Hungarian Book Guild of Romania received non-reimbursable support in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 for organizing the International Book Fair in Targu-Mures, with the participation of publishers from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Serbia.

Participating Publishers:

- **in 2019:** 41 publishers participated with their own stands, including 12 publishers on the stand of the Hungarian Publishers and Book Publishers Union.

- **in 2020:** the fair did not take place in person due to the pandemic. However, the 24 programs of the fair were held without a live audience and were broadcast online on the fair's Facebook page. The recordings are accessible on the YouTube channel.

- **in 2021:** a fair was organized in the glass dome of the Medieval Fortress in Târgu Mures - the 13 publishing houses, members of the Hungarian Book Guild Association of Romania, participated, but the 27 programs of the fair were conducted without a live audience, broadcast online on the Facebook page of the fair. The recordings are accessible on the YouTube channel.

- **in 2022:** 27 publishers participated with their own stands, and 26 publishers were represented by Romanian book dealers.

Romania, through the Ministry of Culture, participates annually in a number of international book fairs, including those in Leipzig, Bologna, Prague, Budapest, Frankfurt, Belgrade, Istanbul, and Sofia.

At the Romanian stands at these fairs, particularly those organized in neighboring countries (Sofia, Belgrade, Budapest), translations from Romanian into the language of host countries are presented, and vice versa. The stands also host such as book launches (translations), literary discussions, debates, literary previews, etc, featuring Romanian authors or cultural actors from the host country.

Financial support is also provided for translations of literary works from neighboring countries. Institutions or organizations offering such support include the Romanian Cultural Institute, Traduki, the Creative Europe Community program etc. Examples of good practice can be found among publishing houses in Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia or Hungary, which consistently apply for these support programs.

The Ministry of Culture also provides financial support for each edition of the Gaudeamus International Book Fair, in which national minority publishers participated.

Promoting intercultural dialog and multilingualism through minority languages

Mother tongues/minorities involved: Hungarians, Jews, Romani, Germans, Slovak, Bulgarian, Italian, Czech, Serbian, Greek, Macedonian, Ukrainian, Albanian, Turkish, Tatar, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Armenian, Rhaeto-Romanic etc.

Romanian authorities provide financial support for each edition of the "**ProEtnica – Intercultural Festival Sighisoara**", organized by the Association of the Inter-ethnic Educational Centre for Youth in Sighisoara, Mures County. The festival promotes the maintenance and affirmation of the linguistic and cultural identity of national minorities, as well as the intercultural dialogue. All 20 national minorities of Romania were represented at the festival, which featured artistic events, interactive performances, presentation stands, a joint fine arts exhibition by contemporary national

minority artists, ethno-cultural concerts, a film and workshop section organized by national minority organizations on various topics (dance, culture, traditions, contemporary arts), as well as a scientific section.

ProEtnica is promoted through its website and social media channels, as well as through its numerous international, national, regional and local media partners. The festival programme is presented in an online catalogue translated into three languages. All representatives of the national minorities participated in the project with books and bilingual journals or newspapers in their mother tongues and in Romanian.

Delta Festivals: the Sulina House of Culture organized the 20th edition of the National Minorities Competition Festival "Serbările Deltei" in Sulina, Tulcea, Tulcea County, from 2019 to 2022.

The project aimed to maintain, preserve and enhance the intangible heritage of national minorities by facilitating access to the diversity of its component elements.

One of the objectives of the project is to promote intercultural dialogue and the model of harmonious coexistence of several ethnic groups over the centuries in the Dobrogea region. The festival provides a suitable framework for transmitting cultural heritage, discovering and promoting young talents among national minorities, and contributes to the development of cultural tourism in the Danube Delta region.

The 2022 edition, postponed for 2 years due to pandemic restrictions, brought together on stage some of the winners from previous editions, reaffirming the values promoted over time. The project also included meetings with specialists from cultural institutions, representatives of national minority communities, and tradition bearers from these communities in the Danube Delta region.

Brukenthal – an early European

The exhibition offered a vivid presentation of the work and activity of Samuel von Brukenthal, across ten panels. The trilingual brochure accompanying the exhibition reproduced the content of the panels in full, and aimed to increase public interest for a thorough knowledge of this illustrious personality. The organizers and partners of the event included: the Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania – Extra-Carpathian Region, the Department for Inter-ethnic Relations, the Association *Cu timp pentru cultură*, the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant, the Democratic Forum of Germans in Cluj - Napoca, and the Brukenthal National Museum.

Mother tongues/minorities involved: Hungarian, Serbian

The cultural project **Voices of the City - Banat in Europe**, implemented in 2022 by the National Theatre "Mihai Eminescu" in Timișoara. The project is structured on three levels:

- a) A trilingual theatre workshop in Serbian, Hungarian and Romanian;

- b) Writing a play in three acts, with each act in one of the three languages – Serbian, Hungarian and Romanian;
- c) Production of a trilingual performance in Serbian, Hungarian and Romanian.

The project **Voices of the City - BANAT IN EUROPE** is implemented by the National Theatre "Mihai Eminescu" in Timișoara as part of the "Identity Workshop" component, which belongs to the project VOICES OF THE CITY. The National Theatre participates with this project in the Cultural Program "Timișoara 2023 – European Capital of Culture". The project began in 2022 with the playwriting workshop **Banat in Europe**.

The playwriting workshop served as the foundation for the creation of an original play script, which was subsequently developed into a trilingual performance featuring a cast of actors from the three partner theatres: the "Mihai Eminescu" National Theatre in Timișoara, the "Sterija" National Theatre in Vârșeț, and the Szeged National Theatre.

The show is performed in three languages: Romanian, Serbian, and Hungarian, with surtitles in Romanian and English.

In the context of the designation of Timișoara and Novi Sad as European Capitals of Culture (in 2019), the National Art Museum of Timișoara concluded partnership agreements with the **Museum of Vojvodina and the Academy Art Museum (Matica Srpska) in Novi Sad**. Following the signing of the partnership with the Museum of Vojvodina, in May 2019, the Timișoara Art Museum organized the transfer of the exhibition of painter Dorin Coltofeanu to Novi Sad.

At the same time, in Timisoara, on 6 December 2019, the official signing ceremony of the cooperation protocol between the Timisoara Art Museum and the Academy Art Museum (Matica Srpska) took place in Novi Sad. ***European Phenomena in the Collection of the Gallery of Matica Srpska*** was the first project implemented under this **Cooperation Protocol signed in December 2019**, within the context of the selection of **Novi Sad and Timișoara as European Capitals of Culture for 2022 and 2023**.

Mother tongues/minorities involved: Albanian, Hungarian, Jew, Romani, German, Slovak, Bulgarian, Italian, Czech, Serbian, Greek, Macedonian, Ukrainian, Turkish, Tatar, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Armenian

The **National Library of Romania** currently has an ***international exchange policy***, based on an ***exchange program*** with 118 foreign partners from 36 countries, with whom it exchanges books, periodicals (printed and online), CDs, DVDs and other categories of documents. Most of the exchanged documents are in English, French, **German**, Spanish, **Italian**, **Russian** and **a significant percentage of titles in the languages of national minorities in Romania**, which confirms the importance of exchanges in enriching collections with documents in languages for which traditional acquisition channels are not always suitable. ***The exchange partners*** are mostly

national libraries, academic libraries, university libraries, public libraries, specialized libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions with formal or informal cooperation agreements.

The documentary typology subject to international exchange of publications includes:

- books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials in all fields of knowledge, in all languages of international circulation;
- academic publications issued periodically or under the auspices of academies, research institutes, study academies and universities: treaties, conference proceedings, yearbooks, annual reports, communications, statutes, reviews, memorial volumes, internal publications, general series or miscellaneous, works;
- university publications: theses, dissertations, lectures delivered by professors, programs, calendars, study guides, yearbooks, communications, memorial volumes;
- publications of international organizations intended to support cooperation and collaboration, associated with international governmental or non-governmental organizations - United Nations, UNESCO - official records, treaties and serial publications, bibliographies, catalogues and lists of publications, general and special indexes, reports, research programs, official bulletins, rules and regulations, official records (minutes, resolutions, proceedings), bulletins, transactions, manuals, statistics, monographs.

The National Library of Romania organizes the Legal Deposit, which is the main documentary source for the knowledge of national culture, but also of national minorities, because the Legal Deposit receives all titles published in Romania, regardless of language and content.

Funding of Cultural Magazines and Publications – The Ministry of Culture

The funding allocated to cultural magazines/publications submitted by associations of national minorities in Romania under the funding session for the programme Funding of Cultural Magazines and Publications amounted to **95.000 lei in 2022, 105.000 lei in 2020, 95.000 lei in 2019.**

Cultural magazines/publications submitted by associations of national minorities in Romania for the August 2022 funding session

<http://www.cultura.ro/finantarea-revistelor-si-publicatiilor-culturale>

- Korunk Friendship Association, Korunk Magazine, 40.000 lei
 - Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, Romanian Jewish History Magazine, 25.000 lei
 - Medea Association, ME.dok magazine, 15.000 lei
 - Jatekter Association, Jatekter magazine, 15.000 lei
- Total = 95.000 lei

Cultural magazines/publications submitted by associations of national minorities in Romania under the 2020 funding session

<http://www.cultura.ro/finantarea-revistelor-si-publicatiilor-culturale>

- Korunk Friendship Association, Korunk magazine, 40.000 lei
 - Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, Romanian Jewish History Magazine, 25.000 lei
 - Jatekter Association, Jatekter magazine (Hungarian), 20.000 lei
 - Medea Association, ME.dok magazine, (Hungarian), 20.000 lei
- Total = 105.000 lei

Cultural magazines/publications submitted by associations of national minorities in Romania in the 2019 funding session

<http://www.cultura.ro/finantarea-revistelor-si-publicatiilor-culturale>

- Jatekter Association, Jatekter magazine (Hungarian), 20.000 lei
 - Medea Association, ME.dok magazine, (Hungarian), 20.000 lei
 - Korunk Friendship Association, Korunk magazine (Hungarian), 55.000 lei
- Total = 95.000 lei

The **National Program for the purchase of books and magazine subscriptions** in the field of written culture also provides funding for titles in the languages of national minorities in Romania or for translations. (<http://www.cultura.ro/rezultate-partial-programul-national-pentru-achizitia-de-carti-si-abonamente-la-reviste-din>)

The ACCES program is another funding instrument through which projects of national minority organizations, or projects focusing on national minority culture can be supported. The program is designed to support cultural actions and projects in the following fields: visual arts/architecture, written culture, film/audiovisual, performing arts, intercultural dialogue, intangible heritage/movable cultural heritage.

Initiated in 2016 by the Ministry of Culture, the ACCES Program aims to harness the cultural and creative potential existing at national level and to integrate it into the wider circulation of universal cultural values.

Mother tongues/minorities involved: Yiddish language

The Ministry of Culture funds cultural projects related to the history, language, culture, and life of Jews, such as: **the Yiddish Language and Theatre Day Festival, the “Mihail Sebastian” International Festival, “Great Jewish Composers”, the Bucharest Jewish Film Festival, the Sephardic Culture Days Festival, etc.**

The Yiddish Language and Theatre Day Festival, organized by the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, includes cultural, educational, artistic and scientific activities dedicated to promoting the Yiddish language and theatre. The Yiddish Language and Theatre Day, established by Law no. 253/2017, is celebrated on 30 May. The Festival dedicated to the Yiddish

language and theatre in Romania is an annual event organized to preserve the unique specificity of Yiddish culture and is part of the programs designed to support the achievement of the general and specific objectives of the *National Strategy for preventing and combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia and the radicalization of hate speech for the period 2021-2023*, namely the program "Art against social hatred, discrimination, antisemitism and xenophobia", which provides for the extension of the programs run by FEDROM to the fields of music and theatre.

The 2020 and 2021 editions were held exclusively online due to the pandemic and were broadcast on the official Facebook pages of the FEDROM's Ides Festival (facebook.com/FederatiaEvreilor) and of the Jewish Community of Oradea (facebook.com/ComunitateaEvreilorOradea). The program of the event included: exhibitions, conferences, theatre performances by Romanian and Israeli troupes, concerts and recitals, dance performances, discussions on gastronomy, and interviews with prominent personalities.

In 2023, the Festival dedicated to the Day of the Yiddish Language and Theatre in Romania took place on 30 May in Timișoara.

In 2024, the Ministry of Culture funded the 14th edition of the Bucharest Jewish Film Festival, organized by the Semper Culturalia Association, which took place from 25 October to 3 November 2024, with an allocation of RON 100,000, taking into account the Ministry's budgetary resources. The Sephardic Culture Days Festival, aimed at promoting, recovering, and highlighting the cultural heritage of the Sephardic community in Romania, was also organized by the Bnai Brith Forum Dr. David Moses Rosen from 4 to 6 November 2024. The Ministry of Culture allocated RON 38,000 for the Sephardic Culture Days Festival, taking into account the Ministry's budgetary resources.

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania organized **the "Mihail Sebastian" International Festival** in 2019 and 2020 - a multicultural, educational, academic and interethnic networking event under the aegis of the Romanian writer Mihail Sebastian, born Iosef Hechter.

The „Carol I” Brăila Museum hosted a series of symposia dedicated to the playwright Mihail Sebastian, as well as the launch of an edition of texts edited by Petruș Costea and Geo Șerban, entitled *Scena și Ecranul*. Actors from the Karov Theatre in Tel Aviv, Israel, and from the Jewish State Theatre performed an adaptation of Mihail Sebastian's play *The Last Hour*.

In addition, a performance of Jewish music, Shalom, featuring the choirs Hazamir of the Jewish Community of Bucharest and Macabi, of the Jewish Community of Braila, showcased Jewish folklore and specific Jewish rituals.

The 2020 edition took place largely online due to pandemic restrictions, but retained the defining elements of the festival, namely Jewish cultural and religious activities - a religious and commemorative ceremony at the grave of Mihail Sebastian in the Philanthropy Cemetery, a musical recital by the Bucharest Choral Temple Choir, a film offered by Bucharest Jewish Film, In Memoriam Nico Nitai from the Karov Theatre in Israel (former student of the playwright),

participation by actress Maia Morgenstern, Israeli dances, and moments dedicated to Jewish spiritual identity.

In 2021, the "Mihail Sebastian" International Festival was postponed in the context of the death of late Dr. Aurel Vainer, former president of FEDROM - the initiator of the festival - just during the period of this cultural event.

In 2019, the Ministry of Culture provided financial support of 15,000 RON for the project "Great Jewish composers", a cultural initiative focusing on Jewish musical themes that proved to be of national scope. The main theme of the project was Jewish culture and music in the context of the crisis of Jewish identity amid the rise of antisemitism in 20th century Europe, as well as aspects related to the interpretation and perception of these musical themes.

Regarding Holocaust memorial culture in Romania, the Ministry of Culture and its subordinate institutions provide non-reimbursable support through funding programs for cultural projects, editorials, cultural magazines and publications, and museum projects, dealing with topics related to the promotion of the history, values and traditions specific to the Jewish community, the promotion of Jewish cultural heritage, the contribution of Jews to the development of Romanian society, the fight against antisemitism, etc. with the overall aim of recovering and transmitting the memory of the Jewish community in Romania.

The Ministry of Culture has provided financial support for projects on Jewish history, culture, and life, as well as on the history of the Holocaust, which serve as educational resources for the new subject *Jewish History. The Holocaust*. Examples include **the Romanian Jewish History Review (RIER)** or **the Royal House and the problem of Jewish emancipation in Romania (1866-1923)** - projects carried out by the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania - Mosaic Culture / Centre for the Study of Jewish History in Romania "Wilhelm Filderman".

The Romanian Jewish History Review (RIER) covers a wide range of topics related to Jewish history, aspects of the life of the Jewish community in Romania, the history of the Holocaust, the history of Jewish theatre, Jewish personalities, etc. The studies it publishes are written in multiple languages (Romanian, English, French, German, Yiddish, etc.) and are authored both by the Centre's researchers as well as external scholars.

The project *The Royal House and the problem of the emancipation of the Jews in Romania (1866-1923)* highlighted a lesser-known aspect of national history, namely the relationship between the Royal House and the Jews in Romania during the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, through a strong visual presentation. At the same time, the "Jewish question" and the issue of antisemitism in Romania during the mentioned period were also addressed, presenting a unique perspective for specialized historiography.

The Ministry of Culture funded and promoted the project **Bucharest Jewish Film Festival**, now in its 13th edition. **Bucharest Jewish Film Festival** serves as a broad gateway to Jewish values, offering, through the films, debates, and concerts, a comprehensive overview of the rich

spiritual and cultural heritage of the Jewish people, their traditions and customs, as well as the challenges faced by Jewish people today and their connections with Romanian world, fostering greater mutual understanding.

The project strengthened and enhanced interethnic relations between the majority population and the Jewish minority by fostering an accurate understanding of the political, social and economic developments that have shaped the lives of Jews in Romania.

The Ministry of Culture finances cultural projects through its subordinate institutions, such as the Administration of the National Cultural Fund, CNC, the National Village Museum "Dimitrie Gusti", the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant, the "George Apostu" Culture Centre, etc. These projects focus on Jewish history, language, culture, and life and contribute to achieving the objectives outlined in the National Strategy for preventing and combating antisemitism, xenophobia, radicalization, and hate speech.

Preserving Romani history, customs and traditions

Mother tongues/minorities involved: Romani/Roma language

In 2023, the Ministry of Culture provided financial support of 50.000 lei for the implementation of the cultural project *Recourse to Culture, from a local values perspective. Inclusion of Roma children in society through cultural and educational activities*. The project, carried out between 10 October and 10 December, was addressed to both Roma and Romanian children in secondary school in Aninoasa commune, Argeş county, and implemented in partnership with the Aninoasa Monastery. The initiative aimed to introduce participants to, and deepen their understanding of, the history, language, culture and traditions of the Roma in the Argeş area, through creative and reading workshops.

The project aimed to develop interethnic relations, combat discrimination/negative attitudes towards Roma, and provide cultural and intellectual training, as a response to the need to promote social inclusion and integration of Roma children and youth from Aninoasa commune, Argeş county, while also enhancing the degree of culturalization and education of students in the area.

The cultural project is part of the programs aimed at supporting the achievement of the general and specific objectives of the *Romanian Government's Strategy for the Inclusion of Romanian Citizens belonging to the Roma Minority for the period 2022-2027*, related to Specific Objective 6 - Specific Measures: Combating discrimination, anti-Roma discourse and attitudes generating hate speech or hate crimes, as well as the *National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Antisemitism, Xenophobia and Radicalization of Hate Speech for the period 2021-2023*.

The main objectives of the project were: to affirm the ethnic, linguistic, and cultural identity of Roma children in Aninoasa (a town with a population of less than 50. 000 inhabitants, of which 18.28% are officially declared Roma), and to preserve and promote the Roma language and

culture; social inclusion of Roma children within their peer groups through their participation in shared activities; to stimulate the creative potential of the children by illustrating the books they read and encouraging their interest in both individual and collective reading during the school period; to highlight aspects of the culture and traditions of the Roma in the Arges area and provide educational support for children from families without material resources; to develop specific skills and train pupils through varied and content-rich activities, facilitating their integration into the school environment, supporting overall academic success, developing personal talents, and linking skills with character attitudes; to cultivate a taste for reading books related to Roma culture; to introduce children to books and written word in the Roma language, familiarizing them with different types of writing, improving their oral communication, and stimulating their interest in reading, writing, drawing, in their mother tongue, while encouraging the sharing of personal experiences, in order to reduce school drop-out and illiteracy rates.

Projects carried out by subordinate institutions of the Ministry of Culture, and/or in partnership with other entities, focusing on the promotion of mother tongues

Cultural projects aiming intercultural dialogue and the promotion of cultural values of national minorities in Romania are financed through the funding programs of the subordinate institutions, including The National Institute for Cultural Research and Training, the Administration of the National Cultural Fund (AFCN), the National Cinematography Centre (CNC), the National Heritage Institute, and the National Library of Romania.

The National Institute for Cultural Research and Training (INCFC), a public cultural institution of national importance, under the authority of the Ministry of Culture, organizes and conducts the national-level examination for the award of the certificate of translator into and from foreign languages, held in a uniform manner across the country ([https://www.culturadata.ro/examen-traducatori/inscriere-examen-traducatori/.](https://www.culturadata.ro/examen-traducatori/inscriere-examen-traducatori/))

Regarding the languages covered by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), the **National Institute for Cultural Research and Training (INCFC)** organized an annual examination session for the translator's certificate for ***Bulgarian, Czech, Hebrew, Hungarian, Polish, Rromani, Serbian, Slovak, Turkish, and Ukrainian***, for the specialized fields/terminologies, including economics, sociology-politics, technology, and legal sciences.

Through these nationally organized exams, the INCFC provides Romanian citizens, regardless of ethnicity/nationality (as well as foreign citizens), the opportunity to obtain a recognition – through the translator's certificate - of their level of knowledge of a foreign language and of specialized language/terminology (at written level). After this recognition, holders of the Certificate can then engage in various translation activities (authorized or not) in different professional fields (collaboration with publishers, lucrative companies, foreign companies etc.), maintaining the viability of that language in terms of terminology specific to socio-economic domains.

Between 2019 and 2022, a total of 8 regular sessions and one extraordinary session were held, during which 3,408 applications were submitted and a total of 4,998 examination papers were completed.

Between 2019 and 2022, the **National Cinematography Centre (CNC)**, **in partnership with public institutions, NGOs and other entities**, funded 9 projects promoting the cultural values of national minorities in Romania, such as the Bucharest Jewish Film Festival, Alter-Native International Short Film Festival, Hungarian Film Days Filmtettfeszt etc.

Annex 4 presents a list of the grants awarded by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund.

In 2021, the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant signed a partnership agreement with the Roma Centre Association "Amare Rromenza", providing support for the creation of a virtual Roma museum. Additionally, in 2022, the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant organized 30 craft fairs, in which Roma artisans participated, showcasing copper products, traditional costumes, and antiques.

At the Romanian Peasant Museum Cinema the animated film *Merge și-așa*, directed by Valentin Urziceanu, a Roma-themed production, has been regularly screened since 1 June 2022. The Romanian Peasant Museum Cinema also hosted the "**Eu număr/I Count**" Gala – an event dedicated to institutionalized young people - which included a series of cultural activities, such as performance art moments, short film screenings, debates, and discussions with the public, involving artists, journalists, and representatives of the Roma culture.

The National Museum of the Romanian Peasant participated in the ASTRA FILM FESTIVAL, held in Sibiu from 9 to 16 October 2022, with the film *O Tahtai. Savendar tai Seiandar* [The Shovel. About Sons and Daughters], directed by Dana Bunescu and Cătălina Tesăr. The film presents, for the first time in cinema, the fascinating world of the Roma (cortorari).

Within the ROM(a)NOR Interferences" project, implemented by the National Village Museum "Dimitrie Gusti", a bilingual project website and a Facebook page dedicated to the promotion of Roma culture were created. The project also produced 24 films/photographic materials and promoted traditional Roma craftsmen through social media. In addition, field research was conducted in 40 villages across 7 counties, and 322 heritage pieces were acquired.

"ROM (a) NOR Interferences" is a cultural project implemented by the "Dimitrie Gusti" National Village Museum in collaboration with Anno Museum from Norway. The project lasted 24 months, running from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023. It offered a journey through time and space, aimed at promoting, enhancing, and revitalizing Romani cultural heritage. The project was addressed both to the Roma minority and to the visiting public in Romania and Norway, with the aim of improving public perceptions of the Roma population.

At the "I.L. Caragiale" National Theatre in Bucharest, Alina Șerban, a Roma actress and graduate of UNATC, as well as a writer (author of two plays that achieved notable success in London) and

representative of the "Untold Stories" Association, organised a series of performances of the play "Cel mai bun copil din lume/The Best Child in the World". Through local government funding, free tickets were offered to Roma children living in foster care.

Support for the preservation of identities and cultural heritage through National Heritage Institute

The National Institute of Heritage financed, through the National Program for the Restoration of Historical Monuments (PNR), restoration works amounting to 37,427.75 lei for the Dârjiu Unitarian Church Ensemble, located at 164 Aszeg street, Dârjiu commune, Harghita county, a monument included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In 2019, the restoration works were completed, and the final reception of the works was carried-out. In addition, during the 2020-2022 period, the following historical monuments of particular relevance to the Hungarian ethnic community received non-refundable funding amounting to 507,266.00 lei from the Historic Monuments Stamp Fund:

In 2020:

- the Unitarian Parish of Suatu, Cluj county, received non-refundable funding amounting to 200,000,000 lei for emergency interventions - foundation consolidation works at the Unitarian Church of Suatu.
- Szabo Coloman-Emeric received non-refundable funding amounting to 124,897.00 lei for the preparation of technical-economic documentation for the restoration and enhancement of the Urmanczy Castle in Toplița, Harghita county.

In 2022:

- the Roșia Montană Unitarian Parish, Alba county, received non-refundable funding amounting to 100,000.00 lei for interior and exterior finishing repair works, including flooring, carpentry, fixed furniture, rainwater collection and routing systems, and gutter pavement for the Unitarian Church located in the village/community of Roșia Montană, no. 350, Alba county.
- the Roșia Montană Unitarian Parish, Alba county, received non-refundable funding amounting to 82,369.00 lei for the preparation of technical-economic documentation for the conservation-restoration of the Cantor's House in the village/community of Roșia Montană.

In 2022, the National Heritage Institute carried out a series of cultural projects, financed through European and national funds, which included research and promotional activities related to

heritage. These projects also addressed cultural heritage of particular interest to the Hungarian communities in Romania and/or involved cultural partners from Hungary:

INNOCASTLE - Innovation of public policies for the preservation, transformation and exploitation of castles, mansions and their gardens

Implementation period: June 2018 - November 2022; Total budget: 1,107,435.00 Eur. Total INP budget 327956 Euro; 2021: 88734.42 Euro

The project, coordinated by the National Institute of Heritage, is financed through Interreg Europe using ERDF funds, and involves the following partners: the University of Ghent (Belgium), the Province of Badajoz (Spain), the National Trust (United Kingdom), and the Province of Gelderland (Netherlands).

The objective of the project was to ensure the sustainable preservation of the residences of historical elites (castles, mansions and associated estates) by remodeling current public policies, so that they better reflect contemporary trends and future needs. The project also aimed to guarantee the involvement of various stakeholders, as well as the economic and environmental flexibility of these assemblies.

In Romania, INNOCASTLE initially focused on the Regional Operational Program 2014-2020, Investment Priority 5.1 - Conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage. Subsequently, the focus was shifted to the Regional Operational Program 2021-2027, related to the development of the Center Region, as well as to the National Program for the Restoration of Historical Monuments.

Following an integrated study of castles, mansions, and historical estates conducted in Mureș county - an area with a concentration of heritage belonging to Hungarian communities - in close collaboration with stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels, new approaches were proposed for the restoration and enhancement of this segment of the heritage.

ART NOUVEAU - Sustainable Protection and Promotion of ART NOUVEAU Heritage in the Danube Region

Implementation period: 2017-2019; Total project budget: 1,649,559 euros, total INP budget: 115,115 euros;

The National Heritage Institute participated as a partner in the ART NOUVEAU - Sustainable Protection and Promotion of ART NOUVEAU Heritage in the Danube Region project, implemented during 2017-2019 and financed through Interreg Danube using ERDF, IPA funds.

The project was led by Oradea City Hall, in partnership with: the Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Arts MAK Vienna, the Library Foundation and Information System of the National Academy of Bulgaria, the Museum of Arts and Crafts Zagreb, the Museum of Applied Arts Budapest, the Nonprofit Tourism Company Szeged and Surroundings, Subotica City Hall, the Republican Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Serbia, the Institute of Urban Planning of the Republic of Serbia, the Institute of Urban Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, and the National Institute of Heritage Romania (together with the following strategic partners: The European Network of Art Nouveau cities (Belgium), Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration from Romania, ICOMOS Romania).

The aim of the project was to strengthen and expand cooperation among various stakeholders in cities of the Danube region that share Art Nouveau heritage. Thus, efforts to preserve this cultural heritage become coordinated, making use of complementarities, shared knowledge and experiences.

In Romania, through the involvement of the National Institute of Heritage in the inventorying of Art Nouveau historical monuments, a series of representative buildings were documented and mapped. These included structures designed by well-known architects or featuring valuable artistic works by Hungarian artists. To promote this heritage, events and guided tours were organized on the occasion of World Art Nouveau Day.

ART NOUVEAU 2 - Strengthening the cultural identity of the Danube region by building on common heritage of ART NOUVEAU

Implementation period: 2020-2022. Total project budget: 1,827,119 euros, total INP budget: 135,440 euros;

The ART NOUVEAU 2 project developed in the sense of expanding the network and database, implementing the previously developed strategy and facilitating the exchange of know-how. The consortium consists of nine partner institutions, coordinated by the Municipality of Oradea (project leader): the National Heritage Institute (Romania), the Foundation for the Protection of Historical Monuments from Bihor County (Romania), the Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest (Hungary), MAK - Austrian Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna (Austria), MUO - Museum of Arts and Crafts, Zagreb (Croatia), the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (Slovakia), the Republican Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Belgrade (Serbia) and Kodolányi János University, Budapest (Hungary).

The purpose of this project was to strengthen the cultural identity and the Art Nouveau heritage of the Danube region through a set of work packages focusing on public education aimed at raising awareness of and protecting this heritage, as well as research and promotion.

A series of activities bring the Hungarian Art Nouveau heritage to the attention of the wider public, such as the traveling exhibition "*Manifestations of total art. Art Nouveau, Szecesszió, Sezession, Jugendstil*" which will be opened at the Palace of Culture in Târgu Mureș; the development of a treasure-hunt-type mobile application in Târgu Mureș; and training seminars for tourist guides focusing on representative buildings in Arad and Timișoara.

Also in the category of support provided to the Hungarian community in the field of cultural heritage, it is worth mentioning that the Bacău County Directorate issued Notice no. 55/M/05.11.2021, at the D.T.A.C. stage for the reconstruction of the historical monument **Former customs point "Rákóczi Citadel"**, LMI code: BC-II-m-B-00830. The Ghimeș village administration, Ghimeș-Făget commune, has requested funding from the National Investment Company for the implementation of the project. The project is currently at the financial evaluation stage, prior to the start of the works.

Funding provided to organizations of national minorities in Romania and to their projects is granted annually, not on an ad-hoc or occasional basis, with the aim of preserving and developing their identity and culture. Persons belonging to national minorities are also supported in their efforts to collect and preserve their history, stories, songs, and language.

Article 13 – Economic and social life

With regard to economic and social life, Romania has ratified Article 13, as follows:

- Paragraph 1 with subparagraphs a), b) for the Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak languages;
- Paragraph 1, subparagraphs a), b), c) and paragraph 2 subparagraphs c), d), e) for the German language
- Paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, subparagraphs c), d), e) for the Hungarian language.
- Paragraph 1, subparagraph b) for the Turkish and Ukrainian languages.

There is no information indicating that the internal regulations of enterprises or private contracts contain clauses that exclude or limit the use of a minority or regional language.

Likewise, there are no legislative provisions or provisions that prohibit or unreasonably limit the use of a minority or regional language in documents related to economic and social life.

The Romanian legislation currently in force (*Ordinance no. 137 of 31 August 2000 on the prevention and sanctioning of all forms of discrimination*), which prohibits discrimination of any kind, is applied accordingly.

No cases of restriction or prohibition have been reported regarding the other languages covered by this section of the report.

In counties where a minority represents a significant share of the population, the use of the respective language is widespread (for example, Hungarian).

Article 14 – Cross-border exchanges

With regard to cross-border cooperation, Romania has ratified paragraphs a) and b) for all languages protected in Part III

In addition to the information presented above, it is worth mentioning that Romania, together with its neighbouring states, is actively involved in the development of regional policies within the Council of Europe and the European Union, alongside bilateral cross-border cooperation formats. The instruments of the Council of Europe attach particular importance to the preservation of the cultural heritage specific to each region, dialogue between cultures, ethnic groups and religions, as well as institutional development.

The Ministry of Education has concluded a series of bilateral cooperation agreements in the field of education and vocational training with Member States of the European Union, the European Economic Area, as well as third countries. The agreements include provisions concerning the initial and continuous training of teachers in the languages of the respective minorities, as well as the secondment of teachers from these countries to support educational institutions in Romania where instruction is carried out in the languages of the respective minorities. Each year, on the basis of these bilateral agreements, the Ministry of Education hosts lecturers for teaching of language, literature, and culture from Member States of the European Union, the European Economic Area, and third countries.

As mentioned in art. 12, the National Library of Romania currently maintains an international exchange policy based on an exchange program with 118 foreign partners from 36 countries, with whom it exchanges books, periodicals (printed and online), CDs, DVDs, and other types of documents every year.

Cooperation within Euroregions consists in creating direct and permanent links between regions and communities located on either side of state borders, within the competences of local authorities and in accordance with national legislation. One of the fundamental principles in promoting cross-border cooperation through Euroregions is the strengthening of trust and tolerance, mutual understanding, and good neighbourly relations, especially in border regions where national minorities are present.

Romania participates in the following 12 Euroregions: Bihor-Hajdú-Bihar, Carpatică, Danubius, Danube-Criș-Mureș-Tisa, Danube-Dobrogea, Lower Danube, Middle Danube, South Danube, Danube 21, Giurgiu-Ruse, Upper Prut, Siret-Prut-Nistru.

European territorial cooperation (Interreg programmes) at the EU level plays an important role in removing border obstacles and promoting cross-border cooperation. Interreg projects have

delivered numerous concrete benefits for citizens in various sectors, including cross-border security, transport, education, energy, health, training, or employment.

The Interreg VI-A Romania-Hungary Programme (ROHU Programme) 2021-2027 is a territorial cooperation programme between two Member States, Romania and Hungary, financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), with a total allocation of EUR 175,940,025.00 (of which 80% FEDR, amounting to EUR 140,752,020.00). The Programme's eligible area comprises 8 counties: 4 in Romania (Arad, Bihor, Satu Mare and Timiș) and 4 in Hungary (Békés, Csongrád-Csanád, Hajdú-Bihar and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg).

The vision of the ROHU Programme is to create a greener, more resilient, and more cohesive cross-border region between Romania and Hungary, fostering a better understanding of cooperation opportunities, strengthening trust, and reducing barriers to cooperation, all in pursuit of the common goals of the 2030 Agenda within a sustainable cooperation framework.

The ROHU Programme contributes to 3 EU objectives: a greener, more resilient and low-carbon Europe; a more social and inclusive Europe; and the specific Interreg objective of promoting better governance in cooperation through institutional capacity building and people-to-people actions.

The Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme, financed by the European Regional Development Fund, aims to improve the development of the Romanian-Bulgarian border area during 2021-2027. It was approved by the European Commission on 30 November 2022.

In the field of education, Priority 3 - An educated region, with a total budget of 16.29 million euros (of which 12.84 million FEDR), including funds for technical assistance has the specific objective of improving equal access to inclusive and quality education, training and lifelong learning services. This is to be achieved by developing accessible infrastructure and promoting resilience for distance and online education and training.

The priority is to build an inclusive and cohesive society through education and culture. Accordingly, the Programme will support a number of actions in this regard (non-exhaustive list):

- Development of comprehensive and structured language learning systems, serving as a means to build trust across borders, lay the foundation for future exchanges, and also stimulate employment;
- Development of joint cross-border education and training programmes – on-site, in areas where accessibility allows, or online using digital learning tools and methods, where physical presence is not possible;
- Development of cross-border traineeships, internships, and student exchange programmes for young graduates/students;
- Development of joint initiatives to support adult education and learning, including facilitating mobility for educational purposes;
- Development of partnerships between secondary and higher education institutions and enterprises, aimed at enhancing the market orientation and quality of education, and providing

young students with opportunities for cross-border training and/or study. Long-term exchanges are particularly encouraged;

- Development of partnerships between education and training institutions and stakeholders at all levels of education (from primary to tertiary), aimed at supporting mutual learning and the exchange of practices between teachers and trainers on both sides of the border;

- Development of joint initiatives and actions to support access to quality, inclusive education and training, including adult education and learning (LLL), for vulnerable or marginalised groups, including people with disabilities, and SEN ("Special Educational Needs/Requirements" is a legal term referring to children with learning difficulties or disabilities that make learning more challenging compared to peers of the same age);

- Joint measures to strengthen the link between the labour market and the education and training system;

- Investments in the infrastructure of educational facilities (e.g. learning spaces such as classrooms, laboratories, libraries, workshops, sports halls, outdoor learning spaces, and other facilities) across all levels of education and educational activities (including remedial and after-school programmes), technical and vocational training, and LLL etc.; particular attention will be paid to promoting accessible and inclusive learning for all;

- Investments to ensure the adequate endowment of shared learning facilities, with a focus on digitalisation: equipment, tools, etc., in particular those supporting the development of practical and/or digital skills, as well as distance learning. Examples include computers, videoconferencing/distance learning equipment, VR learning tools etc.

Priority 4 - An integrated region MAI APROAPE!/CLOSER! has a total budget of 70.60 million euros (of which 55.64 million FEDR), including technical assistance funds, and has as its specific objective to promote integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, as well as culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security, in areas outside urban centres.

The Interreg NEXT Romania-Ukraine Programme for the period 2021-2027 was adopted by the European Commission on 30 November 2022. The programme area includes five border counties in Romania - Satu Mare, Maramureş, Suceava, Botoşani and Tulcea – and the following districts in Ukraine: Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, and Odessa. The Programme has the following priorities:

- Priority 1 Cross-border focus on the environment – total allocation 18,899,346 Euros

- Priority 2 Cross-border social development – total allocation 26,946,639 Euros

- Priority 3 Border cooperation – total allocation 2,412,947 Euros

The Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme was the first Interreg IPA Programme in the EU and was approved by the European Commission on 19 July 2022. The Programme area includes three counties in Romania (Timiş, Caraş-Severin and Mehedinţi) and six districts in Serbia (Severno Banatski, Srednje Banatski, Južno Banatski, Braničevski, Borski and Podunavski).

In the 2021-2027 programming period, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration serves as the Managing Authority for the Interreg IPA Romania-Serbia Programme, which has a total budget of EUR 87,725,681 and will finance projects in the following areas: environmental protection and climate change adaptation, health and education, tourism and culture, and border management.