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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

Information Document on the implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action based on the 5th monitoring cycle

Submitted by Serbia

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Republic of Serbia

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

Mid-Term Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations for Urgent Action

Belgrade, March 2025

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I Introduction

Pursuant to Article 15 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Mid-Term Report following the Fifth and Sixth Reports of the Republic of Serbia was prepared by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue in cooperation with the competent authorities. The following state authorities participated in its preparation: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Environmental Protection, as well as provincial authorities of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina: Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities and Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities.

Furthermore, considering that the Kanjiža Municipal Assembly, at its session held on 24 June, 2021, adopted the Local Charter on Regional or Minority Languages of the Kanjiža Municipality and that the Kula Municipal Assembly, at its session held on 9 November, 2022, adopted the Charter on Regional or Minority Languages of the Kula Municipality, these two local self-government units were invited to provide information on the implementation of the obligations contained in the aforementioned local charters. The information received is provided in the Annex to this Report.

In accordance with the guidelines for periodic reports on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages CM (2019)69, this Report covers the period from mid-2022 to the end of 2024 and pertains to the recommendations for urgent action made to the Republic of Serbia by the Committee of Experts.

In this Report, the term “minority language” is used as a synonym for the term “national minority language”.

All data on financial support refer to the period 2022-2024 and are expressed in dinars, unless otherwise indicated.

All terms used in this Report in the grammatical masculine gender include both the masculine and feminine genders of the persons to whom they refer.

II Population Census

As stated in the Sixth Periodic Report on the Application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Population, Households and Dwellings Census in the Republic of Serbia was conducted in the period from 1 to 31 October, 2022. During the implementation of the preparatory census activities, and especially during the selection and training of candidates for census takers and instructors, as well as during the field implementation of the census, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) cooperated intensively with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, the Coordination of National Councils of National Minorities and a number of national councils (especially the national councils of the Albanian, Bosniak, Hungarian and Roma national minorities), as well as with the

Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Serbia. Although the composition of the census commissions reflected the ethnic structure of the municipality/city, in municipalities with a multi-ethnic population structure, representatives of national minorities nominated by the national councils were also appointed as members of the census commissions. Out of a total of 161 census commissions, 87 representatives of national minorities appointed by the national councils participated in the work of 73 commissions.

The text of the public call for applications for engagement in the census of instructor and enumerator candidates was translated into 13 minority languages that are in official use in local self-government units. The translations of the public call were forwarded to municipal census commissions and national councils of national minorities, so that they could also make an effort to encourage members of their national minorities to apply for engagement in the census. Candidates who applied for enumerators were ranked according to uniform criteria and the results they achieved on the test (basic computer skills), within their residential area.

In order to achieve the most complete coverage in the 2022 Census, the SORS, in cooperation with national councils and census commissions, hired enumerator assistants to work in settlements predominantly inhabited by members of the Roma, Hungarian and Albanian national minorities (about 230 assistants - about 130 Roma, 85 Hungarians, 15 Albanians). In addition to the general requirements that candidates had to meet, it was necessary for them to know the territory for which they would be hired. Their task was to support the enumerator during the field implementation of the census, enable access to households and facilitate communication with citizens (translation, orientation in the field, etc.).

The overall media campaign aimed to raise awareness among members of national minorities about the importance of the 2022 Census and their interest in participating in it and freely expressing their opinions on questions about ethno-cultural characteristics. The media campaign was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue. Based on the prepared visuals, a joint TV video clip was made for all minorities, as well as special videos in the languages of national minorities that were distributed to local TV and radio stations. Banners with visual displays of the census in Serbian and the minority languages were prepared for portals. Posters in Serbian and 13 minority languages were put on the census website and were available for download. A certain number of copies were forwarded to census commissions to be placed in visible places in certain municipalities.

The Annex to this Report provides data from the 2022 census on the number of speakers of minority languages by nationality.

III Implementation Round Table on the Fifth Evaluation Report of the Committee of Experts

The Implementation Round Table on the Fifth Evaluation Report of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages was held on 5 February, 2025 in Belgrade. The round table was organised to discuss the recommendations received during the monitoring, through a dialogue between representatives of the Committee of Experts, competent authorities and speakers of minority languages, with a view to identifying the most effective manners for their implementation. In addition to representatives of the Council of Europe and the Committee of Experts, the round table was attended by a large number of competent institutions, as well as representatives of national councils of national minorities and associations dealing with issues of national minority languages.

During the preparation for the round table, the national councils of national minorities and the aforementioned associations of minority language speakers selected the recommendations they wanted to discuss at the round table and proposed activities and deadlines for implementation, while the competent institutions provided information on what had already been done, i.e. their views on how the recommendations and proposed activities could be implemented and what steps should be taken by the competent institutions themselves, and what should be done by the national councils, as bodies to which the state has transferred a significant number of powers in the fields of education, culture, information and the official use of languages and scripts of national minorities.

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, which jointly organised this round table with the Council of Europe, sent to all relevant institutions the conclusions containing the measures and activities proposed and/or agreed upon during the discussion, with a request to take specific steps to implement the proposed measures and activities by the time of the preparation of the next national report.

IV Information on the implementation of the recommendations for urgent action

Encourage Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Slovak and Croatian speakers to use their language in contacts with local branches of national authorities and facilitate the drafting of documents in these languages by the aforementioned authorities.

Since the competent authorities have generally given a general response to the recommendations pertaining to the use of individual minority languages before the local branches of the national authorities, and not individually by language, in order to avoid repeating the same text in several different places in this Report, data referring to the implementation of the recommendations for the Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Slovak and Croatian languages are provided here. The exception is the data submitted by the school administrations to the Ministry of Education, which are not general, but refer to the use of each of the languages to which the

recommendation applies. Therefore, the data of the school administrations are provided within the information on the implementation of individual recommendations on the use of each of the mentioned languages in contacts with the local branches of the national authorities.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Public Administration,[1] public administration shall include ministries, administrative bodies within ministries and special organisations. Pursuant to this law, certain public administration tasks may be entrusted by law to autonomous provinces, municipalities, cities and the City of Belgrade, public enterprises, institutions, public agencies and other organisations (holders of public authority). A ministry may have one or more administrative bodies within its composition, which shall be formed for executive or inspection and related professional tasks, if their nature or scope require greater independence than that of a sector in the ministry. Organisational units of public administration bodies may also perform tasks outside the seat of the body.

Within the Ministry of Finance, a number of bodies have been established (Tax Administration, Treasury Administration, Customs Administration), the individual organisational units of which perform work outside their seat, in the territory of local self-government units in which the languages of national minorities are in official use.

In the organisational units of the Tax Administration located in the territory of local self-government units in which the language of a national minority is in official use, there are "Your Taxpayer" signboards with the name of the single tax location in the languages of national minorities. Taxpayers are enabled to communicate in the language of a national minority, bearing in mind that the Tax Administration in the territory of local self-government units employs tax officers belonging to national minorities who speak minority languages.

When submitting a request for the issuance of tax certificates, taxpayers belonging to national minorities have the option of choosing to enter their personal name in their language and script, in accordance with the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities[2]. This right is used by clients - members of national minorities only exceptionally (from 2022 until the date of submission of this information, only two cases have been reported).

Also, the Tax Police Sector, as a special organisational unit of the Tax Administration that acts in the pre-investigation procedure, refers taxpayers, witnesses and other persons participating in the procedure to the provision of Article 11 of the Criminal Procedure Code[3], which, among other things, stipulates that clients, witnesses and other persons participating in the procedure shall have the right to use their own language and script during the procedure. As of 2022 until the date of submission of this information, the aforementioned participants have not exercised this right.

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[1] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 79/05, 101/07, 95/10, 99/14, 47/18 and 30/18 - other law

[2] *The Official Journal of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*, No. 11/2002, *The Official Journal of Serbia and Montenegro*, No. 1/03 - Constitutional Charter and *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 72/09 – other law, 97/13 - Constitutional Court and 47/18

[3] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 72/11, 101/11, 121/12, 32/13, 45/13, 55/14, 35/19, 27/21 - CC and 62/21 - CC

In the organisational units of the Treasury Administration located in the territory of local self-government units where, in addition to the Serbian language, a national minority language is also in official use, signboards with multilingual names have been put up.

Notices and forms used by natural entities, i.e. users of public funds, in procedures before organisational units of the Treasury Administration have been written in Serbian. Direct communication with clients is carried out in Serbian, and if necessary, in minority languages, depending on whether the civil servant understands and speaks that language.

In the organisational units of the Customs Administration that have jurisdiction in administrative areas where the population that uses minority languages lives and works, there are no prominent notices for clients to be able to contact them in minority languages, but in accordance with the positive regulations of the Republic of Serbia, the right to use minority languages shall be observed and respected. Clients occasionally exercise this right, mainly in oral communication, via telephone or e-mail. Given the multi-ethnic composition of customs organisational units, many customs officers know the languages of national minorities, so clients receive responds in their own language and in the same manner in which they contacted the customs service (verbally, by telephone or e-mail). There are no documents or forms in the organisational units that have been translated into the minority language.

As for the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs,
or the bodies within this mMinistry, as well as the mandatory social insurance organisations that perform public administration tasks related to the tasks within the scope of work of this Ministry, or which are entrusted to them, in areas where national minorities are represented, information boards with the sign and name of the institution in all languages represented in that area have been placed at the entrances to the business premises of the National Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, the Labour Inspectorate, the National Employment Service, and in social work centres and social welfare institutions. In branch offices where the languages of national minorities are in official use in the business area, the inscriptions on the seals are also in the languages of national minorities.

In the branches of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund, there are various notices in minority languages. Citizens can contact them in a minority language and will receive an answer in that language (in Subotica in Hungarian, Croatian and Bunjevac, in Senta in Hungarian, in Vranje in Bulgarian and Albanian, in Pirot in Bulgarian, in Novi Sad in Croatian, Hungarian, Ruthenian and Slovak, in Kikinda in Hungarian and Romanian).

In the field of labour and employment supervision, the Labour Inspectorate has prepared special notices for clients in minority languages (Hungarian, Croatian, Romanian, Slovak, Ruthenian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian) in local self-government units in the territory of which the languages of national minorities are used.

Clients may contact the Labour Inspectorate in the language of a national minority in areas where the language of a national minority is in official use. For example, clients addressed the Labour Inspectorate in Hungarian in Subotica, and when translating requests, labour inspectors were assisted by civil servants who speak and write Hungarian, as well as other state bodies and

services – for example, the Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior. During the inspection, all persons may choose the language in which they wish the proceedings to be conducted. If the proceedings are conducted in the Serbian language, the persons shall declare that they speak and write Serbian and that they do not wish the proceedings to be conducted in the language of a national minority, but in the Serbian language which they understand, write and speak.

If the Labour Inspectorate receives a request from a client to provide an answer to a question exclusively in the language of a national minority, when drafting the answer in the language of a national minority that is in official use in the territory of the local self-government unit, labour inspectors who do not speak and write in that language would be assisted by civil servants who speak and write the language of the national minority, as well as other state bodies and services.

The foreign worker's statement, which refers to basic information on the labour and legal status of a foreign citizen found by the labour inspectors working in Serbia, has been translated into 15 different languages, including several minority languages (Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak, Ukrainian).

In accordance with the Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Job Classification in the Ministry of Environmental Protection, inspection supervision tasks shall be performed in the Sector for Supervision and Preventive Action in the Environment. Several more specific internal units have been established within the Sector for Supervision and Preventive Action in the Environment. The head offices of all these departments established within the Sector for Supervision and Preventive Action in the Environment are in Belgrade, while a certain number of inspectors use official premises outside the head offices. The largest number of inspectors use official premises located in the territory of local self-government units where the Serbian language is in official use, namely in the areas of: Mačva District (Šabac); Zlatibor District (Užice and Nova Varoš); Moravica District (Čačak); Šumadija District (Kragujevac and Batočina); Raška District (Kraljevo); Podunavlje District (Smederevo); Braničevo District (Požarevac and Veliko Gradište); Zaječar District (Zaječar); Bor District (Kladovo); Nišava District (Niš); Pirot District (Pirot); Jablanica District (Leskovac) and Pčinj District (Vranje and Vladičin Han). In addition to the abovementioned cities and municipalities, one inspector uses an official office in Novi Pazar, where the Bosnian language is also in official use, and one inspector an official office in Novi Sad, where several minority languages are in official use.

The conditions established by the Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Job Classification and Competencies Required for Performing Inspection Supervision Tasks of the Sector for Supervision and Preventive Action in the Environment do not stipulate knowledge of any minority language in official use. When being asked, one of the inspectors declared that he spoke Bulgarian.

Based on the available data of the Sector for Supervision and Preventive Action in the Environment, there were no cases of oral or written petitions in these languages in the reporting period. Clients who contacted the National Inspectorate for Environmental Protection and the National Inspectorate for Fisheries did not exercise the right to make contact in the languages of national minorities. Also, in the reporting period, there were no cases of drafting documents in

minority languages that are in official use by the National Inspectorate for Environmental Protection and the National Inspectorate for Fisheries.

By cultivating an open approach towards clients who would contact the institution in the language of a national minority, they would not be denied this right, but on the contrary, in the organisation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, or in possible cooperation with the councils of national minorities, or with local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use, an appropriate solution would be found for the authorities to act in the language of a national minority, in accordance with the request of the client and observing the provisions of the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts[4].

Police officers of organisational units of the Ministry of Interior, Police Directorate - outside the seat, when performing tasks related to the movement and stay of foreigners, as well as communication, i.e. actions in which persons using minority languages appear as participants, act in all respects in accordance with the national legal framework and ratified international treaties. Observing the rights of members of national minorities guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and other legal documents and by-laws, the Ministry has prepared written notices of rights, which are handed over to foreign citizens and members of national minorities processed by members of this Ministry, primarily when applying the police powers of “bringing in” and “detention” and taking other measures and actions. The abovementioned notices have been translated into English and the languages of national minorities (Albanian, Hungarian, Roma and Romanian) and on 6 October, 2021, they were posted on the Ministry's information system and are available to all police officers.

Notices for citizens in both Serbian and the languages of national minorities that are in official use in the territory of those police departments or police stations are displayed on the bulletin boards of police departments or police stations along the administrative line of work.

Identity card forms are printed in Serbian and English, and passport forms in Serbian, English and French, while data on the person's name and surname are entered in the original form as they have been entered in the birth certificate.

Identity cards and certificates of citizenship of the Republic of Serbia are also issued on a form printed in the language and script of national minorities pursuant to the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, i.e. the identity card form is printed trilingually in Serbian, English and the language and script of the national minority the official use of which has been stipulated by the statute of the municipality in which territory the member of that national minority submits the application, while the data on the name and surname of the member of the national minority are entered in the identity card form in the original form as they have been entered in the birth certificate, i.e. according to the language and script of that national minority.

The following table reports on the number of issued identity cards in a trilingual format, classified by national minority languages, by year, for the period from 1 January, 2022 to 21 October, 2024.

[4] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 45/91, 53/93, 67/93, 48/94, 101/05 - other law, 30/10, 47/18 and 48/18 - corrected

	1.1. – 31/12/2022.	1.1. – 31/12/2023.	1.1. – 21/10/2024.
Albanian	5,456	4,955	5,808
Bosnian	116	77	46
Hungarian	2,719	2,779	2,960
Romanian		3	2
Ruthenian	1	1	
Slovak	1	4	3
Croatian	15	11	15
Czech	5	5	10

With regard to the issuance of driving licences, the driver's data in the driving licence is entered in the manner in which it is entered in the identity card or other identity document (foreigner's identity card, travel document). Alphanumeric data on the driving licence form is entered in Latin script and Arabic numerals. The entry of data on the driver's first name and surname in Cyrillic script is conducted at the explicit request of the driver. We would like to note that as of 1 January, 2011, driving licences have been issued in the Republic of Serbia according to the European Union driving licence model in plastic card format, and in accordance with Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on driving licences from 20 December, 2006. The provisions of the aforementioned directive have been transposed into the regulations of the Republic of Serbia, the Law on Road Traffic Safety[5] and the Rulebook on Driving Licences.[6].

As for the issuance of vehicle ID cards, alphanumeric data referring to the coded data in the visible part of the vehicle ID card and in the invisible part of the chip are entered in Latin letters and Arabic numerals. Data on the owner and user of the vehicle are entered in the manner in which they are entered in the document enclosed as proof of their identity.

Vehicle ID cards in the Republic of Serbia are issued in accordance with the EU Directive "Commission Directive 2003/127/EC of 23 December 2003 amending Council Directive 1999/37/EC on the registration documents for vehicles", which prescribes the layout and content of the vehicle ID card in paper and card format, as well as the content of the vehicle ID card chip and the set used to enter data into the chip.

Also, police officers of the administrative line of work, within their jurisdiction, receive requests for registration of residence, acquisition and termination of citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, identity card, passport, weapon, driver's licence and vehicle ID card.

Application forms for identity card, passport, weapon, driver's licence and vehicle ID card, in accordance with regulations, are filled out in electronic form by a police officer in direct communication with the applicant, and signed by the applicant. The given forms have not been translated into the languages of national minorities, but the police officer provides assistance to the client, i.e. the applicant, which includes helping the foreigner with the translation into the

[5] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 41/09, 53/10, 101/11, 32/13 - CC, 55/14, 96/15 - other law, 9/16 - CC, 24/18, 41/18, 41/2018 - other law, 87/18, 23/19, 128/20 - other law and 76/23

[6] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 73/10, 20/19, 43/19, 128/20 and 7/24

language of the national minority, if the client does not know Serbian, given that in multinational environments, police departments and stations are staffed by police officers who have knowledge of, among other things, the language of the national minority.

The application forms for vehicle registration are filled out by a business company authorised to conduct technical inspection and this form is not translated into the languages of national minorities.

The application forms for registration of residence, acquisition and termination of citizenship of the Republic of Serbia are filled out by the applicant with the assistance of a police officer of the administrative line of work and the given forms are not translated into the languages of national minorities.

Albanian language

a. Encourage Albanian speakers to use their language in contacts with local branches of national authorities and facilitate the drafting of documents in the Albanian language by the aforementioned authorities.

In the territories of the municipalities of Bujanovac, Preševo and Medveđa, the Albanian language and script are in official use in addition to the Serbian language. In educational institutions in the territories of these municipalities, there is no official notification that clients can contact institutions in the language of the national minority, but this is an established, common practice. Communication, as needed, takes place either in Serbian or in Albanian. Members of the Albanian national minority most often submit requests in Albanian. They receive responses in Albanian, but, upon expressed wish, they also receive a response in Serbian.

In educational institutions where classes are held in Albanian, records are kept in Albanian. In this sense, all requests and responses are in Albanian. Official school documents are also issued in Albanian. The Rulebook on Student Assessment in Primary Education[7] and the Rulebook on Student Assessment in Secondary Education[8] have been translated into Albanian. The part of the Rulebook on Institutional Quality Standards[9] pertaining to the area of "Teaching and Learning" has also been translated into Albanian.

Support for educational practice is available on the unified *Learning Passport* platform, which is located on the website of the Institute for the Advancement of Education.[10] All materials are in Serbian and nine languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian).

[7] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 10/24
[8] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 10/24
[9] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia - Educational Gazette*, Nos. 14/18 and 1/24
[10] https://zuov.gov.rs/pasos/

Bosnian language

a. Include content on the Bosnian language and culture in curricula, teacher training and educational materials used in regular education and encourage the mass media to work towards raising awareness about this in their reporting and training of journalists.

In the Rulebook on the Curriculum for the First Cycle of Primary Education and the Curriculum for the First Grade of Primary Education[11] and other rulebooks referring to the Curriculum for the Second Cycle of Primary Education, the subject of Bosnian Language and Bosnian Language and Culture covers the following teaching areas: Bosnian Language, Literature, Linguistic Expression, Elements of National Culture and Media Culture (in the Second Cycle).

Elements of Bosniak national culture, as well as elements of the national cultures of other national minorities living in the Republic of Serbia, are also studied through the subjects of The World Around Us, Nature and Society, History, Geography, Fine Arts and Music, as well as the elective programme of *Bosnian Language with Elements of National Culture*.

In addition to classic textbooks, all national minorities can use other teaching aids for the given subjects. This is a national supplement that is printed within the textbook or as a separate guidebook. The content of the national supplement follows the curriculum and programme of teaching and learning that has been approved in accordance with the rulebooks on the curriculum and learning and the Law on Textbooks[12].

Through teaching areas that include the study of the elective programme of Bosnian Language with Elements of National Culture and the Bosnian language, as well as through national supplements, students of the Bosniak national minority can become acquainted with elements of tradition in literary works (customs, holidays, fairy tales, folk tales, tongue-twisters, riddles), significant events from the life of Bosniaks, cultural and historical monuments, figures from the history of Bosniaks, with a review of historical events, religious life in medieval Bosnia, the geographical location of the former Novi Pazar Sanjak etc.

Pursuant to the Law on Textbooks, a list and amendments to the list of textbooks approved for use in a particular school year are published on the website of the Ministry of Education. In the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year[13] and the Supplement to the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/2 School Year[14] for members of the Bosniak national minority, 112 textbook titles have been approved.

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[11] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia– Educational Gazette*", Nos. 10/17, 12/18, 15/18, 18/18, 1/19, 2/20, 16/22, 1/23 – correction, 13/23 and 14/23

[12] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 27/18 and 92/23

[13] https://prosveta.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Katalog-udzbenika-na-jezicima-nacionalnih-manjina-2024-25.pdf

[14] https://prosveta.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/katalog-udzbenika-nacionalne-manjine-2024-2025-predskolsko-osnovno-srednje.pdf

From the 2022/23 to the 2024/25 school year, the Institute for the Advancement of Education of the Republic of Serbia has approved five professional development programmes for teachers, educators and professional associates in the field of Bosnian literature and the orthographic norms of the Bosnian language. These include the following: 1) The orthographic norm of the Bosnian language, 2) Genres of Bosnian oral literature in Bosnian language teaching in the Republic of Serbia, 3) Bosnian literature of the 20th century, 4) Bosniak literature of the 20th century and 5) Genres of older Bosniak literature in Bosnian language teaching in the Republic of Serbia.

The programmes have been published on the website of the Institute for the Advancement of Education within the list of education in national minority languages.[15] The programmes are implemented by the "Isa-Beg Ishaković" Centre for the Advancement of Education and Training in the Bosnian Language and the Regional Centre for Professional Development of Education Employees.

Support for educational practice is available on the unified *Learning Passport* platform, which is located on the website of the Institute for the Advancement of Education. All materials are in Serbian and nine languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian).

In all competitions for co-financing media content production projects, as well as in the competition for co-financing professional education projects and the improvement of professional and ethical standards in the field of public information, in order to encourage mass media to work towards raising awareness of the Bosniak national minority language and culture in their reports and training of journalists, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications supported 8 projects in 2022 with an amount of 4,001,000.00 dinars, namely 5 projects for television, 1 project for print media, 1 project for online media, while 1 project was implemented through online media and radio. In 2023, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications supported 5 projects for television, 3 projects for online media, 1 project for print media and 1 project for radio, i.e. a total of 10 projects for which funds were allocated in the amount of 5,782,000.00 dinars. When it comes to projects in 2024, a total of 12 projects were supported with an amount of 6,200,000.00 dinars, of which 7 projects were for television, 3 projects were intended for online media, 1 project was implemented through radio, and 1 project through print media.

Year	Number of projects	Allocated funds
2022.	8	4,001,000.00 RSD
2023	10	5,782,000.00 RSD
2024	12	6,200,000.00 RSD

In addition to funding through specialised calls for proposals for the production of media content intended for national minorities, projects in the Bosnian language are also funded through other calls of the relevant ministry. Through the Call for Proposals for Co-financing Projects for the Production of Media Content for Television in 2023, the project of Sandjak Television llc from

[15] https://zuov-katalog.rs/index.php?action=page/catalog/all&oblast=9

Novi Pazar was funded in the amount of 1,000,000.00 dinars. In the Call for Proposals for Co-financing Projects for the Production of Media Content for Print Media and News Agency Services in 2024, the El Kelimeh Publishing House from Novi Pazar was allocated funds in the amount of 700,000.00 dinars for the *Endowment Feuilleton*, while in the Call for Proposals for Co-financing Projects for Professional Education, Improvement of Professional and Ethical Standards and Research in the Field of Public Information in 2024, *Sandžak Media DOO* from Novi Pazar was allocated funds in the amount of 850,000.00 dinars for the project of *Journalism in the Mother Tongue*. In addition, without conducting a public call for proposals, through individual donations, the Bosniak Cultural Community entitled *Preporod* was provided with funds in the amount of 450,000.00 dinars for the *Kazaljka* project, the purpose of which is to promote the linguistic characteristics of the Bosnian language and the use of this language in everyday information for citizens.

Bulgarian language

a. Encourage Bulgarian speakers to use their language in contacts with local branches of national authorities and facilitate the drafting of documents in the Bulgarian language by the aforementioned authorities.

In the territory of the municipalities of Bosilegrad and Dimitrovgrad, the Bulgarian language and script are in official use in addition to the Serbian language.

In educational institutions, classes are held bilingually or in Bulgarian. In other classes in the school, where classes are held in Serbian, the elective programme of Bulgarian Language with Elements of National Culture is studied. Records are kept in Bulgarian for students who attend classes in Bulgarian. Certificates are also issued in Bulgarian, only the diploma of completed secondary education is issued in Serbian. Tests for the final and matriculation exams are translated into Bulgarian. Members of the Bulgarian national minority most often submit requests in Bulgarian. They receive responses in Serbian, but upon expressed wish, they also receive a response in Bulgarian.

The “Sveti Kirilo i Metodije” Secondary School in Dimitrovgrad organises a wide variety of events where the Bulgarian language can be heard and the customs and culture of the Bulgarian people can be seen. The “Hristo Botev” Primary School in Dimitrovgrad celebrates all holidays that are important for members of the Bulgarian national minority: The Day of the National Enlighteners, the Day of the Mother Language, Baba Marta (Grandma Marta), Easter and Christmas with characteristic customs. The pupils of this school prepare and host the bilingual radio show called “Cheerful School Radio” which they implement in cooperation with local media. The pupils participate in the Bulgarian language competition organised by the Bulgarian Association in Serbia. The “Bratstvo” Primary School in the village of Zvonce (Babušnica Municipality) gives performances in Serbian and Bulgarian on the occasion of the New Year, School Day and the European Day of Languages. This school year, pupils and their teachers made

an effort and showed their creativity in making wall newspapers to highlight the importance of language learning and preservation. The wall newspapers are decorated with interesting facts, language challenges, and inspiring messages about linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

Support for educational practice is available on the unified *Learning Passport* platform, which is located on the website of the Institute for the Advancement of Education. All materials are in Serbian and nine languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian).

Bunjevac language

a. Consider implementing an educational model that provides a high level of proficiency in the Bunjevac language, in cooperation with users.
b. Include content on the Bunjevac language and culture in curricula, teacher training and educational materials used in regular education and encourage the mass media to work towards raising awareness about this in their reporting and training of journalists.

In the Rulebook on the Curriculum for the First Cycle of Primary Education and the Curriculum for the First Grade of Primary Education and other rulebooks referring to the Curriculum for the Second Cycle of Primary Education, the number of lessons per week and per year is prescribed for each of the subjects and elective programmes. The elective programme of Bunjevac Language with Elements of National Culture is represented with two classes per week.

The learning objectives of the elective programme of Bunjevac Language with Elements of National Culture are as follows: expanding existing knowledge of the mother tongue within the framework of the planned teaching units; getting to know and cultivate the specificities of the Bunjevac language; studying literary works in the mother tongue; training students for new forms of oral and written expression; constantly enriching the vocabulary with original Bunjevac words; nurturing and developing multiculturalism, etc.

Pursuant to the Law on Textbooks, a list and amendments to the list of textbooks approved for use in a particular school year are published on the website of the Ministry of Education. In the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year and the the Supplement to the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year, 12 textbook titles have been approved for members of the Bunjevac national minority.

The Ministry of Education has hired one advisor-external associate for the Bunjevac language, to support educational advisors in carrying out professional and pedagogical supervision and external evaluation of the work of institutions.

Professional development intended for teachers who teach the elective programme of Bunjevac Language with Elements of National Culture is taking place under the programme "The Path to Quality Lessons through Practical Examples". The objectives are as follows: to improve

Bunjevac teaching and teacher competences; to demonstrate the connection between teaching and learning indicators and practice; to present concrete examples from school practice. The last expert presentation was held on 6 November, 2024 at the Open University in Subotica. This event was attended by Bunjevac language teachers who teach in primary and secondary schools in Subotica.

In terms of encouraging mass media to work to raise awareness of the Bunjevac language and culture in their reports and training of journalists, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications supported 1 project in 2022 with the amount of 408,000.00 dinars, which was implemented through online media, while in 2023, 2 projects were supported for which funds were allocated in the amount of 800,000.00 dinars, and they were implemented through radio and print media. In 2024, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications supported 1 project for print media in the amount of 600,000.00 dinars.

Year	Number of projects	Allocated funds
2022	1	408,000.00 RSD
2023	2	800,000.00 RSD
2024	1	600,000.00 RSD

The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities also announces calls for proposals for co-financing media projects from the budget. During the year, the Secretariat announces a call for achieving public interest in media content in Serbian and languages of national minorities and for improving professional standards.

In 2022, the Call for Proposals for Co-financing of Media Content Production Projects in the Field of Public Information supported the following projects in the Bunjevac language, in the total amount of 1,100,000.00 dinars:

- "Culture and Tradition among Bunjevci Today" (*Bunjevački Media Centar doo, Subotica*) - 200,000.00 dinars;
- "We Are Here, Too - Culture and Tradition" (*Bunjevački Media Centar doo, Subotica*) 450,000.00 dinars;
- "Culture and Tradition in the *Bunjevačka Rič* show" (*Bunjevački Media Centar doo, Subotica*) - 150,000.00 dinars;
- "On the Trail of Memories through Important Dates for Bunjevci" (*Bunjevačka Matic*a) - 150,000.00 dinars;
- "From Our Town" (Citizens' Association Bunjevci Youth Centre) - 150,000.00 dinars.

In 2023, the same call for proposals supported the project "Even Now, Bunjevci Customs" by *Bunjevačka Matic*a in the amount of 250,000.00 dinars and the multilingual project, which was also implemented in the Bunjevac language, "Multilingual" by Radio Subotica - *Szabadkai radio doo* in the amount of 800,000.00 dinars. In addition, the Call for Proposals for the Improvement of Professional Standards co-financed the project of the *Bunjevački Media Centar doo* from Subotica "Education - Information in Minority Languages" in the amount of 200,000.00 dinars. Projects in the Bunjevac language were financed in the total amount of 1,250,000.00 dinars.

In 2024, the Call for Proposals for Co-financing of Media Content Production Projects in the Field of Public Information supported the following projects in the Bunjevac language, in the total amount of 2,190,000.00 dinars:

- "Information in Hungarian, Croatian and Bunjevac" (*Radio Subotica - Szabadkai radio doo Subotica* - multilingual project) - 1,500,000.00 dinars;
- "Bunjevci Through the Lens of People and Art" (Bunjevačka Matica Citizens' Association) - 690,000.00 dinars.

It is important to note that in the reporting period, regular budget financing of newspapers that publish information in the languages of national minorities continued. The following table shows the funds for financing the Newspaper and Publishing Institution entitled "Bunjevac Information Centre" from Subotica, which publishes the Bunjevac newspaper and the *Tandrčak* Children's Magazine in the Bunjevac language.

Publisher	2022	2023	2024
"Bunjevac Information Centre" Newspaper and Publishing Institution	12,149,820.00	15280000.00	15280000.00

According to available data, in 2022, three local self-government units funded six projects for the production of media content in the Bunjevac language through a call for proposals in the total amount of 880,000.00 dinars. In addition, the *Language Mosaic* Project of Subotica Radio, which broadcasts programmes in Serbian, Bunjevac, Hungarian and Croatian, was also funded in the amount of 2,000,000.00 dinars.

In 2023, two local self-government units funded six projects for the production of media content in the Bunjevac language in the total amount of 730,000.00 dinars.

Vlach language

a. Consider implementing an educational model that provides a high level of proficiency in the Vlach language, in cooperation with users.

For the last ten years, the elective programme of Vlach Speech with Elements of National Culture has been taught in primary schools in the Republic of Serbia. Classes are held in Bor, Donji Milanovac, Turija, Voluja, Kučevo, Mali Crnić, Petrovac na Mlavi and Žagubica.

The table below contains data on the number of pupils attending the elective programme of Vlach Speech with Elements of National Culture by grade, for the last three school years:

School year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total
2024/25	193	253	251	195	131	98	97	90	1,308
2023/24	194	261	294	261	142	131	162	168	1,613
2022/23	191	214	195	189	104	105	77	45	1,120

From the abovementioned, it can be concluded that pupils are increasingly interested in this type of teaching. The increase in the number of pupils is also positively influenced by the fact that the Ministry of Education each school year drafts a Professional Instruction on the Establishment of Classes and Groups and the Method of Financing in Primary and Secondary Schools for a particular school year, which, among other things, regulates in more detail the method of forming groups for compulsory subjects, elective programmes and free teaching activities, which gives each school the opportunity to implement the elective programme of Mother Tongue/Speech with Elements of National Culture.

According to the information we have, the National Council of the Vlach National Minority does not plan to take measures to introduce the elective programme of Vlach Speech with Elements of National Culture in secondary schools until the study of this subject becomes even more widespread in primary education. Before that, it is necessary for the National Council of the Vlach National Minority to submit for adoption the teaching and learning plans according to the newly adopted legal regulations, as well as the proposals for textbooks for the elective programme, for all grades of primary school, because currently in the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year and the Supplement to the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year for members of the Vlach national minority there is only one textbook from 2014, and the new teaching and learning plans were successively adopted from the 2018/19 to 2021/22 school years.

b. Promote the use of the Vlach language in public electronic media.

When it comes to promoting the use of the Vlach language in public electronic media in 2022, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications supported 5 projects with 2,300,000.00 dinars, allocated for 3 projects for online media and 2 projects for television. To achieve this objective in 2023, 3 projects for online media were supported, 2 projects were implemented via television, and 1 project was implemented via radio. Funds in the amount of 3,100,000.00 dinars were allocated for the implementation of these 6 projects. In 2024, 2 projects for online media were supported with the amount of 1,300,000.00 dinars.

Year	Number of projects	Allocated funds
2022	5	2,300,000.00 RSD
2023	6	3,100,000.00 RSD
2024	2	1,300,000.00 RSD

Hungarian language

a. Encourage Hungarian speakers to use their language in contacts with local branches of national authorities and facilitate the drafting of documents in the Hungarian language by the aforementioned authorities.

In the school administrations of Sombor, Novi Sad and Zrenjanin, speakers of minority languages can speak in their own language in every school that implements part of the teaching or teaching entirely in the language of the national minority, since the teaching staff in bilingual schools is also bilingual.

- In the Sombor School Administration, various types of teaching are conducted in Hungarian, Croatian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Bunjevac languages;
- In the Novi Sad School Administration, various types of teaching are conducted in Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Roma languages;
- In the Zrenjanin School Administration, various types of teaching are conducted in Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.

In bilingual schools, all information, data, questionnaires, etc., must be provided in Serbian and in the language of the national minority in which the teaching is conducted.

A student, parent or third party can contact the school in their native language in any school that implements part of the teaching or teaching entirely in the language of that national minority and receive an answer in the same language. For example, in the territory of the Novi Sad School Administration, teaching is conducted entirely in minority languages in: 12 schools and 5 preschool institutions in the Slovak language of instruction, in 19 schools in the Hungarian language of instruction and 5 preschool institutions and in one school in the Ruthenian language; in over 130 institutions, the elective programme of Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture is fostered in Slovak, Hungarian, Ruthenian, Roma, German and Romanian.

School documents, such as class register, student booklets, certificates, final exam tests, school internal documents, questionnaires for parents, etc. must be translated into the languages of the minorities used in a particular school institution. In addition, textbooks for various subjects, teaching and learning plans and programmes, teacher preparation forms for teaching and records are also translated.

In the territory of the school administrations of Sombor, Novi Sad and Zrenjanin, various types of activities are held in the languages of national minorities, in the form of competitions, exhibitions, performances, festivals and others events, for the purpose of promoting and preserving cultural heritage.

Support for educational practice is available on the unified *Learning Passport* platform, which is located on the website of the Institute for the Advancement of Education. All materials are in Serbian and nine languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian).

Macedonian language

a. Consider implementing an educational model that provides a high level of proficiency in the Macedonian language, in cooperation with users.

The study of the elective programme of the Macedonian Language with Elements of National Culture has been organised since the 2010/11 school year in the primary school in Jabuka (city of Pančevo). At the initiative of the National Council of the Macedonian National Minority, since the 2015/16 school year, this model of primary education, in cooperation with the competent ministry, has also been organised in Leskovac, and since the 2016/17 school year, this opportunity has also been available to pupils of primary schools in Vladičin Han and Vranje.

The table below contains data on the number of pupils attending the elective programme of Macedonian language with Elements of National Culture by grade, for the last three school years:

School year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total
2024/25	15	20	35	26	62	56	43	39	296
2023/24	12	30	28	30	52	49	22	39	262
2022/23	46	48	76	61	66	39	37	36	409

The National Council of the Macedonian National Minority currently has no plans to organise the study of the Macedonian language at the preschool and secondary education levels, as it must first submit an initiative for the adoption of new teaching and learning plans, which were successively adopted from the 2018/19 to 2021/22 school years.

In addition, the National Council of the Macedonian National Minority should also submit to the Ministry of Education proposals for new textbooks for the elective programme, for all education levels, because currently in the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25School Year and the Supplement to the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year for members of the Macedonian national minority there are only three textbooks drafted in accordance with old teaching and learning plans.

The Macedonian language in the Republic of Serbia is studied at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade and at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, as an elective course in the study programmes of Serbian Language and Literature.

German language

a. Provide bilingual education in German at the preschool, primary and secondary school levels in Sombor, Subotica and Novi Sad, as well as in additional municipalities where the German language is traditionally used.

The Ministry of Education relies in its work on sectoral laws in the field of education, and when it comes to the education of national minorities, on the Law on National Councils of National Minorities[16]. Pursuant to this law, national councils have broad powers in the field of curriculum regulation, teaching and learning programmes, as well as in the field of obtaining textbooks in the languages of national minorities.

Bearing in mind the powers of the national councils of national minorities, the Ministry of Education always supports and encourages all initiatives of the national councils that contribute to improving the quality and accessibility of education in the languages of national minorities, which also applies to the German national minority.

The National Council of the German National Minority has not yet submitted new initiatives to the Ministry of Education to teach German bilingually at the preschool, primary or secondary school levels in Sombor, Subotica and Novi Sad, as well as in additional municipalities where the German language is traditionally used.

According to the Rulebook on the Detailed Conditions for Implementing Bilingual Education,[17] a request for approval to implement bilingual education shall be submitted by primary and secondary schools to the ministry responsible for education, no later than 1 December of the current school year in which bilingual education will begin. Along with the request, the school shall submit the decision of the management body on the introduction of bilingual education, a detailed study and evidence of compliance with the conditions set out in Article 1 of this Rulebook.

The detailed study should contain the following: reasons and justification for introducing bilingual teaching; data on the school (name, address, verification decision, number of classes, satellite school classes, total number of students, total number of teachers, school rating in the external evaluation process; data on bilingual teaching (goals and outcomes of implementing bilingual teaching, grades in which bilingual teaching is being introduced/has been introduced, number of classes in which bilingual teaching is planned/in which bilingual teaching is being implemented, number of interested students/students attending bilingual teaching, plan for developing bilingual teaching in the school); a detailed description of the modalities of teaching implementation (certain subjects are taught in a foreign language for a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 45% of the total annual number of lessons in those subjects, excluding teaching in the subject of Foreign Language; selected topics from certain subjects are taught in a foreign language using a learning method in which the foreign language is used to teach non-language content, etc.); a description of the existing conditions in the school, as well as the sustainability of the programme itself, including expected support (local self-government, other legal or natural entities).

- The request may be submitted by a school that has obtained at least a grade three (3) in the external evaluation process.
- The implementation of bilingual education can begin in the sixth or seventh grade of primary school or in the first grade of secondary school.

[16] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 72/09, 20/14 – CC, 55/14 and 47/18
[17] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 105/15, 50/16 and 25/17

- The condition regarding the teaching staff who will implement bilingual education includes the following: the teacher's consent to participate in bilingual education and to accept all obligations set out in these conditions; proof of the level of language proficiency with which the teacher can begin implementing bilingual education.
- Ensuring the quality of the implementation of bilingual education in schools is achieved in compliance with the law regulating the basics of the education system and the by-law regulating the evaluation of the quality of the institution's work.
- For each school year in which bilingual education is implemented, the school submits a report to the Ministry (excerpt from the annual self-evaluation report), which should provide insight into the implementation of bilingual education in the school, from an organisational perspective, performance of students who attend bilingual lessons and the interest of other students in this type of education, as well as the work of teachers.

The educational process implemented through bilingual education encourages students' personal, social and professional development, as well as the development of key and cross-curricular competencies, and motivates young people for lifelong learning. Knowledge of foreign languages is recognised as a key competency in the labour market.

The Ministry of Education therefore encourages the National Council of the German National Minority to start the application procedure for bilingual education in cooperation with schools that are interested in bilingual education and that meet the requirements prescribed by the Rulebook, because in addition to the abovementioned, bilingual education provides students with the opportunity to acquire intercultural and interdisciplinary openness and intensive improvement of the foreign language in which part of the education is carried out.

According to data for the 2024/25 school year, educational work in preschool institutions is implemented bilingually - in the mother tongue and a foreign language, i.e. in Serbian and German for 64 children and in Hungarian and German for 14 children. The preparatory preschool programme before starting primary school is implemented bilingually - in the mother tongue and a foreign language, i.e. in Serbian and German – for 32 children, as well as in Hungarian and German – for five children.

Bilingual education based on the Serbian-German and Hungarian-German models is implemented in two classes each for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades in the “10. Oktobar” Primary School in Subotica. This type of education was attended by 146 students in the 2022/23 school year, and 141 students in the 2023/24 school year.

Interested pupils in primary schools can also attend the optional programme of German Language with Elements of National Culture, and the table below contains data on the number of pupils by grade, in the last three school years:

School year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total
2024/25	292	381	399	442	90	85	38	30	1,757
2023/24	252	363	294	246	23	34	38	17	1,267
2022/23	172	276	266	372	40	18	6	-	1,150

The National Council of the German National Minority should also submit to the Ministry of Education proposals for new textbooks for the elective programme, for all education levels, because currently in the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year andthe Supplement to the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year for members of the German national minority there are no textbooks.

When it comes to bilingual education in Serbian and German in secondary schools, it is organised in three secondary schools: "Stevan Sremac" First Niš Grammar School, Valjevo Grammar School and "Jovan Jovanović Zmaj" Grammar School from Novi Sad.

In addition to the abovementioned, in the AP Vojvodina, the subject of German Language is studied as a first foreign language by 1,747 students, and as a second foreign language by 11,445 students (about 23% of the total 57,183 students enrolled in secondary education in the AP Vojvodina). Of the given number of students, in Sombor, Subotica and Novi Sad, German is studied as a first foreign language by 766 students, and as a second foreign language by 4,770 students, which is about 24% of the total 23,149 students in secondary schools in the territory of these three cities.

Roma language

a. Provide bilingual education in the Roma language at preschool, primary, secondary and vocational levels.

The Ministry of Education relies in its work on sectoral laws in the field of education, and when it comes to the education of national minorities, on the Law on National Councils of National Minorities. Pursuant to this law, national councils have broad powers in the field of curriculum regulation, teaching and learning programmes, as well as in the field of obtaining textbooks in the languages of national minorities.

Bearing in mind the powers of the national councils of national minorities, the Ministry of Education always supports and encourages all initiatives of the national councils that contribute to improving the quality and accessibility of education in the languages of national minorities, which also applies to the Roma national minority.

The National Council of the Roma National Minority has not yet submitted an initiative to the Ministry of Education to teach the Roma language bilingually at any level. The procedure for implementing bilingual education is explained in the part of the Report that refers to the recommendation regarding the introduction of bilingual education in the German language.

The Ministry of Education encourages the National Council of the Roma National Minority to, in cooperation with schools that are interested in bilingual education and that meet the requirements, begin the application procedure for bilingual education, once the objective conditions for this have been met.

At the moment, interested pupils can attend the elective programme of Roma Language with Elements of National Culture, and the table below contains data on the number of pupils by grade, in the last three school years:

School year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total
2024/25	381	493	648	597	501	507	513	480	4,120
2023/24	311	475	439	452	451	517	426	386	3,457
2022/23	297	404	438	342	570	451	424	402	3,328

From the abovementioned, it can be concluded that interest in this type of education is slightly increasing among students of Roma nationality. The increase in the number of pupils is also positively influenced by the fact that the Ministry of Education each school year drafts a Professional Instruction on the Establishment of Classes and Groups and the Method of Financing in Primary and Secondary Schools for a particular school year, which, among other things, regulates in more detail the method of forming groups for compulsory subjects, elective programmes and free teaching activities, which gives each school the opportunity to implement the elective programme of Mother Tongue/Speech with Elements of National Culture.

The Ministry of Education continues its activities to expand the network of pedagogical assistants for Roma students who need additional support in education. For the 2024/25 school year, consent has been given to hire 8 new pedagogical assistants, bringing the total number of them currently hired in the education system to 280. Free distance training has been organised for the new pedagogical assistants, and they are also provided with a Guidebook with a didactic and methodological overview of the training content.

Support for educational practice is available on the unified *Learning Passport* platform, which is located on the website of the Institute for the Advancement of Education. All materials are in Serbian and nine languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian).

Affirmative action for secondary school enrolment in the 2024/25 school year was used by 2,502 students of Roma nationality. According to data from the National Council of the Roma National Minority, 150 students used affirmative action measures when enrolling in college in the 2024/25 school year.

The National Council of the Roma National Minority should also submit to the Ministry of Education proposals for new textbooks for the elective programme, for all education levels, because currently in the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year andthe Supplement to the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year for members of the Roma national minority there are six textbooks.

b. Encourage the introduction of the Roma language into official use in additional municipalities in order to facilitate the implementation of the Charter.

As presented in previous state reports, the Republic of Serbia, through its legislation, but also in practice, shows great flexibility in terms of introducing minority languages into official use even when the legal criterion of 15% for mandatory introduction into official use is not met, which was also recognised by the Committee of Experts in its findings.

Considering that the population census was conducted in 2022, in order to determine the fulfilment of the legal obligation to also print the names of bodies exercising public authority, names of local self-government units, populated areas, squares and streets, and other toponyms in the language of the Roma national minority in populated areas where the percentage of members of the Roma national minority reaches 15%, the competent provincial secretariat contacted the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and, after receiving the data on the national structure by populated areas, analysed the data obtained.

In accordance with the data obtained, it was determined that the percentage of members of the Roma national minority in the total number of residents in the territory of certain populated areas in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina reached 15%, and there is an obligation to write the names of bodies exercising public powers, the names of local self-government units, populated areas, squares and streets and other toponyms in the language of the Roma national minority, according to its tradition and orthography, even though the language of the Roma national minority is not in official use in the territory of the local self-government unit. In this regard, and for the purpose of implementing Article 11 of the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts and the Exercise of Powers referred to in Article 22 of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the competent provincial secretariat sent an official letter to the National Council of the Roma National Minority at the end of 2024, pointing out the aforementioned facts and invited the National Council to propose establishing the Roma language and script as the official language and script in these settlements.

In addition to the abovementioned, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue also contacted the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia in order to obtain appropriate data on the number of members of the Roma national minority by settlements in the central part of Serbia, which will also be analysed in order to determine the fulfilment of the aforementioned legal obligation. The National Council of the Roma National Minority will be informed of the results of the data analysis, as well as the steps to be taken to introduce the Roma language into official use.

c. In cooperation with representatives of Roma language users, develop a comprehensive strategy for fulfilling the obligations of the Charter regarding this language.

In order to fulfil the obligations of the Charter regarding the Roma language, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue has initiated consultations to secure donor funds for the engagement of consultants who would prepare an analysis of the possibilities and capacities for the use of the Roma language in compliance with the obligations of the Charter. During the preparation of the analysis, in addition to the competent state authorities, the National

Council of the Roma National Minority and speakers of the Roma language is also planned to be consulted.

Romanian language

a. Provide education in Romanian or bilingually at preschool, primary, secondary and vocational levels of education in central Serbia, in consultation with user representatives.

Every school year, the Ministry of Education drafts a Professional Instruction on the Establishment of Classes and Groups and the Method of Financing in Primary and Secondary Schools for a particular school year, which, among other things, regulates in more detail the method of forming groups for compulsory subjects, elective programmes and free teaching activities.

According to the Rulebook on the Detailed Conditions for Implementing Bilingual Education, each primary or secondary school may submit a request to the Ministry of Education for approval to implement bilingual education, no later than 1 December 1 of the current year for the next school year in which bilingual education will begin.

Since there are no legal obstacles to introducing the Romanian language into education in central Serbia, the Ministry of Education encourages the National Council of the Romanian National Minority to, in cooperation with school institutions from central Serbia, begin the process of lobbying parents of Romanian nationality who decide whether their children will be taught in their mother tongue in that region.

The following tables contain data on the number of students attending classes in Romanian in primary and secondary schools and the optional programme of Romanian Language with Elements of National Culture by grade, in the last three school years.

Romanian Language Classes in Primary Schools

School year	**I**	**II**	**III**	**IV**	**V**	**VI**	**VII**	**VIII**	**Total**
2024/25	74	92	78	95	96	77	60	85	657
2023/24	90	78	79	106	87	64	88	84	676
2022/23	77	82	100	103	72	87	90	97	708

Romanian Language Classes in Secondary Schools

School year	**I**	**II**	**III**	**IV**	**Total**
2024/25	27	30	21	23	101
2023/24	31	23	25	37	116
2022/23	26	26	37	24	113

Elective programme of Romanian Language with Elements of National Culture

School year	**I**	**II**	**III**	**IV**	**V**	**VI**	**VII**	**VIII**	**Total**

2024/25	214	304	299	253	165	200	142	98	1,675
2023/24	158	227	258	247	254	270	186	154	1,754
2022/23	220	185	255	212	144	120	158	144	1,438

In order to provide professional development for teachers who teach in one of the 8 languages of national minorities in which all teaching is conducted, a total of 56 training courses have been developed based on the needs expressed within the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Education in Serbia. The online training programme entitled "Strengthening the Language Competencies of Teachers Who Teach in Eight Languages of National Minorities" has so far brought together 160 Romanian language teachers.

Support for educational practice is available on the unified *Learning Passport* platform, which is located on the website of the Institute for the Advancement of Education. All materials are in Serbian and nine languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian).

b. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Romanian.

In order to facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Romanian, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications indicates that in 2022 there were no projects broadcast on television in Romanian, but in 2023 it supported 1 project for radio for which the amount of 500,000.00 dinars was allocated, and in 2024 it also supported 1 project for television with the amount of 600,000.00 dinars.

Year	Number of projects	Allocated funds
2022	/	/
2023	1	500,000.00 RSD
2024	1	600,000.00 RSD

The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities also announces calls for proposals for co-financing media projects from the budget. During the year, the Secretariat announces a call for achieving public interest in media content in Serbian and languages of national minorities and for improving professional standards. In the calls for proposals for the production of media content in the period 2022-2024, the following projects of private radio and television stations for broadcasting content in the Romanian language were supported.

- "Mosaic - Beauty Is in Diversity" (BC INFO DOO Bela Crkva Information company - multilingual project) - 100,000.00 dinars;
- "Preservation of the Cultural Heritage of the Czechs and Romanians" (BC INFO DOO Bela Crkva Information company - multilingual project) - 200,000.00 dinars;
- "In the Spirit of the Language" (Builders - multilingual project) - 200,000.00 dinars;

- "Seals of Time - Sigirile timpului - Romanians in Banat Through Tradition, History and Culture" (D*anelli Alibunar LLC* for production, trade in goods and services) - 100,000.00 dinars;
- "Kaleidoscope of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Czechs and Romanians" (BC INFO DOO Bela Crkva Information company - multilingual project) - 100,000.00 dinars.

Ruthenian language

a. Facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Ruthenian.

With regard to the facilitated broadcasting of private television programmes in the Ruthenian language, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications points out that in 2022, 2023 and 2024 there were no submitted television projects for Ruthenian language. On the other hand, in 2022, 1 project in the Ruthenian language for internet media was supported with the amount of 504,000.00 dinars, in 2023, 1 project for online media was also supported for which 505,000.00 dinars were allocated, while in 2024, 3 projects were supported, 2 projects for ionline media, and 1 project for radio, with 1,750,000.00 dinars allocated for their implementation.

Year	Number of projects	Allocated funds
2022	1	504,000.00 RSD
2023	1	505,000.00 RSD
2024	3	1,750,000.00 RSD

The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities also announces calls for proposals for co-financing media projects from the budget. During the year, the Secretariat announces a call for achieving public interest in media content in Serbian and languages of national minorities and for improving professional standards.

In 2022, the Call for Proposals for Co-financing of Media Content Production Projects in the Field of Public Information supported two projects for broadcasting radio and TV content in the Ruthenian language, in the total amount of 200,000.00 dinars: "*Rusnaci Našo Sušedi*" (*Talasi Dunava 588 doo Sombor*) - 100,000.00 dinars and "Preserving the Tradition and Culture of Slovaks and Ruthenians" (Kopernikus Radio Television Šid doo, Šid) - 100,000.00 dinars.

In 2023, the Call for Proposals for Co-financing Projects for the Production of Media Content in the Field of Public Information supported the project of Kopernikus Radio Television *Šid doo*, Šid entitled "Preserving the Tradition and Culture of Slovaks and Ruthenians" in the amount of 200,000.00 dinars, while the Call for Proposals for Improving Professional Standards supported the project of the Journalists' Association of Ruthenians in the amount of 150,000.00 dinars.

In 2023, the Call for Proposals for Co-financing of Media Content Production Projects in the Field of Public Information supported the multilingual project of Copernicus Radio Television

Šid doo entitled "Preserving the Tradition and Culture of Slovaks and Ruthenians" in the amount of 100,000.00 dinars.

In addition, in the period 2022-2024, the Municipality of Kula allocated 2,110,000 dinars for financing media content in Hungarian, German, Ruthenian and Ukrainian through the "Kula" Information and Advertising Centre.

b. Encourage Ruthenian speakers to use this language in contacts with local authorities.

Considering the concentration of members of the Ruthenian national minority in the municipality of Kula, the Kula Municipal Assembly adopted the Charter on Regional or Minority Languages of the Municipality of Kula at its session held on 9 November 2022[18]. Emphasising the importance of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe, the said Charter stipulates that the Municipality of Kula shall, within the framework of its constitutional and legal powers, take all necessary measures to promote the use of the Hungarian, German, Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life, in order to preserve them in its territory and promote their development. By this act, the Municipality of Kula, *inter alia*, confirms that it will implement, in accordance with the needs and possibilities, the following provisions of Part III of the Charter pertaining to encouraging persons who speak the Ruthenian language to use it in contacts with local authorities, when necessary in cooperation with other authorities:

- the municipality shall undertake to provide the most important national legislative texts in the Ruthenian language, especially those concerning persons using this language, unless they have not obtained them in some other way;
- publish its official documents in the Ruthenian language;
- the obligation to translate and interpret when necessary;
- hire or, if necessary, train civil servants and other employees within the public services;
- use the Ruthenian language in the local assembly, without neglecting the use of the Serbian language;
- approve or encourage the use of the Ruthenian language within the financing of regional or local authorities;
- not to question the validity of legal documents solely because they were adopted in the Ruthenian language;
- approve or encourage the possibility for those who use the Ruthenian language to submit written or oral petitions in that language;
- use, if necessary, together with the name in Serbian, traditional forms of place names in the Ruthenian language;
- allow the use and adoption of family names in the Ruthenian language, at the request of those interested.

[18] *The Official Journal of the Municipality of Kula*, No. 45/2022

Article 76 of the Law on Determining the Competences of the AP Vojvodina[19] stipulates that the AP of Vojvodina, through its bodies, shall carry out inspection supervision in the field of official use of languages and scripts - as an entrusted task. Pursuant to Article 37 of the Provincial Assembly Decision on Provincial Administration[20], these tasks shall be classified within the scope of the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities. Within the framework of the inspections carried out in the period 2022-2024, the Secretariat's inspection carried out regular and extraordinary inspections in supervised entities the seats of which are in local self-government units where, among others, the Ruthenian language and script are in official use (Novi Sad, Vrbas and Kula). During the inspections, authorised persons from the supervised entities were instructed on manners in which they could improve the use of the Ruthenian language and script with the aim of encouraging Ruthenian speakers to use this language in contacts with local authorities and ensuring that the use of the Ruthenian language does not constitute an aggravating circumstance when exercising their rights, both for citizens and for officers of local authorities.

In addition, through the Call for Proposals for the allocation of budget funds to bodies and organisations in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in the work of which the languages and scripts of national minorities - national communities are in official use, the Secretariat encourages public authorities every year to promote the official use, among others, of the Ruthenian language and script. In the period 2022-2024, in the abovementioned call for proposals, various entities (a total of 19) in local self-government units where the Ruthenian language is also in official use, were awarded a total of 2,581,000.00 dinars. The funds from the abovementioned call are intended for creating conditions for the efficient use of minority languages in the communication of public authorities with citizens. In this way, by the existence of conditions, aware that there are good conditions and opportunities, citizens are encouraged and they decide to use the Ruthenian language and script more often when exercising their rights.

Slovak language

a. Encourage Slovak speakers to use their language in contacts with local branches of national authorities and facilitate the drafting of documents in the Slovak language by the aforementioned authorities.

In the school administrations of Sombor, Novi Sad and Zrenjanin, speakers of minority languages can speak in their own language in every school that implements part of the teaching or teaching entirely in the language of the national minority, since the teaching staff in bilingual schools is also bilingual.

[19] *The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 99/09, 67/12 – Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Serbia and 18/20 – other law

[20] *The Official Journal of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*, Nos. 37/14 and 54/14 – other decision, 37/16, 29/17, 24/19, 66/20 and 38/21

- In the Sombor School Administration, various types of teaching are conducted in Hungarian, Croatian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Bunjevac languages;
- In the Novi Sad School Administration, various types of teaching are conducted in Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Roma languages;
- In the Zrenjanin School Administration, various types of teaching are conducted in Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.

In bilingual schools, all information, data, questionnaires, etc., must be provided in Serbian and in the language of the national minority in which the teaching is conducted.

A student, parent or third party can contact the school in their native language in any school that implements part of the teaching or teaching entirely in the language of that national minority and receive an answer in the same language. For example, in the territory of the Novi Sad School Administration, teaching is conducted entirely in minority languages in: 12 schools and 5 preschool institutions in the Slovak language of instruction, in 19 schools in the Hungarian language of instruction and 5 preschool institutions and in one school in the Ruthenian language; in over 130 institutions, the elective programme of Mother Tongue with Elements of National Culture is fostered in Slovak, Hungarian, Ruthenian, Roma, German and Romanian.

School documents, such as class register, student booklets, certificates, final exam tests, school internal documents, questionnaires for parents, etc. must be translated into the languages of the minorities used in a particular school institution. In addition, textbooks for various subjects, teaching and learning plans and programmes, teacher preparation forms for teaching and records are also translated.

In the territory of the school administrations of Sombor, Novi Sad and Zrenjanin, various types of activities are held in the languages of national minorities, in the form of competitions, exhibitions, performances, festivals and others events, for the purpose of promoting and preserving cultural heritage.

Support for educational practice is available on the unified *Learning Passport* platform, which is located on the website of the Institute for the Advancement of Education. All materials are in Serbian and nine languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian).

Ukrainian language

a. Provide bilingual education in the Ukrainian language at preschool, primary, secondary and vocational levels.

The Ministry of Education relies in its work on sectoral laws in the field of education, and when it comes to the education of national minorities, on the Law on National Councils of National Minorities. Pursuant to this law, national councils have broad powers in the field of curriculum

regulation, teaching and learning programmes, as well as in the field of obtaining textbooks in the languages of national minorities.

Bearing in mind the powers of the national councils of national minorities, the Ministry of Education always supports and encourages all initiatives of the national councils that contribute to improving the quality and accessibility of education in the languages of national minorities, which also applies to the Ukrainian national minority.

The National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority has not yet submitted an initiative to the Ministry of Education to teach the Ukrainian language bilingually at preschool, primary and secondary education levels. The procedure for implementing bilingual education is explained in the part of the Report that refers to the recommendation regarding the introduction of bilingual education in the German language.

The Ministry of Education therefore encourages the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority to start the application procedure for bilingual education in cooperation with schools that are interested in bilingual education and that meet the requirements prescribed by the Rulebook, because in addition to the abovementioned, bilingual education provides students with the opportunity to acquire inter-cultural and interdisciplinary openness.

At the moment, interested pupils can attend the elective programme of Ukrainian Language with Elements of National Culture which is implemented in Kula, Vrbas and Sremska Mitrovica, and the table below contains data on the number of pupils by grade, in the last three school years:

School year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total
2024/25	3	2	4	7	2	5	3	3	29
2023/24	2	4	5		14	14	12	12	63
2022/23	9	10	10	4	12	12	12	12	81

In the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year and the Supplement to the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year for members of the Ukrainian national minority, 8 textbooks for the first cycle of primary education have been approved.

The Ministry of Education observes and implements in practice the accessibility of the right to education, which is guaranteed for all children in the Republic of Serbia, and since the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis, it has undertaken a number of activities regarding the inclusion of refugee children from Ukraine in the educational process. Already in early April 2022, it sent the *Instruction on the Inclusion of Children from the Migrant and Refugee Population in the Education System of the Republic of Serbia* to all school administrations in which the influx of children from Ukraine has been registered. On this occasion, schools were provided with information about the education system in Ukraine in order to adapt teaching materials to the greatest extent possible and connect with the system from which the children come, as well as information on the organisation of the educational process for Ukrainian children who were evacuated from their places of permanent residence.

With the affirmative approach, children from vulnerable social groups, and these certainly include pupils who have fled from Ukraine, are enrolled in primary school without proof of parental residence and the necessary documentation, and with proof of the child's medical examination. Refugees and migrants are enrolled in secondary school in those secondary school courses where there are places after the second round of enrolment.

Schools in the Republic of Serbia already have extensive experience in including children of migrants who have been present since 2013, so children from Ukraine are immediately enrolled in schools and regularly attend classes. Taking into account the circumstances of the refugee situation, all schools are trained to introduce children into the system gradually with the primary goal of overcoming traumatic experiences and creating a friendly environment in which children feel safe and accepted.

Aware of the challenges faced by education system employees when including refugees, migrants and foreign citizens in teaching, the Ministry of Education actively supports schools that educate these social groups, both by strengthening the capacity of institutions and by improving the competencies of employees in the system for working with these students.

Additional support for the inclusion of refugee and migrant/asylum-seeking children and students in the regular education system in the Republic of Serbia is also provided in accordance with the Professional Instructions for the Inclusion of Refugee/Asylum-Seeking Students in the Education System, which more closely regulates the enrolment procedure and support measures both at the school level and through the support plan for migrant/asylum-seeking students.

Within the framework of the current Work Plan adopted by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, the implementation of the project is underway with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the education system and schools. Providing quality education for children on the move involves providing the necessary support for learning in schools (within the classroom and through extracurricular activities), including activities that stimulate the successful integration of children and contribute to their psychosocial well-being. The project supports schools with the largest number of refugee and migrant children, through the development of capacities for social inclusion and the provision of first psychological assistance to children coming from war-affected areas.

Bearing in mind that the language barrier is also evident among students who have fled from Ukraine, and that it is legally regulated that the institution organises the learning of Serbian as a foreign language for students who do not know the language of instruction, the Ministry has so far trained more than 600 teachers of Serbian and foreign languages in the implementation of the new curriculum for *Serbian as a Foreign Language*, and materials are available, as well as a Teacher's Manual on the website of the National Education Portal of the Institute for the Advancement of Education. However, given that the Ukrainian language is also studied in our system as one of the minority languages through an elective programme, the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority, translated a leaflet on the education system in the Republic of Serbia into Ukrainian. Also, in addition to Arabic and Farsi, part of the educational material is translated into Ukrainian. Educational content

is available to all teachers, students and parents on the website remis.rs.[21]

b. Encourage the introduction of the Ukrainian language into official use in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and additional municipalities in order to facilitate the implementation of the Charter.

According to the 2022 census, there are 3,969 Ukrainians living in the Republic of Serbia, of which 3,133 are in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, which is 0.18% of the total population of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The largest number of Ukrainians live in the following local self-government units: Kula (940), Vrbas (626), Sremska Mitrovica (333), Novi Sad (454) and Inđija (238). Observed by individual municipalities, Ukrainians are the most numerous, with a share of more than 2% compared to the total population of a particular municipality, in one municipality – in Kula (2.66%).

Compared to the 2011 census data, when the number of members of this national community in the AP Vojvodina was 4,202, it can be stated that their number decreased by 1,069, or 25%, and the largest decrease in the number of Ukrainians was recorded precisely in the local self-government units where the largest number of Ukrainians live: the municipalities of Kula (-344), Vrbas (-210) and the city of Sremska Mitrovica (-201).

Bearing in mind the abovementioned data from the last population census, pursuant to the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, which provides for a share of at least 15% in order for a certain (Ukrainian) language to be introduced into official use in local self-government units, does not exist. Likewise, there is no legal obligation to introduce the Ukrainian language into official use in the territory of a populated area, regardless of the entire territory of the local self-government unit.

Although there is no legal obligation, given the need and affirmative action measures that would be directed towards the Ukrainian national community, there is no obstacle to introducing the Ukrainian language and script into official use, if the interest and need are assessed, even if there is not the necessary percentage share of the Ukrainian population necessary for this, especially considering the already existing practices in that direction (the introduction of the Bunjevac language and script in Subotica in 2021, although there was no legal obligation regarding reaching the percentage share of the Bunjevac population in the City of Subotica).

In 2023 and 2024, the "Prosvita" Society for Ukrainian Language, Literature and Culture from Novi Sad organised round tables entitled "Languages of Minority Communities of Vojvodina - Achievements and Problems", which discussed the position of minority languages in the fields of education and information, the achievements and problems in the aforementioned areas in the last few years, the preservation of minority languages and their promotion, as well as the obligations under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the importance of local charters for minority languages in Serbia as instruments for the protection of minority languages. Representatives of national councils of national minorities, experts from the Council of

[21] https://remis.rs/%d1%80%d0%b5%d1%81%d1%83%d1%80%d1%81%d0%b8/

Europe, press and publishing institutions of national minorities, representatives of competent ministries and provincial secretariats, local self-government units, Radio and Television of Vojvodina, the Provincial Ombudsman and the civil sector participated in the work. Among other things, the topic of the round table was the prospects of the Ukrainian language, vision and possibilities for its introduction into official use.

c. In cooperation with representatives of Ukrainian language users, develop a comprehensive strategy for fulfilling the obligations of the Charter regarding this language.

Considering the concentration of members of the Ukrainian national minority in the municipality of Kula, the Kula Municipal Assembly adopted the Charter on Regional or Minority Languages of the Municipality of Kula at its session held on 9 November 2022. Emphasising the importance of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe, the said Charter stipulates that the Municipality of Kula shall, within the framework of its constitutional and legal powers, take all necessary measures to promote the use of the Hungarian, German, Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life, in order to preserve them in its territory and promote their development. By this act, the Municipality of Kula confirms that it will apply to the Ukrainian language those provisions of Part II of the Charter that fall within its constitutional and legal competences and that it will advocate for the application of the remaining provisions of Part II to these languages by other competent authorities. The Municipality of Kula undertakes to apply, within the framework of its constitutional and legal powers, and in accordance with needs and possibilities, the following provisions of Part III of the Charter to the Ukrainian language, as necessary in cooperation with other authorities:

1. to provide a significant part of primary education in the Ukrainian language, for those whose families wish so and whose number is considered sufficient;
2. to apply this measure at least to those students who wish so;
3. to provide for adult education through permanent courses that would be implemented mainly or entirely in the Ukrainian language;
4. to make arrangements to provide the teaching of history and culture related to the Ukrainian language;
5. with regard to education in territories outside the areas where the Ukrainian language is traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of speakers of that language justifies it, to approve, encourage or facilitate teaching in the Ukrainian language;
6. not to question the validity of legal documents solely because they were adopted in the Ukrainian language;
7. municipality shall undertake to provide the most important national legislative texts in the Ukrainian language, especially those concerning persons using this language, unless they have not obtained them in some other way;
8. use of the Ukrainian language within the framework of financing regional or local authorities;

9. the possibility for those who use the Ukrainian language to submit written or oral petitions in that language;

10. use, if necessary, together with the name in the official language of the state, traditional forms of place names in the Ukrainian language;

11. to enable, in accordance with the possibilities, the use of the Ukrainian language in public services;

12. to hire or, if necessary, train civil servants and other employees within the public services;

13. to meet, as far as possible, the requests of employees in public services who know the Ukrainian language to be hired in territories where this language is used;

14. the municipality shall undertake to allow the use and adoption of family names in the Ukrainian language, at the request of those interested;

15. to provide appropriate provisions owing to which programme presenters would offer content in the Ukrainian language;

16. to encourage or facilitate the establishment of at least one radio station in the Ukrainian language;

17. to encourage or facilitate the regular broadcasting of a television programme in the Ukrainian language;

18. to encourage or facilitate the production and distribution of audio or audiovisual works in the Ukrainian language;

19. to encourage or facilitate the creation and preservation of at least one newspaper in the Ukrainian language;

20. to assist the education of journalists and other employees of the media using the Ukrainian language;

21. to encourage forms of expression and initiatives specific to the Ukrainian language and to provide various ways of accessing artistic works produced in that language;

22. to encourage various means by which works composed in the Ukrainian language would become accessible, by assisting and developing translation, dubbing, and subtitles;

23. to improve the accessibility of the Ukrainian language to works produced in other languages, by providing translation, dubbing and subtitles;

24. to ensure that bodies responsible for organising or supporting various cultural activities make appropriate contributions to the inclusion of knowledge and use of the Ukrainian language and culture in all those undertakings they initiate or for which they provide financial support;

25. to promote measures to ensure that bodies responsible for organising and supporting cultural activities have at their disposal collaborators who are well versed in the Ukrainian language, as well as in the languages spoken by the rest of the population;

26. to encourage the direct participation of representatives of those who use the Ukrainian language in providing conditions and planning cultural activities;

27. to encourage and/or facilitate the establishment of one or more bodies responsible for collecting and preserving copies and presenting or publishing works produced in the Ukrainian language;

28. if necessary, to create and/or promote activities aimed at financing the translation or research of various linguistic terms, with particular regard to the maintenance and development of appropriate administrative, commercial, economic, social, technical or legal terms in the Ukrainian language;

29. to oppose practices aimed at discouraging the use of the Ukrainian language regarding economic and social activities;

30. to organise activities in the economic and social sector under their control (public sector) to promote the use of the Ukrainian language;

31. to ensure that all important warnings related to safety and security are displayed in the Ukrainian language;

32. to arrange that all information provided by the competent public authorities concerning consumer rights is available in the Ukrainian language.

Although no specific strategy has been developed for the implementation of the Charter's obligations regarding the Ukrainian language, the implementation of the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Municipality of Kula will significantly advance the implementation of the Republic of Serbia's obligations regarding the Ukrainian language.

Croatian language

a. Encourage respect, understanding and tolerance towards the Croatian language by including content about this language in curricula, teacher training and educational materials in regular education and encourage the mass media to work towards raising awareness about this in their reporting and training of journalists.

Observing the fundamental human right to education, the Republic of Serbia has provided conditions for every citizen to exercise their right to education in their mother tongue.

In the Rulebook on the Curriculum for the First Cycle of Primary Education and the Curriculum for the First Grade of Primary Education and other rulebooks referring to the Curriculum for the Second Cycle of Primary Education, the subject of Croatian Language and Croatian Language and Literature covers the following teaching areas: Croatian Language, Literature, Linguistic Expression, Elements of National Culture and Media Culture (in the Second Cycle). Elements of Croatian national culture, as well as elements of the national cultures of other nationalities living in the Republic of Serbia, are also studied through other subjects.

In addition to classic textbooks, all national minorities can use other teaching aids for the given subjects. This is a national supplement that is printed within the textbook or as a separate guidebook. The content of the national supplement follows the curriculum and programme of

teaching and learning that has been approved in accordance with the rulebooks on the curriculum and learning and the Law on Textbooks. The Croatian community has supplemented the following teaching and learning programmes: The World Around Us, Nature and Society, History, Geography, Fine Arts and Music, and the elective programme of Croatian Language with Elements of National Culture.

Through teaching areas that include the study of the Croatian language and other subjects, as well as through national supplements, students of the Croatian national minority can become acquainted with elements of tradition (customs, holidays, fairy tales, folk tales, tongue twisters, riddles), significant events from the life of Croats, cultural and historical monuments, figures from the history of Croats, with a review of historical events, the Catholic faith of Croats etc.

During 2024, under the auspices of the National Council of the Croatian National Minority, various events were held with the aim of developing the national spirit:

- Religious Education Olympiad in Totovo Selo, organised by the Catechetical Office of the Diocese of Subotica, which brought together over 500 children. The aim of the event was to increase the importance of religious education as a subject in schools among school principals and teachers and to encourage children to learn more about the Catholic faith and adopt it;

- Joint event of the Šokci associations "Šokci and Heritage" in Sonta. The aim of the event was to promote the preservation of the language and Croatian heritage in Monoštor and Sonta, where the Šokac ikavian dialect is cultivated;

- The "Ivan Goran Kovačić" Primary School in Đakovo and the "Matija Gubec" Primary School in Tavankut have been partners in the Serbia-Croatia cross-border cooperation programme for years. One of the activities is a mutual visit of students and teachers of these two schools to exchange experiences.

Pursuant to the Law on Textbooks, a list of textbooks approved for use in a particular school year is published on the website of the Ministry of Education. In the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year and the Supplement to the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/2 School Year for members of the Croatian national minority, 109 textbook titles have been approved.

When it comes to encouraging mass media to work in order to raise awareness of respect, understanding and tolerance towards the Croatian language and culture in their reports and training of journalists, the Ministry of Information and Telecommunications emphasises that in 2022 it supported 4 projects, of which 2 were for television and 2 for radio, for which funds in the amount of 2,293,000.00 dinars were allocated. In 2023, 3 projects were supported with the amount of 1,500,000.00 dinars, which were implemented on television, radio and via online media. In 2024, 4 projects were implemented, with 2 projects implemented on television, 1 project on radio and 1 project implemented via online media, for whose implementation 3,178,000.00 dinars were allocated.

Year	Number of projects	Allocated funds
2022	4	2,293,000.00 RSD
2023	3	1,500,000.00 RSD
2024	4	3,178,000.00 RSD

The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities also announces calls for proposals for co-financing media projects from the budget. During the year, the Secretariat announces a call for proposals for achieving public interest in media content in Serbian and languages of national minorities and for improving professional standards as well as informing vulnerable social groups. The following table provides an overview of supported projects in the Croatian language in the Provincial Secretariat calls for proposals in the period 2022-2024.

	Media content in Croatian	**Improvement of professional standards**	**Informing vulnerable social groups**
2022	"Weekly One-Hour News Show - Voice of Croatia" - 150,000.00	"The Importance of National Minority Media in Vojvodina" (Croatian Independent List) - 100,000.00	"Read Me the News" (Croatian Independent List) - 200,000.00
	"Radio Programme - Words of a Croat" - 200,000.00	"Croatian Language Course for Media Workers" - 100,000.00	
	"Cro-Info Online" - 200,000.00		
	"Voice of Banat, Pages in Croatian" - 150,000.00		
2023	"KROz Srbiju" (Through Serbia) (*Cros doo Subotica* Development and Information Agency) – 200,000.00	"The Importance of National Minority Media in Preservation of Identity" (Croatian Independent List)– 150,000.00	"Read Me All the News" (Croatian Independent List) - 200,000.00
	"Multilingual" (Radio Subotica - *Szabadkai radio doo Subotica*) - 800,000.00	"Training for Journalists of Minority Newsrooms "Traditional Media for the New Age"" (Croatian Association of Journalists - Cro-News) – 150,000.00	
	"Weekly One-Hour News Show - Voice of Croatia" -100,000.00		
	"Voice of Banat, Pages in Croatian" - 250,000.00		

	“Cronline News“ – 150.000,00		
	"Radio Programme in Croatian "Waves of the Plains" -150,000.00		
	"Media Coverage of Cultural Events" (Croatian Independent List) - 100,000.00		
	"Why Visit Vojvodina?" (Croatian Independent List) - 100,000.00		
2024	"Information in Hungarian, Croatian and Bunjevac" (*Radio Subotica - Szabadkai radio doo Subotica* - multilingual project) - 1,500,000.00 dinars;	"Seminar Aimed at Improving Professional Standards of Minority Media" (Croatian Association of Journalists "Cro-news") -150,000.00	
	"Voice of Banat, Pages in Croatian" - 400,000.00		
	"Weekly One-Hour News Show - Voice of Croatia" 150,000.00		
	"CrOnline Cohabitation - Media Content in Croatian" – 200,000.00		
	"Radio Programme in Croatian: Cultural Production and Heritage of Croats in Serbia - Its Phenomena" – 350,000.00		
TOTAL			**6,250,000.00**

It is important to note that in the reporting period, regular budget financing of newspapers that publish information in the languages of national minorities continued. The following table shows the funds for financing the "Hrvatska Riječ" Newspaper and Publishing Institution from Subotica, which publishes the weekly magazine *Hrvatska Riječ*, the monthly children's magazine *Hrcko*, and the monthly magazine for young people *Kužiš?!* in the Croatian language.

Publisher	2022	2023	2024
"Hrvatska Riječ" Newspaper and Publishing Institution	48,121,296.00	60,460,000.00	60,460,000.00

According to available data, in 2022, the city of Subotica funded two projects for the production of media content in the Croatian language through a call for proposal in the total amount of 750,000.00 dinars. In addition, the *Language Mosaic* Project of Subotica Radio, which broadcasts programmes in Serbian, Bunjevac, Hungarian and Croatian, was also funded in the amount of 2,000,000.00 dinars.

In 2023, two local self-government units funded four projects for the production of media content in the BCroatian language in the total amount of 850,000.00 dinars.

b. Encourage Croatian speakers to use their language in contacts with local branches of national authorities and facilitate the drafting of documents in the Croatian language by the aforementioned authorities.

In the school administrations of Sombor, Novi Sad and Zrenjanin, speakers of minority languages can speak in their own language in every school that implements part of the teaching or teaching entirely in the language of the national minority, since the teaching staff in bilingual schools is also bilingual.

- In the Sombor School Administration, various types of teaching are conducted in Hungarian, Croatian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Bunjevac languages;
- In the Novi Sad School Administration, various types of teaching are conducted in Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian and Roma languages;
- In the Zrenjanin School Administration, various types of teaching are conducted in Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak languages.

In bilingual schools, all information, data, questionnaires, etc., must be provided in Serbian and in the language of the national minority in which the teaching is conducted.

A student, parent or third party can contact the school in their native language in any school that implements part of the teaching or teaching entirely in the language of that national minority and receive an answer in the same language. School documents, such as class register, student booklets, certificates, final exam tests, school internal documents, questionnaires for parents, etc. must be translated into the languages of the minorities used in a particular school institution. In addition, textbooks for various subjects, teaching and learning plans and programmes, teacher preparation forms for teaching and records are also translated.

In the territory of the school administrations of Sombor, Novi Sad and Zrenjanin, various types of activities are held in the languages of national minorities, in the form of competitions, exhibitions, performances, festivals and others events, for the purpose of promoting and preserving cultural heritage.

Support for educational practice is available on the unified *Learning Passport* platform, which is located on the website of the Institute for the Advancement of Education. All materials are in Serbian and nine languages of national minorities (Roma, Albanian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Bosnian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Romanian).

Czech language

a. Provide bilingual education in Czech in Bela Crkva and Kovin at the preschool, primary and secondary school levels.

The Ministry of Education relies in its work on sectoral laws in the field of education, and when it comes to the education of national minorities, on the Law on National Councils of National Minorities. Pursuant to this law, national councils have broad powers in the field of curriculum regulation, teaching and learning programmes, as well as in the field of obtaining textbooks in the languages of national minorities.

Bearing in mind the powers of the national councils of national minorities, the Ministry of Education always supports and encourages all initiatives of the national councils that contribute to improving the quality and accessibility of education in the languages of national minorities, which also applies to the Czech national minority.

The National Council of the Czech National Minority has not yet submitted an initiative to the Ministry of Education to teach the Czech language bilingually at preschool, primary and secondary education levels. The procedure for implementing bilingual education is explained in the part of the Report that refers to the recommendation regarding the introduction of bilingual education in the German language.

The Ministry of Education encourages the National Council of the Czech National Minority to start the application procedure for bilingual education in cooperation with schools that are interested in bilingual education and that meet the requirements prescribed by the Rulebook, because in addition to the abovementioned, bilingual education provides students with the opportunity to acquire inter-cultural and interdisciplinary openness and intensive improvement of the foreign language in which part of the education is carried out.

At the moment, interested pupils can attend the elective programme of Czech Language with Elements of National Culture, and the table below contains data on the number of pupils by grade, in the last three school years, clearly showing that interest in this elective programme is growing year after year:

School year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total
2024/25	32	39	57	35	65	69	21	46	364
2023/24	58	59	56	38	32	18	28	18	307
2022/23	3	10	8		5	10	5	10	51

The National Council of the Czech National Minority should also submit to the Ministry of Education proposals for new textbooks for the elective programme, for all education levels, because currently in the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2024/25 School Year andthe Supplement to the Catalogue of Textbooks in National Minority Languages for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools for

the 2024/25 School Year for members of the Czech national minority there are only three textbooks.

Annexes

1 Report on the Implementation of the Local Charter on Regional or Minority Languages of the Municipality of Kanjiža

INTRODUCTION

At the initiative of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority, with the support of the Council of Europe, at its session held on 24 June 2024, the Assembly of the Municipality of Kanjiža adopted the Local Charter on Regional or Minority Languages of the Municipality of Kanjiža (*The Official Journal of the Municipality of Kanjiža*, No. 11/2021). The legal grounds for the adoption of this document is established in the provisions of Article 190, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (*The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 98/2006) and Article 20, Paragraph 1, Item 10 of the Law on Local Self-Government (*The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 129/2007, 83/2014 - other law, 101/2016 - other law and 47/2018), which stipulate that the Municipality shall provide the exercise, protection and promotion of human and minority rights, as well as public information in the municipality. Article 40, Item 74) of the Statute of the Municipality of Kanjiža (*The Official Journal of the Municipality of Kanjiža*, No. 2/2020 - consolidated text) establishes that pursuant to the law, the Municipal Assembly shall adopt measures and recommendations for the improvement of human and minority rights.

The Local Charter on Regional or Minority Languages of the Municipality of Kanjiža (hereinafter: the Local Charter) regulates the rights and obligations that the Municipality of Kanjiža shall assume from the European Charter, in various areas of public life, in order to ensure the protection and promotion of the linguistic rights of speakers of the Hungarian language, since the Hungarian language is in official use in the territory of the Municipality.

By adopting the Local Charter, the Municipality of Kanjiža assumed obligations in the areas of public life concerning education, administrative authority and public services, public media, cultural activities and amenities, economic and social life and cross-border exchange. The text of this Report will further explain how the rights and obligations provided for in the Local Charter are implemented in the aforementioned areas of public life.

1. FIELD OF EDUCATION

In the field of education, the Local Charter stipulates that the Municipality shall undertake to:

a) provide pre-school education in the Hungarian language;
b) provideprimary educationin the Hungarian language;
c) provide secondary education in the Hungarian language;
d) provide technical or specialist education in the Hungarian language;
e) provide adult education through permanent courses that would be held mainly or entirely in the Hungarian language;
f) make arrangements to provide the teaching of history and culture related to the Hungarian language;

g) provide the basic and further training of teachers necessary to implement the provisions established in pitems a. to g. of this Paragraph.

In the field of **preschool education**, preschool education is provided in the territory of the municipality of Kanjiža by the "Naši Biseri" Preschool Institution founded by the municipality of Kanjiža.

The "Naši Biseri" Preschool Institution covers 9 settlements in the municipality of Kanjiža and provides educational programmes in 11 facilities, with a total of 591 children. As for the education in the Hungarian language by facility, the situation in November 2024 is as follows:

- In the "Naši Biseri" facility in Kanjiža, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in four groups with 84 children, of which 12 children attend the preparatory preschool programme.
- In the "Maslačak" facility in Kanjiža, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in five kindergarten groups with 115 children, of which 29 children attend the preparatory preschool programme.
- In the "Sunčica" facility in Kanjiža, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in three nursery groups with 47 children.
- In the "Suncokret" facility in Horgoš, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in six groups with 120 children, of which 33 children attend the preparatory preschool programme.
- In the "Bela Rada" facility in Male Pijace, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in two groups with 30 children, of which 9 children attend the preparatory preschool programme.
- In the "Duga" facility in Martonoš, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in two groups with 38 children, of which 13 children attend the preparatory preschool programme.
- In the "Zvezdica" facility in Adorjan, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in one kindergarten group with 14 children, of which 6 children attend the preparatory preschool programme.
- In the "Futrinka" facility in Trešnjevac, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in two groups with 32 children, of which 13 children attend the preparatory preschool programme.
- In the "Kutak" facility in Totovo Selo, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in one group with 19 children, of which 8 children attend the preparatory preschool programme.
- In the "Liliput" facility in Orom, preschool education in the Hungarian language is provided in two kindergarten groups with 30 children, of which 8 children attend the preparatory preschool programme.

From the abovementioned, it can be concluded that the municipality of Kanjiža provides preschool education in Hungarian for all ages of children. Moreover, the budget of the municipality of Kanjiža finances the attendance of the preschool programme and the stay of children in the preschool institution.

The work of the Institution includes the use of the Hungarian language within the framework of work, thus enabling parents/legal representatives of children to exercise their rights and obtain information in their native (Hungarian) language.

All documents in the work are published in Hungarian, submitted to all relevant authorities (Board of Directors, Parents' Council, Educational Council, Kanjiža Municipal Assembly), as well as on the official website of the preschool institution, also in Hungarian.

The Municipality of Kanjiža finances professional development of preschool employees, both in the official language of the country as well as in Hungarian.

In the field of **primary education** in the territory of the Municipality of Kanjiža, primary education is provided by the "Jovan Jovanović Zmaj" Primary School in Kanjiža, the "Karas Karolina" Primary School in Horgoš and the "Arany János" Primary School in Trešnjevac.

The **"Jovan Jovanović Zmaj" Primary School in Kanjiža** is attended by a total of 791 students in the 2024/2025 school year.

Educational work is performed in Hungarian and Serbian.

The central school is located in Kanjiža, with 20 classes from 1st to 8th grade, with a total of 310 students. In this facility, 51 students (in 4 classes) attend classes in Serbian and 259 in Hungarian (in 16 classes).

In the satellite unit in Kanjiža, there are 27 classes from 1st to 8th grades with a total of 352 students. In this facility, 37 students (in 4 classes) attend classes in Serbian and 315 in Hungarian as the language of instruction (in 23 classes).

In the satellite unit in Martonoš, there are 10 classes from 1st to 8th grades with a total of 96 students. In this facility, 12 students (in 2 classes) attend classes in Serbian and 84 in Hungarian as the language of instruction (in 8 classes).

In the satellite unit in Adorjan, there are 4 classes from 1st to 4th grades with a total of 25 students. The language of instruction is Hungarian.

In the satellite unit in Velebit, there is 1 class (combined grades from from 1st to 4th) with a total of 8 students. The language of instruction is Serbian.

The school has 142 employees, 99 of whom are teachers. All teachers use and speak Hungarian and Serbian.

Within the framework of compulsory education, special attention is paid to the preservation of culture and tradition in the lessons of History, Music, Art, Religious Education and Civic Education.

In addition to compulsory subjects, the school also organises free educational activities such as: Nature Guardians, Life Skills, My Environment and Entrepreneurship, within which special focus is on learning about tradition, culture and the preservation of cultural heritage.

In addition to these activities, choir singing sections are also organised, within which students acquire special knowledge about Hungarian and Serbian cultures.

Primary education for pupils in Horgoš and Male Pijace is provided by the **"Karas Karolina" Primary School**, with the seat in Horgoš and a satellite unit in Male Pijace. Lessons are held in Hungarian in a total of 31 classes - 23 in Horgoš and 8 in Male Pijace.

In addition to primary education, functional primary education for adults in Hungarian is also provided in 3 classes in Horgoš.

The local self-government contributes financially to the institution's work annually in the amount of 22,150,000.00 dinars. The local self-government is open to cooperation and supports the work of the institution in other ways, such as supporting and assisting in the initiation and implementation of various projects.

The **"Arany János" Primary School in Trešnjevac** is attended by a total of 209 students in the 2024/2025 school year.

Educational work is solely performed in Hungarian.

The central school is located in Trešnjevac, with 8 classes from 1st to 8th grade, with a total of 98 students. In the satellite unit in Orom, there are also 8 classes from 1st to 8th grades with a total of 74 students. In the satellite unit in Totovo Selo, there are 7 classes from 1st to 8th grades (without the 6th grade) with a total of 37 students. The school has 61 employees, 42 of whom are teachers. All teachers use and speak Hungarian.

Within the framework of compulsory education, special attention is paid to the preservation of culture and tradition in the lessons of History, Music, Art, Religious Education and Civic Education.

In addition to compulsory subjects, the school also organises free educational activities such as: Everyday life in the Past and Home Economics, within which special emphasis is put on learning about tradition, culture and the preservation of cultural heritage.

In addition to these activities, choir singing sections are also organised, within which students acquire special knowledge about Hungarian culture (choir, drama section, folklore).

In the area of secondary education in the territory of the municipality of Kanjiža, secondary education is provided by the **"Besedes József" Agricultural and Technical Secondary School Centre in Kanjiža.**

There are 14 classes and 174 students in the school.

In secondary school, subjects are taught in Hungarian. Graduation and final exams are also organised in Hungarian.

The curriculum in History and Hungarian Language and Literature covers Hungarian culture, history, and helps students preserve their national identity.

Through the "Borderless" programme, our students went to Cegléd, Budapest, Pécs, Szentgotthard to learn about Hungarian culture, history and geography. On that occasion, they met their peers from Hungary and went on trips together (about 80 students each year).

Celebrating important dates at school:

- Honouring all martyrs and heroes of the Hungarian liberation struggle and revolution of 1848/49 (6 October).
- The day of the beginning of the revolution and liberation struggle on 23 October, 1956 in Hungary
- Saint Nicholas (6 December)
- Christmas show
- Hungarian Culture Day (22 January)
- Revolution and Liberation Struggle Day of 1848/49 (15 March)

- St. Stephen's Day (20 August)

School students regularly attend theatre performances organised by the "Cnesa" Educational Cultural Institution from Kanjiža and the "József Attila" Kanjiža Library.

Participating in international competitions in Hungary provides many opportunities for students, because it can not only contribute to their professional development, but also helps in gaining cultural experience and establishing contacts.

The Municipality of Kanjiža, the Ministry of Education and the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority regularly meet the needs of this school and provide all necessary conditions for the preservation of the cultural identity of the Hungarian national minority.

The Municipality of Kanjiža is also the founder of the **Kanjiža Primary Music School.** At the Music School, classes are held in Hungarian in all groups of *solfeggio* (a total of 27 groups), chamber music (6 groups), choir (1 group) and preparatory programme (1 group), as well as within individual classes, in 9 settlements in the municipality.

The Regional Centre for Professional Development of Employees in Education in Kanjiža is also an institution founded by the Municipality of Kanjiža, through which the rights and obligations in the field of education from the Local Charter are exercised.

The Regional Centre has made it possible to conduct programmes from the “Digital World” series in Hungarian. As part of this programme, lower grade students attend a class at the Centre once a month during the school year, which includes about 300 students and 20 teachers in a total of 18 groups.

The Regional Centre constantly organises training courses for teachers throughout the year. These training sessions enable Hungarian mother tongue teachers to attend classes in their mother tongue, which greatly facilitates their professional development.

As the founder and maintainer of the Centre, the local self-government provides conditions for its work and the achievement of its budget objectives.

2. FIELD OF ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY AND PUBLIC SERVICES

With regard to the exercise of municipal authority, the Municipality has undertaken, by the Local Charter, to approve or encourage:

a) the use of the Hungarian language within the work of local authorities;

b) the possibility for those who use the Hungarian language to submit written or oral petitions in that language;

c) that the local self-government publishes its official documents in Hungarian;

d) the use of the Hungarian language in the Municipal Assembly, without neglecting the use of the official language of the country;

e) the use, if necessary, together with the name in the official language of the country, of traditional forms of place names in the Hungarian language.

With regard to public services provided by administrative authorities or persons acting on their behalf, the Municipality shall undertake, within the territory of the Municipality, to the extent reasonably possible:
a) to ensure that the Hungarian language is used in public services.
In order to implement the provisions contained in Paragraphs 1 and 2, the Municipality shall undertake the following obligations:
a) translation and interpretation when necessary;
b) hiring, or if necessary, the training, of civil servants and other employees within the public services.

The municipality shall undertake to allow the use and adoption of family names in the Hungarian language, at the request of those interested.

As for the use of the Hungarian language **within the work of local authorities**, in the municipal bodies (Municipal Assembly, Municipal Council, Mayor and Municipal Administration) the Hungarian language is used on equal grounds as Serbian. This is also guaranteed by Article 6 of the Statute of the Municipality of Kanjiža (*The Official Journal of the Municipality of Kanjiža*, No. 2/2020-consolidated text), which establishes that the Serbian language and Cyrillic script and the Hungarian language and its script shall be in official use in the territory of the Municipality. In this field, the Municipality of Kanjiža fulfils all obligations stipulated by the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts (*The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, Nos. 45/91, 53/93, 67/93, 48/94, 101/2005 - other law, 30/2010, 47/2018 and 48/2018 - amended).

For those citizens who use the Hungarian language, it is possible to submit written or oral petitions in that language, for the purpose of which there are forms in Hungarian and the fact is that not a single petition has been rejected because it was submitted in Hungarian.

The publication of official documents in Hungarian is carried out in such manner that the official website of the Municipality of Kanjiža is bilingual, as are the pages on social media and the *The Official Journal of the Municipality of Kanjiža* is also published in Hungarian.

The use of the Hungarian language in the **Municipal Assembly**, without neglecting the use of the official language of the country, is achieved in such manner that the material for the Assembly sessions is prepared in both Serbian and Hungarian. At the Municipal Assembly sessions, we hire a simultaneous interpreter who translates from Serbian to Hungarian, but also *vice versa*.

The use, if necessary, together with the name in the official language of the country, of traditional forms of place names in Hungarian is implemented in such a way that traditional place names are established by the Statute of the Municipality of Kanjiža in Hungarian in the same way as in Serbian, and on official signboards of populated places the names are also written in Hungarian.

In public services in the territory of the Municipality of Kanjiža, the Hungarian language is used to the same extent as Serbian.

Translation and interpretation are organised in such manner that the municipality engages official translators who translate official documents, simultaneous interpreters at sessions, but if necessary also in work with clients.

As for the engagement, or if necessary, training, of civil servants and other employees within the framework of public services in the bodies of the Municipality of Kanjiža, out of 81 employees, 75 also speak Hungarian.

3. FIELD OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEDIA

In the area of public information media, the Municipality has undertaken to cover the additional costs of those public media using the Hungarian language in the territory of the Municipality, to the extent that the Municipality, directly or indirectly, has competence, power or plays a relevant role in this area, and respecting the principle of independence and autonomy of the public media, in cases where the law otherwise provides for financial support for public media; or to apply existing financial support measures to audiovisual production in the Hungarian language.

In this regard, the Municipality of Kanjiža, pursuant to the Law on Public Information and Media (*The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 92/23) and the Rulebook on Co-financing of Projects for the Achievement of Public Interest in the Field of Public Information (*The Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia*, No. 6/24), shall announce a Call for Proposals for co-financing projects for the production of media content in the field of public information in the territory of the Municipality of Kanjiža. Based on the call for proposals conducted in 2024, the local television station that uses the Hungarian language in its programme received support funds: *Tisapartfest d.o.o.* Kanjiža (media name: *Info Tv Tiszapart*) - 2,000,000.00 dinars. By applying other financial support measures, support is also received through public procurement by *Panda Radio* - the local radio station, *RTV Panon* - the regional television station and "Magyar Szo" - the daily newspaper in the Hungarian language.

The municipality has undertaken to support the education of journalists and other employees in public information media that use the Hungarian language. This obligation is met by implementing professional practice of students - beneficiaries of the municipal scholarship in the field of communication in the form of 10 working days in the media in the territory of the municipality of Kanjiža in order to increase their employment opportunities after obtaining a diploma.

The municipality has also undertaken the obligation to ensure that the interests of users of the Hungarian language are represented and taken into account by creating appropriate bodies that would be in accordance with the law and the responsibilities that exist when guaranteeing freedom and pluralism of the media. The municipality of Kanjiža cooperates closely on these issues, primarily with the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority, as a body for the protection of the interests of the Hungarian national minority and in the field of information. The Municipality of Kanjiža regularly participates in public debates organised during the process of adopting legal acts in the field of public information with the aim of protecting the right of members of the Hungarian national community to information in their native language.

4. FIELD OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

In terms of cultural activities and facilities, in particular libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres or cinemas, as well as literary works or film productions, various forms of cultural expression, festivals and cultural industries, including the use of new technologies, the Municipality undertakes to have the authority or play an appropriate role within the territory of the Municipality, and to the extent that the Municipality is competent for tthe following:

a) to encourage forms of expression and initiatives specific to the Hungarian language and to provide various ways of accessing artistic works produced in that language;

b) to encourage various means by which works composed in the Hungarian language would become accessible, by assisting and developing translation, dubbing, and subtitles;

c) to improve the accessibility of the Hungarian language to works produced in other languages, by providing translation, dubbing and subtitles in Hungarian;

d) to ensure that bodies responsible for organising or supporting various cultural activities make appropriate contributions to the inclusion of knowledge and use of the Hungarian language and culture in all those undertakings they initiate or for which they provide financial support;

e) to improve measures to ensure that bodies responsible for organising and supporting cultural activities have at their disposal collaborators who are well versed in the Hungarian language as well as in the languages spoken by the rest of the population;

f) to encourage the direct participation of representatives of those who use the Hungarian language in providing conditions and planning cultural activities;

g) if necessary, to create and/or promote activities aimed at financing the translation or research of various linguistic terms, with particular regard to the maintenance and development of appropriate administrative, commercial, economic, social, technical or legal terms in the Hungarian language.

The Municipality undertakes to make appropriate provisions when creating its own cultural policy, which will include the Hungarian language and the culture it reflects.

Three cultural institutions have been established by the Municipality in the territory of the Municipality of Kanjiža: "Cnesa" KanjižaEducational and Cultural Institution, "József Attila" Library in Kanjiža and the Regional Creative Ateliers.

As of 2019, the **"Cnesa" Kanjiža Educational and Cultural Institution** has been organising the Dr. György Pape Memoir Competition, Poetry Days, an introduction to the secrets of the stage for 7th grade primary school pupils, an amateur theatre group, a visit to a gallery in Hungarian, regular theatre performances and other programmes in Hungarian.

The exhibitions organised by the Institution are also written in Hungarian, posters, announcements and programmes are made in several languages, and oral announcements and translations are provided at exhibitions and performances in Hungarian.

The majority of the Institution's programmes are in Hungarian, and the performers themselves speak Hungarian at an excellent level.

The organiser of the Institution's programmes obtained a degree at the University of Novi Sad - Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Hungarian Language and is also fluent in Serbian. The institution works closely with local Hungarian cultural associations, is open to their suggestions and opinions, and is guided by the principles of bilingualism when planning the programme.

The **"József Attila" Library in Kanjiža** organises its events and programmes for children and adults in Hungarian or bilingually.

Publications published by the Library, which refer to the Institution itself, are published both in Serbian and Hungarian.

The employees of the Library are native speakers of both Serbian and Hungarian, with employees of Serbian nationality also speaking Hungarian perfectly and *vice versa*.

On the official website of the Institution, the most important information about the Institution is available in both languages.

On the official social media profile of the Institution, the content is bilingual.

The Institution's online catalogue (https://opac3.magyarkanizsa.qulto.eu/) is available in four languages (Hungarian, Serbian, German and Romanian).

The institution has published several books in Hungarian.

The Regional Creative Atelier organises lectures in Hungarian, performances by Hungarian lecturers and artists, as well as programmes dedicated to the cultivation of Hungarian folk customs, with the aim of preserving and passing tradition from generation to generation.

The Institution's programmes conducted in Hungarian are also promoted in Serbian. For example, posters, Facebook events and all other marketing advertising are bilingual.

At concerts organised by the institution, the programme is also printed in Hungarian.

5. FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE

Regarding economic and social activities, the Municipality has undertaken the following obligations in its territory:

a) to oppose practices aimed at discouraging the use of the Hungarian language regarding economic and social activities;

With regard to economic and social activities, the Municipality shall undertake, to the extent of its competence and to the extent possible:

b) to organise activities in the economic and social sector under their control (public sector) to improve the use of the Hungarian language;

c) to ensure that all social security facilities, such as hospitals, nursing homes and the like, offer such accommodation and treatment options in Hungarian to those using them who are in need of appropriate care due to impaired health, old age or other reasons;

d) to ensure that all important warnings related to safety and security are displayed in the Hungarian language;

e) to arrange that all information provided by the competent public authorities concerning consumer rights is available in the Hungarian language.

In the field of economic life, the Municipality of Kanjiža is the founder of the *POTISKI VODOVODI-TISZEMNTI VIZMUVEK“ DOO HORGOŠ* Company and the *"KOMUNALAC" KANJIŽA* Public Utility Company, which perform utility activities in the territory of the Municipality of Kanjiža.

The companies ensure that employees communicate with users and business partners in Hungarian in all areas of service. Each service has at least one employee who speaks Hungarian and who can provide information to users, thus facilitating the joint activities.

The *"POTISKI VODOVODI-TISZEMNTI VIZMUVEK" DOO HORGOŠ* Company prints bills for consumed water for consumers of general consumption - for households in both languages: Serbian and Hungarian so that all users have the same access to information on the status of consumption and water debt.

COMPLAINT REGISTRATION FORMS are available in Hungarian as well at the locations where complaints are received from citizens.

The company's price lists are also published in Hungarian, ensuring that Hungarian-speaking users can easily access prices and services. The website and Facebook page are also available in two languages, allowing users to find information in their preferred language. Posts published on social networks are displayed in two languages simultaneously.

All Company`s financial reports are published in Hungarian translation, so that the Company's business and financial situation become available to Hungarian-speaking customers and partners. The Company publishes all information of public interest in Hungarian and Serbian, ensuring that customers in both languages can easily access the necessary information. This step contributes to the reduction of communication barriers and the transparency of services, allowing users in Hungarian and Serbian to be informed about the Company's activities and services.

The Company pays special attention to security, so all security notices and warnings are posted in Hungarian.

The Company is committed to encouraging the use of the Hungarian language. This not only serves to reduce communication barriers, but also contributes to a safe and efficient service for users.

The "KOMUNALAC" KANJIŽA Public Utility Company - the price lists of the public utility company are also published in Hungarian, ensuring that Hungarian-speaking users can easily access prices and services.

The website is available in two languages, allowing users to find information in their preferred language. Posts published on social networks are displayed in two languages simultaneously.

All Company`s financial reports are published in Hungarian translation, so that the Company's business and financial situation become available to Hungarian-speaking customers and partners. The Public Company publishes all information of public interest in Hungarian and Serbian, ensuring that customers in both languages can easily access the necessary information.

In the sphere of social life in the territory of the Municipality of Kanjiža, the Red Cross of Kanjiža and the Centre for Providing Social Welfare Services of Kanjiža are involved in social life.

In the work of the Red Cross of Kanjiža, bilingualism is achieved in every field.

Official documents (Statute, annual programmes, reports) are in both languages.

Notices and information for blood donors are also bilingual.

Information published in social media is in both languages.

Service users (national welfare meals, participants in first aid training) receive notices, training, and necessary documents in Serbian or Hungarian, depending on their needs.

Flyers for all programmes are translated and used in both languages.

In order to implement all these activities in both languages, the Municipality contributes by financing the work of the institution.

In the **Kanjiža Social Welfare Service Centre**, the use of the Hungarian language is provided in the following manner:

- in the day care centre, service users, as well as employees of the institution, communicate in Hungarian as well,
- between the parents of the users and employees of the Centre, both written and oral communication is carried out to the same extent in Hungarian, applications are submitted in Hungarian as well and certificates are also issued in Hungarian.
- spreadsheets and directories of users and minutes are drawn up in Hungarian,
- annual programme and report of the Centre are also prepared in Hungarian.

6. FIELD OF CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE

In the field of cross-border exchange within the **Interreg IPA Hungary-Serbia** programme, 3 partnership agreements have been concluded so far between the Municipality of Kanjiža and a partner from Hungary whose working language is Hungarian: TRANSDIA, INCIRCLE and COOLSCHOOL.

Other projects for which partnership agreements have been concluded within the **Interreg IPA Hungary-Serbia** where the working language is Hungarian, although this is not explicitly stated in the partnership agreement, are as follows: JERICO, AFALL, BEST WASTEWATER, Inter Pingpong in schools,
PARKS4ALL, CASTLE and JOURNEY.

2. Report on the Implementation of the Local Charter on Regional or Minority Languages of the Municipality of Kula

On 9 November, 2022, the Municipality of Kula adopted the Charter on Regional or Minority Languages of the Municipality of Kula. The adopted Charter has been defined according to the proposed model, however, the activities envisaged by the Charter have been taking place continuously in the Municipality of Kula for many years even before the adoption of the Charter, and have certainly continued after its adoption.

Among the activities that contribute to the achievement of objectives and activities envisaged by the Charter, we highlight the following:

- In the Municipality of Kula, local media continuously provide information to citizens in Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Hungarian and German through newspapers, radio and television. Apart from the public service (RTV), this is the only media that provides information in this number of minority languages, which was supported through calls for proposals of the local self-government unit for information media.
- The local media outlet that provides information in minority languages is the Kula Information and Advertising Centre, which publishes the monthly newspaper called *Kulska Komuna*, with two pages in Ruthenian and two pages in Hungarian. This media outlet broadcasts a programme in Ukrainian on its radio for 60 minutes a week, in Ruthenian every weekday for 90 minutes and on Sundays for 60 minutes, and in Hungarian every weekday for 90 minutes and on Sundays for 60 minutes. The programme in German is broadcast for 30 minutes a month. The media outlet's online portal publishes news in Hungarian and Ruthenian.
- Funds were awarded based on the Public Call for Participation in the Competition for Co-financing Projects with Funds from the Budget of the Municipality of Kula with the aim of achieving and improving public interest in the field of public information for the territory of the Municipality of Kula in the languages of national minorities, as follows: In 2022 - 1,000,000.00 dinars, in 2023 - 1,000,000.00 dinars, in 2024 - 110,000.00 dinars.
- In the field of education, there is continuity of preschool education in Hungarian, Ruthenian and Serbian, as well as primary education in Serbian, Hungarian and Ruthenian. There is also secondary education in Ruthenian in one secondary school.
- In primary schools in Kula, there are subjects of Ukrainian, Hungarian, Ruthenian as languages of the social environment, as well as German as a foreign language that all students can attend.
- In the municipality of Kula, the work of four national councils is supported, two of which (the National Council of Ruthenians and the National Council of Ukrainians) are based in the municipality of Kula.
- Through the financing of the Tourist Organisation of the Municipality of Kula, 17 events annually that foster minority languages, customs and culture are traditionally organised and financed.

- In the Municipality of Kula, the following languages are used equally to the official use: Serbian, Hungarian and Ruthenian, and officers who speak the aforementioned languages as their mother tongue are found both in the municipal administration service and among holders of offices in local self-government.
- In the past five years, there have been no recorded requests from clients in the languages of national minorities submitted to the Municipal Administration of Kula. Official documents and the Official Journal of the Municipality of Kula are issued in Serbian, if necessary, there is a possibility of issuing them in Ruthenian and Hungarian. Certificates from the registers are also issued bilingually, if the person for whom the document is requested is registered in a minority language.
- All public institutions are marked with trilingual signs in Serbian, Hungarian and Ruthenian, as well as all signboards with the names of settlements at the entrances and exits of all settlements in the territory of the Kula Municipality, while street names are bilingual in Serbian and Hungarian, except in the settlement of Ruski Krstur where street names are written in Ruthenian and Serbian.
- In the Kula Municipal Administration, there is a possibility of for citizens to contact the institution in Serbian, Hungarian and Ruthenian, for which there are translators employed by the Kula Municipal Administration. Since the Ukrainian language is not in official use in the Kula Municipality, we do not have translators employed for that language. However, there are employees whose mother tongue is the abovementioned language, and in exceptional situations, oral communication in Ukrainian is also possible.
- In order to fully implement the Charter, representatives of the Municipality of Kula held an online meeting with representatives of the Council of Europe on 28 October, 2024, with the aim of implementing the Charter, at which further cooperation was agreed through mentoring support from representatives of the Council of Europe in the development of an Action Plan for the implementation of the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Municipality of Kula.

3. Number of speakers of minority languages by nationality in the 2022 census

	Native language																	
Nationality	**Serbian**	**Albanian**	**Bosnian**	**Bulgarian**	**Bunjevac**	**Vlach**	**Hungarian**	**Macedonian**	**German**	**Roma**	**Romanian**	**Ruthenian**	**Slovak**	**Ukrainian**	**Croatian**	**Czech**	**Other languages and unknown**	**Total number of members**
Serbs	5,336,690	137	163	163	20	6,814	1,465	976	177	375	568	102	300	63	550	32	11,644	5,360,239
Albanians	690	60,666	41	0	0	1	12	3	3	4	0	2	3	0	3	0	259	61,687
Bosniaks	10,197	7	143,014	0	0	0	1	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	568	153,801
Bulgarians	4,566	0	1	7,515	0	5	47	6	1	3	4	0	6	0	0	0	764	12,918
Bunjevci	7,021	0	1	0	2,897	0	220	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	79	0	881	11,104
Vlachs	4,755	0	0	2	0	15,601	0	7	0	2	138	0	0	0	0	0	508	21,013
Gorani	4,897	7	23	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2,738	7,700
Yugoslavs	19,194	42	39	18	25	16	1,080	137	20	16	44	20	118	4	148	0	6,222	27,143
Hungarians	18,558	1	1	3	53	0	163,735	6	44	20	34	136	92	0	86	0	1,673	184,442
Macedonians	7,535	11	0	1	0	2	6	6,733	2	5	2	1	4	0	4	0	461	14,767
Muslims	9,803	870	1,283	0	0	0	3	30	1	206	0	1	1	0	2	0	811	13,011
Germans	1,433	0	2	0	6	1	160	0	799	2	5	0	7	0	10	0	148	2,573
Roma	47,371	1,250	10	26	0	112	559	51	15	78,598	1,039	3	7	0	8	0	2,887	131,936
Romanians	3,182	0	0	0	0	158	17	4	6	16	19,224	0	12	0	1	1	423	23,044
Russians	768	0	0	1	0	0	10	2	1	3	0	8	1	5	2	1	9,684	10,486
Ruthenians	2,959	0	0	0	0	0	24	1	1	0	1	8,364	11	3	1	0	118	11,483
Slovaks	3,718	0	0	0	0	0	91	1	3	2	4	12	37,540	5	9	3	342	41,730
Slovenians	1,663	0	2	0	0	0	31	5	6	0	2	3	15	1	14	2	1,085	2,829

Ukrainians	2,168	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	9	4	1,397	0	0	383	3,969
Croats	20,472	0	53	0	217	0	215	2	14	0	15	14	30	2	10,737	2	7,334	39,107
Montenegrins	17,885	0	2	0	0	0	11	2	2	1	0	6	5	0	5	0	2,319	20,238
Czechs	861	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	6	387	52	1,317
Others	7,490	2,155	76	36	25	163	337	106	171	203	128	6	55	15	63	3	10,611	21,643
They declared themselves in terms of regional affiliation	9,494	57	482	2	15	13	491	12	6	4	17	5	67	2	33	2	1,227	11,929
They did not declare themselves.	44,078	128	70	144	55	233	1,882	162	66	105	177	24	212	20	190	8	88,644	136,198
Unknown	20,971	144	64	27	6	95	477	91	44	117	75	9	93	10	98	4	299,688	322,013
Total number of speakers	**5,607,558**	**65,475**	**145,329**	**7,939**	**3,319**	**23,216**	**170,875**	**8,375**	**1,389**	**79,687**	**21,477**	**8,725**	**38,584**	**1,527**	**12,048**	**445**	**451,035**	**6,647,003**