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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

SERBIA

The Republic of Serbia

THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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Belgrade, January 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to Article 15 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter: the Charter), which was ratified by the Law on Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Official Gazette of SCG - International Treaties, No. 18/05), The Republic of Serbia submits the Fifth Periodic Report on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter: the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter) for the period 2016-2018, prepared in accordance with the Revised draft for the three-year periodic reports (MIN-LANG (2009) 8), which was adopted at the 1056th session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, on 6th of May, 2009.

2. The Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter was drawn up in the Office for Human and Minority Rights. The following state bodies have participated in its production: Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Service of the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa, as well as the 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.

3. To participate in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, all local self-government units with a minority language in official use, as well as local self-government units with a significant number of national minorities members, were invited, and the following responded: Ada, Alibunar, Apatin, Babušnica, Bac, Bačka Palanka, Bačka Topola, Bački Petrovac, Bela Crkva, Beočin, Bečej, Bojnik, Boljevac, Bor, Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vladičin Han, Vranje, Vrbas, Vršac, Golubac, Dimitrovgrad, Doljevac, Žabalj, Žagubica, Žitiste, Žitoradja, Zrenjanin, Inđija, Irig, Kanjiža, Kikinda, Kovačica, Kovin, Koceljeva, Kula, Kučevo, Lajkovac, Lebane, Leskovac, Majdanpek, Mali Iđos, Medveđa, Merošina, Negotin, Niš, Nova Varoš, Nova Crnja, Novi Bečej, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Pančevo, Petrovac na Mlavi, Pećinci, Plandiste, Preševo, Priboj, Prijepolje, Senta, Sečanj, Sombor, Srbobran, Sremska Mitrovica, Sremski Karlovci, Stara Pazova, Subotica, Surdulica, Temerin, Titel, Čoka and Šid. All administrative districts covering units of local self-government in which some of the minority languages are in official use were also invited to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter: Jablanica, South Bačka, South Banat, Pirot, Pčinj, Raška, North Bačka, North Banat, Central Banat, Srem, West Bačka and Zlatibor administrative districts.

4. The contributions for the preparation of the Report were also provided by the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media; the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts; University of Belgrade (Faculty of Philology and Faculty of Teacher Education); University of Novi Sad (Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Science, Academy of Arts); University of Kragujevac (Faculty of Philology and Arts); University of Niš (Faculty of Philosophy); Novi Pazar State University; High School for Vocational Studies for Educators Novi Sad; High School for Vocational Studies for Educators "Mihailo Pavlov" Vršac; High School for Vocational Studies for Educators and Trainers Subotica and High School for Technical Vocational Studies Subotica. Public companies were consulted in the preparation of the report, of which the following took part: EPS Distribucija, PE Post of Serbia and PE Srbijagas.

5. National Councils of National Minorities were invited to participate in the preparation of the Report by submitting information and their contributions. Data on the use of minority languages in particular areas relevant to the implementation of the Charter were provided by the National Councils of the Bunjevac, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian national minorities. Their basic observations on specific issues were presented in the context of the implementation of the relevant provisions contained in the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter. The views and observations of the National Councils do not necessarily reflect the opinions and findings of the national authorities.

6. The following citizen associations were invited to participate in the preparation of the report; the invited citizen associations either gather the members of national minorities or are concerned with the protection of the national minorities rights: the Albanian Cultural association Perspektiva, Bujanovac; Human Rights Committee, Bujanovac; Writers' Association Feniks, Preševo; Cultural Center DamaD, Novi Pazar; Association for Spiritual, Cultural and Scientific Affirmation of Bosniacs Ašik Junus Center, Novi Pazar; Association for Science, Culture and Art of Bosniacs IKRE, Prijepolje; Association Matica Bugara u Srbiji, Bosilegrad; Civic Association Cultural and Information Center for Bulgarian minority Caribrod, Dimitrovgrad; Association for the Bulgarian language, literature and culture, Novi Sad; Bunjevac Culutral Center Tavankut, Donji Tavankut; Bunjevac Cultural Center, Subotica; Bunjevačka Matica, Subotica; Vlach Forum, Bor; Vlach Association Primovara, Zlot; Association Gergina, Negotin; Association for the Hungarian language Sarvaš Gabor, Ada; Teachers' Association of the Hungarians in North Bačka, Subotica; Cultural Association of Hungarians in Vojvodina - Vajdasági Magyar Művelödési Szövetség, Subotica; Scientific Association for Hungarology Research, Subotica; Hungarian Cultural Center Nepker Kula, Kula; Hungarian Language Association and Reading Club Koosa Jano, Novi Sad; Association of Macedonians of Vojvodina, Makedonsko sonce, Novi Sad; Association of Macedonians, Aleksandar Makedonski, Belgrade; Macedonian Cultural Center Blaže Koneski, Pančevo; German Association Donau, Novi Sad; German People's Union, Subotica; Roma Women's Center Bibija, Belgrade; Roma Cultural and Educational Society Romano suno, Deronje; Roma League SKRUG, Belgrade; Roma Educational Center, Subotica; Association Ternipe, Pirot; Romanian Community in Serbia, Vršac; Society for the Romanian Language in Vojvodina – Republic of

Serbia, Vršac; Literary and Artistic Society Tibiskus, Uzdin; Ruthenian Cultural Center, Novi Sad; Society for the Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture, Novi Sad; Matica Rusinska, Ruski Krstur; Slovak Matica in Serbia, Bački Petrovac; Slovak Society of Vojvodina, Novi Sad; Cultural and Education Society Karpati, Vrbas; Society for Preserving the Ukrainian Culture Kolomejka, Sremska Mitrovica; Society for the Ukrainian Language, Literature and Culture Prosvita, Novi Sad; Cultural and Educational Association The Czechs of South Banat, Bela Crkva; Češka Beseda Bela Crkva, Bela Crkva; Croatian Cultural and Educational Society Jelačić, Petrovaradin; Matica Hrvatska, Subotica; Croatian Cultural Society Šid, Šid. The following associations have submitted their views on particular issues regarding the use of minority languages: Society for Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture, Novi Sad; Association Gergina, Negotin and Vlach Forum, Bor. Their basic observations on specific issues were presented within the implementation of the relevant provisions contained in the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter. The views and observations of the association do not necessarily reflect the opinions and findings of the state authorities.

7. In the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the term "minority language" was used as a synonym for "language of a national minority ".

8. All financial support information contained in the tables of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter is for a three-year period (2016-2018) and is expressed in RSD, unless otherwise indicated.

9. All terms used in this report in the grammatical masculine gender include the masculine and feminine gender of the persons they refer to.

2. PART I.

2.1. Information on the general demographic situation

10. The third report on the implementation of the Charter presents the results of the 2011 census relevant to the implementation of the Charter. According to data from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the estimated population in the Republic of Serbia[1] in 2018 is 6,982,604. Viewed by gender, 51.3% are women (3,580,898) and 48.7% are men (3,401,706). The depopulation trend has continued, which means that the growth rate of the population, compared to the previous year, is negative and amounts to -5.5 ‰. At the same time, the process of demographic aging of the population is manifested by the low and steady decline in the participation of young people and the high and continuously increasing share of the elderly in the total population. According to the data for the Republic of Serbia in 2018, the share of persons aged 65 and over is 20.2%, while those under the age of 15 are 14.3%.

11. In the period 2002-2018, the population of the Republic of Serbia has been continuously declining for years. At the regional level, only the Belgrade region has recorded a population growth, while the most pronounced decline was in the South and East Serbia region. The table below provides data on population change in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2002-2018.

	Republic of Serbia	Belgrade region	Vojvodina region	Šumadija and Western Serbia region	Southern and Eastern Serbia region
	Estimated population (annual average)				
2002	7500031	1578364	2034851	2135393	1751423
2011	7236519	1658151	1932945	2033203	1612220
2016	7058322	1683962	1881357	1956786	1536217
2017	7020858	1687132	1871515	1941130	1521081
2018	6982604	1690193	1861863	1924816	1505732
	Absolute growth-drop				
2002-2011	-263512	79787	-101906	-102190	-139203
2011-2016	-178197	25811	-51588	-76417	-76003
2016-2017	-37464	3170	-9842	-15656	-15136
2017-2018	-38254	3061	-9652	-16314	-15349
	Growth rate (‰)				
2002/2011	-35.8	49.3	-51.4	-49.0	-82.8
2011/2016	-24.9	15.4	-27.1	-38.3	-48.3
2016/2017	-5.3	1.9	-5.2	-8.0	-9.9
2017/2018	-5.5	1.8	-5.2	-8.4	-10.1

12. In the light of the above data and estimates of the movement of the total population, the authorities of the Republic of Serbia point out that the decrease in the total population, which is also reflected in the decrease in the number of speakers of minority languages, has no impact on

[1] Since 1998, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia does not have data for the AP of Kosovo and Metohija, so they are not included in the data for the Republic of Serbia (total).

the status of the minority languages. As it has been repeatedly stated, the Republic of Serbia's determination is to strengthen the protection and promotion of minority languages and the cultures they represent. This is reflected in the continuous measures and activities on improving the legislation and its consistent implementation in practice.

2.2. Legislative changes after the fourth cycle of monitoring of the implementation of the Charter

13. In the period following the Fourth monitoring cycle of the implementation of the Charter, new regulations have been adopted and the existing regulations have been amended to improve the use and protection of minority languages. The relevant provisions of the regulations relevant for the implementation of the Charter are presented below.

14. With amendments to the **Law on National Councils of National Minorities**[2], the Law has been harmonized with the Decision of the Constitutional Court of January 2014, recommendations of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities were introduced, individual decisions were harmonized with systemic laws, the powers of national councils were specified and other deficiencies observed in the application of the law have been remedied. Article 11a of the Law regulates the term "institution of special importance for a national minority", and specifies that in the field of education it is an institution of education founded by the Republic of Serbia, an autonomous province, a unit of local self-government or a national council of a national minority, which has traditionally or substantially exercised the constitutionally guaranteed right of persons belonging to national minorities to education in their own language. This article also regulates the extent to which an institution can be declared an institution of particular importance to a national minority, and this is important in the context of the involvement of national councils in the management and financing of such institutions. With amending Articles 12-15, solutions are envisaged that are in line with the new legal solutions in the field of education, especially regarding the substance of the participation of national councils in establishing the general basics of preschool, primary and secondary education curricula, as well as the use of textbooks. The powers of national councils in the field of culture were also specified. Amendments to Article 17 of the Law stipulate that an institution of special importance for a national minority is a cultural institution whose program activities are predominantly related to the study, preservation and presentation of the culture of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the number of persons belonging to national minorities in the territory of which are competent, as well as if these program activities are of particular importance for meeting the cultural needs specific to national minorities. It also stipulates that a national council in cultural institutions founded by the Republic, an autonomous province or a local self-government unit that has been found to be of particular importance to a national minority by amending the founding act, proposes at least one member of the Management Board, whom the founder, in accordance with by law regulating the field of culture, appoints to be a member of the Management Board. In addition, the National Council gives its

[2] Official Gazette of RS, no. 72/2009, 20/2014 – ruling of the CC, 55/2014 and 47/2018.

opinion on the proposed members of the institution's Management Board and in the process of electing the director of the institution. Amendments to the provisions contained in Article 21 of the Law clarify some of the powers of the national councils in the field of information, which include: 1) adopting a strategy for the development of information in the national minority language, in accordance with the strategy in the field of public information of the Republic of Serbia; 2) giving opinions on projects, which have applied in a public competition announced by a public authority, in order to raise the quality of informing persons belonging to national minorities; 3) making proposals and recommendations to the boards and program boards of public service media regarding programs in the languages of national minorities; 4) giving opinions on the candidates for Chief Editors of programs in national minority languages in public media services, if the public media services have editors for the program in languages of national minorities, and 5) giving opinions on the report of the Program Council of public services regarding program content in national minority languages. The provisions of Article 22 of the Law have been amended, which prescribe the powers of national councils in the field of official use of languages and scripts. Specifically, item 1) is supplemented by the provision that traditional names and other geographical names in the national minority language are also published in the local official gazette. Amendments to item 7) stipulate that the National Council initiates the publication of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia in the language of the national minority, which is in official use and provides professional and other assistance, to the best of its ability, in the translation process. Such a solution facilitates implementation and enables the participation of national councils in the implementation of the obligation stemming from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to provide translations of the most relevant legal texts in the languages of national minorities. For the purpose of transparency of the work of national councils, the provision of Article 8a paragraph 2 of the Law stipulates that all decisions and acts of the national council shall be published no later than ten days after their entry into force, i.e. their adoption, on the website of the national council, which is kept bilingual, in the Serbian language and in the language of the national minority, or otherwise specified in the statute (bulletin board, daily newspaper, or other convenient way).

15. **Law on Fundamentals of the Education System**[3] in Article 5, The Use of Language prescribes that educational work is carried out in the Serbian language and in the Cyrillic script, while for members of a national minority, educational work is carried out in the language, i.e. speech and script of a national minority, with the possibility that the educational work to be carried out bilingually in the language and script of the national minority and in the Serbian language, in accordance with a separate law. The objectives of education and training in Article 8 include, inter alia, the respect and nurturing of the Serbian language and the mother tongue, the traditions and culture of the Serbian people and national minorities, the development of interculturalism, respect and preservation of national and world cultural heritage. When it comes to the network of public institutions, the Law stipulates in Article 104 that in a local self-government unit in which the language and script of a national minority is in official use, or in which educational work is carried out in the language and script of a national minority, the act on

[3] Official Gazette of RS, no. 88/2017, 27/2018 - another law and 10/2019

the network of public preschools and public elementary schools is adopted with the previously obtained opinion of the national council of the national minority whose language and script is in official use in the unit of local self-government, or whose language and script is used in educational work.

16. The Amendments to the **Law on Preschool Education**[4] have not changed the provisions on the use of languages, and Article 5 stipulates that educational work for the members of a national minority shall be carried out in the language of the national minority, and may be bilingual in the language of the national minority and in the Serbian language, if at least 50% of the parents or other legal representative of the children opt for it. Article 6 prescribes that the institution keeps records in the Serbian language in Cyrillic script and in the language and script of the national minority when educational work is carried out in the language of the national minority, except for the records and pedagogical documentation on educational work maintained in the language of the educational work. In Article 7a, it is established that the records on employees include information on nationality, on the language in which primary, secondary and higher education was acquired and on knowledge of the national minority language. Article 18 of the Law, which deals with different forms and programs of educational work, emphasizes that in order to improve the quality of educational work, expand the variety of programs, forms of work and services and increase the coverage of children, the preschool institution also carries out different forms and programs in the function of providing care and education of children, rest and recreation, providing support to the family, nurturing the language and culture of the national minority. With regard to the education of educators, Article 39 provides that the work of an educator for work with children belonging to national minorities may be conducted by a person who fulfills the conditions prescribed by the Law and has adequate education, if he/she has received appropriate education in the language in which the educational work is carried out, or has passed an examination in that language with methodology, at an adequate higher education institution, in accordance with the Law. Exceptionally, in the absence of educators with the knowledge of the national minority language, an auxiliary teacher with knowledge of the language and at least a secondary education of the educational direction may be hired with the teacher who does not meet the requirements because the lack of knowledge of the language, until the completion of the procedure for the announced competition, and not later than August 31 of the following year.

17. The novelty in the **Law on Primary Education**[5] in relation to the provisions of this Law presented in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter represents the authority of national councils when educational work is carried out in the language and script of a national minority, or bilingually in the language and script of a national minority, and in Serbian; the ministry responsible for education, after obtaining the opinion of the relevant national council of the national minority, shall approve the realization of educational work for less than 15 students enrolled in the first class (Article 12).

[4] Official Gazette of RS, no.18/2010, 101/2017, 113/2017 - another law, 95/2018 - another law and 10/2019
[5] Official Gazette of RS, no. 55/13, 101/17, 27/18 – another law and 10/2019

18. The **Law on Secondary Education**[6] in Article 5 similarly regulates this power of national councils. Namely, the school can carry out educational work in the language and script of the national minority, i.e. bilingually even for less than 15 students enrolled in the first grade, with the consent of the ministry responsible for education, in accordance with the law. The Ministry gives its approval for carrying out the curriculum in the languages of national minorities for less than 15 students after obtaining the opinion of the relevant national council of national minorities in accordance with the law governing the competence of national councils of national minorities.

19. The new **Law on Textbooks**[7] retains the definition of a textbook in the language and script of a national minority from the previously applicable law, which is presented in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter. In accordance with Article 15 of the new law, the Center for Low-Circulation Textbooks was established, as a special organizational unit within the public publisher, which significantly improved the process of obtaining the lacking low-circulation textbooks in the languages of national minorities.

20. The adoption of the **Rules on Low-Circulation Textbooks**[8] regulates more closely the conditions and other issues of importance for the publication of low-circulation textbooks: the type of low-circulation textbooks, elements for determining production costs and retail prices, as well as the provision of funds for the publication of low-circulation textbooks. Article 2 of the Rulebook defines low-cost textbooks as textbooks whose direct and indirect costs of production and dependent costs of sale exceed the retail price. The textbook in the language and script of a national minority is considered to be a low-cost textbook. In addition, Article 7 defines the obligations of publishers who publish low-circulation textbooks. The publisher who publishes the low-circulation textbooks that the schools have chosen to use shall: 1) provide the low-circulation textbooks in a sufficient number of copies according to the stated needs of schools and users for the school year in which the Textbook Catalog is published; 2) make the selected low-priced textbooks available to the sales network, no later than August 15 of the current year for the following school year; 3) to sell low-priced textbooks that he publishes in the language and script of a national minority, that is, with a custom script and/or format for students with disabilities, at a retail price with VAT, which does not exceed the retail price with VAT of the textbooks and manuals in Serbian that has been translated, or whose script and/or format has been adapted. Article 8 also defines the obligations of publishers who do not publish low-circulation textbooks. A publisher who does not publish low-circulation textbooks is obliged to: 1) participate in securing the funds for the publication of low-circulation textbooks in the amount of 2% of the net proceeds from the textbooks sold in the previous calendar year, and to calculate and pay the said funds to the dedicated account of the public publisher, no later than 31 March of the current year; 2) no later than 1 June of the year in which the Textbook Catalog is published,

[6] Official Gazette of RS, no. 55/2013, 101/2017 and 27/2018
[7] Official Gazette of RS, no.27/2018
[8] Official Gazette of RS, no.69/2018

submit to the line ministry a bill in the amount of 2% of the projected net income, calculated on the basis of circulation, which is the number of textbooks required for all the students attending schools that have chosen the textbook of that publisher, before the publishing of the Textbook Catalog, for one school year; 3) submit to the public publisher the manuscript of the textbook together with the necessary documentation for the lawful and smooth publication of the textbook by the public publisher.

21. At the end of 2016, the High Judicial Council has adopted amendments to the two Rulebooks: **Rulebook on Criteria for Assessing Expertise, Competence and Suitability for Electing Judges in a Permanent Judicial Function to a Second or Higher Court**[9] and **Criteria for nominating a candidate for President of the Court and Rulebook on the criteria for assessing the expertise, competence and worthiness of a first-time candidate**[10]. These rulebooks stipulate that in the election of a judge on a permanent judicial function to another or higher court and in the procedure of nominating a candidate for President of the Court, as well as in the procedure of nominating a candidate for a first-time judge, discrimination on any grounds shall be prohibited, attention shall be paid to the national composition of the population, adequate representation of persons belonging to national minorities and the knowledge of professional legal terminology in the language of the national minority that is officially used in court.

22. The State Prosecutorial Council has adopted amendments to the **Rules of Procedure of the State Prosecutorial Council**[11] in 2017. Article 59 of the Rules of Procedure provides that in order to ensure the full and effective equality between persons belonging to national minorities and members of the majority nation, the Council shall take into account the national composition of the population, adequate representation of persons belonging to national minorities and the knowledge of professional legal terminology in the national minority language in official use in court. The Rules of Procedure provide in Article 60 that the Council shall obtain information on the national composition of the population of local self-governments before the decision on the election, or nomination of the candidate for Deputy Public Prosecutor in public prosecutor's offices in the area of local self-government in which the language or script of a national minority is officially used and the national composition of holders of public prosecutor's office in that public prosecutor's office. If the national composition of holders of public prosecutor's office is not proportional to the national composition of the population within the area of competence of the public prosecutor's office, the Council shall, as a rule, select or nominate a candidate of that nationality whose election, or nomination, would contribute to the proportionality of the national composition, namely the highest ranked candidate of that nationality, if his grade, i.e. the number of points is not below 90% of the grade, or the number of points of the first-ranked candidate. Specific decision rules shall apply to those candidates who have declared their nationality in the

[9] Official Gazette of RS, no.94/2016
[10] Official Gazette of RS, no.94/2016
[11] Official Gazette of RS, no. 29/2017 and 46/2017

competition documents and have given their approval to the Panel for the Implementation of Special Rules.

23. The amendments to the **Law on Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities**[12] stipulate that the ministry competent for exercising the rights of national minorities ensures translation and publishes collections of consolidated texts of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia, whose subject matter is entirely or mostly related to the exercise of the rights of national minorities. The Ministry is obliged to make these laws available in electronic form, on its website and on the eGovernment portal, as well as to submit to the national councils of national minorities a number of collections of consolidated texts of these laws by agreement. The Ministry shall periodically, and when necessary, report to the Council for National Minorities on the publication of these laws. Exceptionally, the national council of a national minority may submit a proposal to the line ministry, on the grounds that it is of particular importance for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the national minority, for the line ministry to translate and publish a collection of consolidated texts of certain laws within its legal scope that contain provisions relating to the exercise the rights and freedoms of national minorities, that is, to regulate social relations that are of particular importance to national minorities. In the event that the line ministry accepts the proposal of the national council of the national minority, the ministry shall then make those laws available in electronic format, on its website and on the eGovernment portal, and to submit by agreement a number of collections of consolidated texts of those laws national minority council. When deciding on a proposal of a national council, special consideration shall be given to the availability of the planned budgetary resources, as well as to whether the amendments or enactment of a new law are planned in the next year after the proposal of the national council of the national minority, that would replace the law whose translation, i.e. publishing is proposed. The line ministry reports to the Council for National Minorities on the processing of the proposals submitted by national councils (Article 11a). Autonomous province regulations shall be published in the languages of national minorities in accordance with the statutes and general acts of the autonomous province. Regulations of local self-government units shall be published in the languages of national minorities, in accordance with the statute and general acts of local self-government units, in accordance with the law (Article 11b). The novelty in the Law also applies to criminal provisions, which stipulate that a responsible person within an authority or organization exercising public authority will be fined from RSD 50,000 to 100,000 if it spells out the name of the organ or organization contrary to the legal provisions on spelling toponyms. The responsible person in the organization shall also be fined from RSD 50,000 to 100,000 for this economic offense (Article 22a).

24. Amendments to the **Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts**[13] provide that in settlements in local self-government units, the territory of which is determined in accordance with the law governing the territorial organization of the Republic of Serbia, in which the

[12] Official Journal of FRY, no.11/2002, Official Journal of SCG, no. 1/2003 - Constitutional Charter and Official Gazette of RS, no. 72/2009 - another law, 97/2013 - ruling of the CC and 47/2018.
[13] Official Gazette of RS, no. 45/91, 53/93, 67/93, 48/94, 101/2005 - another law, 30/2010, 47/2018 and 48/2018 - amendment

percentage of members of a particular national minority in the total population in the territory of populated place reaches 15% according to the results of the last census, names of bodies exercising public authority, names of local self-government units, populated places, squares and streets and other toponym are also written in the language of the national minority, according to its tradition and spelling, even if that language of the national minority is not in official use in the territory of the local self-government. The assembly of the local self-government unit shall determine these settlements by statute, taking into account the traditional settlement of the members of the national minority and the previously obtained opinion of the national council (Article 11). This means that local self-government units where a certain minority language and script has not been put into official use because legal requirements for this were not fulfilled, are obliged to review whether new legal requirements for writing toponyms in that minority language are fulfilled in a populated place in their territory.

2.3. Elections for members of national councils of national minorities

25. On 17 August 2018, the Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government issued a Decision on calling elections for members of national councils of national minorities. In accordance with the Decision and the provisions of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, or on the basis of the provisional conclusion of the Special Voters Register, on November 4, 2018, members of national councils were elected by the members of 22 national minorities. Of these, 18 national minorities met the requirement for direct elections (Albanian, Ashkali, Bosniak, Bulgarian, Bunjevac, Vlach, Greek, Egyptian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Slovenian, Ukrainian and Czech national minorities), and members of four national minorities elected the national council through the electorate (Macedonian, Russian, Montenegrin and Croatian national minorities). During the election process, all relevant laws and by-laws, the required forms and other election materials have been translated into the languages of national minorities that are in official use and published on the website of the bodies responsible for conducting the elections. The work of the election administration was monitored by foreign observers, the OSCE Mission and the EU Delegation to Serbia, the embassies of the United Kingdom, Croatia, the USA, Slovakia, Turkey, Germany and Ukraine, as well as by domestic observers, as well as by the representatives of electoral lists who oversaw the work of the electorate committee and the Republic Electoral Commission. Voting in direct elections was carried out at a total of 926 polling stations with a total of 208,570 voters, which is 44.61% of the final number of voters registered in the Special Voters Register. After the successful elections, all national councils were constituted, and in addition to the national councils elected in the previous elections, two new national councils were formed, the National Council of the Polish National Minority and the National Council of the Russian National Minority. A total of 23 national councils have been registered in the Register of National Councils kept by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, since the Executive Board of the Union of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia performs the function of a national council, pursuant to Article 134 of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities.

2.4. Implementation of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM/RecChL (2019) 2)

26. In assessing the implementation of the Charter in the fourth monitoring cycle, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recommended that the Serbian authorities take into account all the observations and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and the issues raised as a matter of priority.

Recommendation 1. Facilitate adequate learning of Romani and Ukrainian in preschool, primary and secondary schools and extend existing teaching and learning in German, Czech or other languages covered only by Part II of the Charter;

27. Aware of the importance of education in minority languages in the context of the preservation and development of each of these languages, the Republic of Serbia is continuously taking steps to improve the situation of all minority languages in this area, introducing new languages into the education system, opening classes with an extremely small number of students, providing adequate textbooks and other teaching aids, improving the competences of the teaching staff, etc.

28. Bearing in mind the statutory requirements for the implementation of one of the three models of education – consent of 50% of parents/legal guardians is required for preschool and in order for teaching to be held in a minority language in primary and secondary schools, at least 15 students enrolled in the first grade are needed; educational institutions at all educational levels carry out parental surveys when enrolling students in the first year of the educational cycle (enrollment in preschool, first grade of primary school and first grade of secondary school). By completing the survey, the parent declares the desired language of the educational work, i.e. teaching. The institution is obliged, if the conditions prescribed by law are fulfilled, to provide educational work, i.e. teaching in the language of the national minority according to the models of education defined by law. Although the law defines a legal threshold of 15 students, in practice, the Republic of Serbia also allows the opening of classes with fewer students attending classes in minority languages. So in the school year 2018/19, 57 primary schools addressed the competent ministry with a total of 128 applications for approval of classes with fewer students than prescribed for teaching in the minority language, and 103 applications were approved, or 80%. At the time of writing this report, no institution requesting the introduction of full/bilingual preschool or full/bilingual education at primary and secondary education levels in the Romani and Ukrainian languages has filed their request with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, or to the relevant school administrations, and the conditions for the conducting the entire educational work, i.e. teaching in the Romani and Ukrainian languages were not created. In the case of both these languages, a model of education in the Serbian language is implemented, with an elective subject/program Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture in primary school. Since secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to

carry out the Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture in secondary schools for adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments, international donors and embassies.

29. In the coming period, the competent ministry will continue to improve the professional competences of the future Roma and Ukrainian teachers. In addition, it is necessary to map the needs of the Roma and Ukrainian linguistic communities for the introduction of full/bilingual minority language education, which will be a prerequisite for initiating or supporting an initiative for introducing full/bilingual education in Romani or Ukrainian respectively.

30. More information on the measures taken to facilitate adequate learning of the Romani and Ukrainian languages, as well as the learning of the languages covered only by Part II of the Charter, is contained in the relevant parts of this report.

Recommendation 2. Provide for the broadcasting of public or private radio and television programs in minority languages in order to achieve an adequate total broadcast time for each language;

31. The authorities of the Republic of Serbia point out that respect for the freedom of the media and the independence of editorial policy, on the one hand, and the obligation to protect the right to information in the minority language, on the other, are the reasons why there are no generally accepted standards in the international community in which manner public authorities should, in practice, promote the right to information of the speakers of minority languages. In this context, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages establishes that the right to inform the speakers of minority languages is an inalienable right and imposes an obligation on Signatory States to enable that right to be exercised, but at the same time, according to the Charter, Signatory States must respect the principle of the media independence and autonomy resulting from Article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

32. It is an indisputable fact that the Republic of Serbia has enabled the representation of various models of information in minority languages, which include: public service programs, broadcasts or articles in the private media, print media founded by the national councils, as well as internet media, access to native country media etc. In relation to the above, the manner of exercising the right to inform the minority language speakers depends on a number of factors and is not reflected in the obligation of the state to provide "adequate total broadcast time for each language", but in the obligation to ensure the continuity and the quality of broadcasting for each language, which should contribute to an independent, pluralistic and sustainable system of public information in minority languages.

33. The authorities of the Republic of Serbia indicate that the criterion of an *appropriate total broadcast time for each language* indicated by the Committee of Ministers is difficult to determine since it can be viewed and depends on many factors, e.g. participation of the number of members of the

national minority in the total population of Serbia, AP of Vojvodina or local self-government unit, participation of the number of speakers of the minority language in the total number of members of the national minority, the presence of speakers of the minority language in the territory in which the language is spoken, the state of the media market, etc. With the exit of the public sector from media ownership, the issue of adequately replacing broadcasting time in minority languages depends not only on the state, but also on the readiness of national councils of national minorities to contribute to the sustainability of media content in minority languages, especially given that these bodies are, under the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, empowered to adopt a strategy for developing information in the language of the national minority, taking into account the needs of speakers of the minority languages.

34. Broader information on the broadcasting of minority-language radio and television programs, as well as financial support from all levels of government for the broadcasting of these programs, is contained in the relevant sections of this report.

Recommendation 3. Support the use of all regional or minority languages in the judiciary and the administration;

35. The Republic of Serbia has implemented a number of activities to support the use of minority languages in the judiciary and administration. The Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government provided information to all units of local self-government indicating the need for local self-government units through their competent bodies, organizations and services to undertake all measures and activities related to: consistent implementation of legal provisions on the placement of topographic signs, names streets, etc., when the required legal requirements are met; broader involvement of representatives of national minorities in the decision-making process, notably through strengthening the position of the Council for Interethnic Relations; consistent implementation of the Law on Employees in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units related to the employment of candidates of national minorities and knowledge of the national minority language, and in particular the provisions of the Decree on the implementation of internal public competition for filling vacancies and the Decree on the criteria for job classification and criteria for describing the jobs of civil servants and employees in local self-government units.

36. In addition, the Ministry sent a letter to the units of local self-government that they were obliged to comply in their work and conduct in order with all relevant regulations guaranteeing the right to official use of languages and scripts of national minorities, or to ensure the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to communicate in writing and orally with the competent authorities and exercise their rights in their mother tongue. The need for organizing round tables, workshops and the like was also pointed out, with the aim of raising the level of awareness of the language rights of persons belonging to national minorities in relations with the administration and producing short and simple brochures on the existing rights and good practices concerning the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to the national minorities the

use of their own language, both for officials and the public, and for drafting bilingual forms for the most common administrative documents, where possible and necessary, and for ensuring that the most important municipal regulations are translated the languages of national minorities, where possible and necessary, in accordance with the law and the statute.

37. By implementing the activities foreseen by the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia* under the TAPA - Horizontal Cooperation Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey of the Council of Europe and the European Union, the Republic of Serbia has taken measures to fulfill its obligations and the recommendations of the Council of Europe competent authorities regarding the respect for the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and the use of their languages by the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

38. An *Analysis of the normative framework on the use of languages of national minorities in relations with state bodies* has been developed within this project. In addition, in order to present novelties related to the official use of minority languages and scripts in the light of the amendments made to the legal regime, round tables were organized within the aforementioned project, in cooperation with five municipalities (Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Vranje, Medveđa and Sombor), with the participation of representatives of city/municipal administrations, councils for inter-ethnic relations, national councils of national minorities and the non-governmental sector. The roundtables highlighted the need to work to make minority languages more visible and accepted in society, and presented a joint publication/manual *Introduction to Exercising the Right to Official Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities* prepared by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Republic Secretariat for Legislation, the Protector of Citizens and the Council of Europe. The publication is intended for local self-government employees and is an overview of legal documents in the official use of languages and scripts of national minorities and aims to assist municipal/city governments in improving the implementation of the amended legal framework governing the position of national councils of national minorities, the protection of rights and freedoms national minorities and the official use of languages and scripts, in accordance with the provisions and recommendations of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages, as well as the best international practice. The Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has delivered the aforementioned manual to all local self-governments.

39. As part of the project, the Demostat Research and Publishing Center prepared a research report on *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities with a focus on the use of minority languages*. The survey was conducted in two rounds, with a half-year interval (September 2018 - March 2019) and it provided argumentative indications of the state of inter-ethnic relations in ethnically mixed municipalities, as well as indications of the effects of actions taken to strengthen the protection of national minorities.

40. *A report on the use of national minority languages in relation to the judiciary in the Republic of Serbia* was prepared within the same project. The report deals with legislation on the use of minority languages in the judicial system, in particular its implementation in practice, and is based on relevant domestic legislation and follows the reports of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The Report concludes that the legal framework in the Republic of Serbia regarding minority rights in general and in particular the use of minority languages in judicial proceedings is quite developed, sophisticated and generous, while the practical application of the right to use minority languages in judicial proceedings, on the other hand, notes several shortcomings and indicates the need for decisive action.

41. Given that an adequate legal framework has been developed in the Republic of Serbia for the use of minority languages in judicial proceedings, particular focus is on the adequate training of judicial functionaries on the obligations arising from the Council of Europe conventions in order to ensure an adequate use of minority languages in the judiciary. In this regard, the *Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights* training module has been developed at the Judicial Academy, within which the members of the Judicial Academy can gain insight into the rights deriving from the Council of Europe's jurisprudence. In addition, the students of the Judicial Academy also receive trainings related to significant violations of court proceedings, including the right of use of own language.

42. In addition, the Republic of Serbia is in the process of preparing proposals for amendments to the set of judicial laws[14] in the context of amendments to the Constitution in the part concerning the judiciary. In addition, the working text of the new Judicial Development Strategy for 2019-2024 was drafted, the consultation process was completed and the text was further modified in accordance with the comments and suggestions. The working text recognizes the issue of the judicial network as one of the important elements of judicial efficiency and access to justice, as well as the importance of each area within the Republic of Serbia. Therefore, the working text envisages continuous monitoring and improvement of the efficiency of the judicial network, including the preparation of cost-benefit analyses on relevant issues, taking into account the specificities of the area.

43. As explained in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, according to the applicable court rules and existing ICT tools in the courts (a software solution used in the courts), it is only possible to keep accurate records of the language in which the entire proceedings are conducted. Pursuant to Article 109(2) of the Rules of Procedure, an indication that the proceedings are being conducted in a particular language of the national minority shall be put on the file and entered in the adequate register. All other information, such as information on the number of proceedings in which claims and evidence (in written or oral form) were in one

[14] Law on Judges; Law on Organization of Courts and the Law on the Seats and Territorial Jurisdiction of Courts and Public Prosecutor's Offices.

of the minority languages, shall not be entered in the registers. Therefore, the collection of this information is not possible in a reliable manner. An insight into the files of each case would entail a disproportionate use of time and resources, as well as a separate check of the record to determine whether any of the evidence was presented orally in a minority language. During the previous reporting cycle, the Ministry of Justice tried to collect additional statistics using a special questionnaire, however, the data provided proved to be inaccurate and inconsistent, with more courts failing to collect the data. Fully understanding the importance of additional statistical parameters, through the ongoing reform of the ICT system in the judiciary and supported by development assistance funds, the line ministry will endeavor to supplement electronic registers with additional parameters so that reliable data can be provided on the extent of actual use of minority languages in court proceedings.

Recommendation 4. Strengthen the capacity of national councils of national minorities in order to effectively promote the regional or minority languages in public life;

44. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have provided information on the formation of relevant bodies - national councils of national minorities that have been mandated by law to exercise certain public authority in the fields of culture, education, information and official use of language and script. The system of financing of national councils of national minorities at all levels of government was also presented, as well as the manner of allocating the allocated funds from the republic budget.

45. In accordance with the economic opportunities, and in the period covered by the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the budgets of the Republic of Serbia, AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units have been provided and allocated funds for financing the activities of national councils.

46. The table below provides information on the amount of funds provided for the work of national councils of national minorities in the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

NATIONAL COUNCIL	2016	2017	2018
Albanian national minority	13,152,600.00	13,226,019.00	13,226,019.00
Ashkali national minority	3,599,660.00	3,696,225.00	3,696,225.00
Bosniak national minority	26,564,392.00	27,828,583.00	27,828,583.00
Bulgarian national minority	7,715,875.00	7,643,683.00	7,643,683.00
Bunjevac national minority	7,011,328.00	7,141,540.00	7,141,540.00
Vlach national minority	7,545,497.00	7,757,459.00	7,757,459.00
Greek national minority	3,572,471.00	3,572,471.00	3,572,471.00
Egyptian national minority	3,683,326.00	3,683,326.00	3,683,326.00
Union of Jewish Municipalities	3,776,620.00	3,616,063.00	3,616,063.00
Hungarian national minority	60,822,882.00	59,438,983.00	59,438,983.00
Macedonian national minority	7,021,022.00	6,952,728.00	6,952,728.00
German national minority	4,090,989.00	3,963,046.00	3,963,046.00
Roma national minority	22,159,688.00	22,122,634.00	22,122,634.00
Romanian national minority	13,281,805.00	14,160,015.00	14,160,015.00
Ruthenian national minority	9,228,042.00	9,033,971.00	9,033,971.00

Slovak national minority	18,387,692.00	17,778,529.00	17,778,529.00
Slovenian national minority	4,081,792.00	4,095,241.00	4,095,241.00
Ukrainian national minority	4,617,148.00	4,601,055.00	4,601,055.00
Croatian national minority	12,976,524.00	12,975,990.00	12,975,990.00
Montenegrin national minority	7,671,109.00	7,675,264.00	7,675,264.00
Czech national minority	4,039,538.00	4,037,175.00	4,037,175.00
Total funds	**245,000,000.00**	**245,000,000.00**	**245,000,000.00**

47. The Provincial budget provides funds for financing the work of national councils of national minorities which have their registered office in the territory of AP of Vojvodina. Funds were allocated during the reporting period to finance the regular and the development activities of national councils of national minorities based on the Provincial decision on the manner and criteria for the allocation of budget funds for national councils of national minorities (2014).

48. The table below provides data on the total funding of national minorities councils from the budget of AP of Vojvodina (regular and development activity).

NATIONAL COUNCIL	2016	2017	2018
Ashkali national minority	472,140.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Bunjevac national minority	2,382,747.00	2,481,260.00	2,480,612.00
Greek national minority	472,140.00	50,000.00	50,0000.00
Egyptian national minority	472,140.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Hungarian national minority	23,677,146.00	24,349,004.00	24,423,964.00
Macedonian national minority	2,319,505.00	2,438,340.00	2,456,220.00
German national minority	1,776,400.00	1,807,084.00	1,787,884.00
Roma national minority	3,722,116.00	3,719,928.00	3,802,832.00
Romanian national minority	4,860,078.00	4,942,824.00	4,636,376.00
Ruthenian national minority	3,130,465.00	3,185,804.00	3,244,592.00
Slovak national minority	6,663,356.00	6,635,876.00	6,779,072.00
Ukrainian national minority	1,789,30400	1,821,564.00	1,823,120.00
Croatian national minority	4,053,514.00	4,151,996.00	4,124,264.00
Montenegrin national minority	2,447,734.00	2,502,840.00	2,490,132.00
Czech national minority	1,761,215.00	1,813,480.00	1,800,932.00
Total funds	**60,000,000.00**	**60,100,000.00**	**60,100,000.00**

49. At the level of local self-government units in the reporting period, budget funds were allocated to those national councils of national minorities representing national minorities that reached at least 10% of the total population in the population of the local self-government units, or whose language is in official use in the territory of the local self-government unit.

50. The table below provides available data on the average amount of funds allocated annually to finance the work of national councils of national minorities from the budgets of local self-government units.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT UNIT	NATIONAL COUNCIL	AVERAGE ANNUAL FUNDS
Ada	Hungarian national minority	300,000.00
Bač	Slovak national minority	74,810.00

		25,190.00
Bačka Topola	Hungarian national minority	500,000.00
		50,000.00
Beočin	Hungarian national minority	100,000.00
Bečej	Ruthenian national minority	250,000.00
Boljevac	Slovak national minority	100,000.00
Bosilegrad	Hungarian national minority	8,473,134.00
Bujanovac	Vlach national minority	2,850,000.00
Vrbas [15]		600,000.00
Vršac		500,000.00
Žabalj	Ruthenian national minority	200,000.00
Kanjiža	Hungarian national minority	500,000.00
Kovačica	Slovak national minority	144,459.79
	Romanian national minority	21,090.78
	Hungarian national minority	34,449.43
Kovin	Romanian national minority	28,050.00
	Hungarian national minority	71,950.00
Koceljeva	Roma national minority	60,500.00
Kula	Ruthenian national minority	250,000.00
	Hungarian national minority	250,000.00
	Montenegrin national minority	250,000.00
Kučevo	Vlach national minority	50,000.00
Mali Iđoš	Hungarian national minority	200,000.00
Medveđa	Albanian national minority	400,000.00
Novi Pazar	Bosniak national minority	2,000,000.00
Novi Sad	Hungarian national minority	1,974,608.34
	Slovak national minority	1,335,067.33
	Ruthenian national minority	910,324.33
Petrovac na Mlavi	Vlach national minority	500,000.00
Plandište	Hungarian national minority	100,000.00
Senta	Hungarian national minority	300,000.00
Sombor	Hungarian national minority	250,000.00
Srbobran	Hungarian national minority	100,000.00
Subotica	Hungarian national minority	2,259,511.00
	Croat national minority	633,589.00
Surdulica	Roma national minority	250,000.00
Temerin	Hungarian national minority	200,000.00
Tutin	Bosniak national minority	4,166,660.60
Čoka	Hungarian national minority	100,000.00
Šid	Slovak national minority	350,000.00
	Ruthenian national minority	450,000.00
Total funds		**32,163,391.00**

51. During the reporting period, the Office for Human and Minority Rights, as well as other competent authorities, held a series of trainings aimed at strengthening the capacities of the councils of national minorities in various fields, ranging from management capacity, budget

[15] The Municipality of Vrbas and the City of Vršac have listed the total funds they allocate in the budget for financing the national councils of national minorities.

planning and national council reporting capacity, through trainings on project management in the field of culture, to trainings on anti-discrimination mechanisms. A number of trainings was held on the use of budget funds for an effective promotion of minority languages. Considering that national councils of national minorities are holders or partners in the implementation of a number of activities envisaged by the Action Plan for the Exercise of National Minorities, a special set of trainings was dedicated to reporting on the implementation of activities under the Action Plan, as well as to improving monitoring, reporting and capacity building techniques of the national councils on these issues.

Recommendation 5. To promote awareness and tolerance in the Serbian society as a whole with respect to respect for minority languages and cultures as an integral part of Serbia's heritage.

52. In the Republic of Serbia, activities contributing to the development of awareness of the existing diversity, including diversity based on the linguistic diversity of Serbian society, as well as the promotion of tolerance in Serbian society towards minority languages and cultures, continued in the period covered by the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter as an integral part of Serbia's heritage. During this period, numerous projects were implemented by authorities at all levels of government, civil sector, international organizations and organized round tables, conferences, seminars, workshops, etc., promoting tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

53. For the protection of multiculturalism and diversity, the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina attach great importance to the protection of minority languages and annually announce a call for proposals for national minority languages, and the basic criteria, in addition to the importance of the project for the promotion of linguistic and cultural identity, is also the contribution to the promotion of multicultural and intercultural dialogue and a better understanding between different communities.

54. This Ministry has co-financed 34 projects in the field of public information, in the total amount of RSD 15,500,080.00, as well as 13 projects in the field of culture with RSD 2,300,000.00. For example, the Ministry has co-financed the project *Da se razumemo i kad govorimo različito* (*Let's understand each other even when we speak differently*), Regional News Agency JUG Press, which regularly publishes news on everyday problems and events in southern Serbia in Albanian, Bulgarian, Romani and Serbian. The Ministry has also co-financed the project *Chronicle of National Minorities: Media Content to the Full Integration and Improvement of Communication of National Minorities and the General Public* of the Migration Research Association. Within the said project, the biggest effect was the nine TV broadcasts of the *Chronicles of National Minorities* in minority languages and in Serbian on Television Pink, a medium with national coverage.

55. In 2016, the Ministry introduced a new competition called *Cities in Focus*. The aim of this competition is precisely to promote cultural life in smaller communities and to encourage the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community. Only local self-government units can apply at the Cities in Focus Contest, and the proposed project should offer a comprehensive program of revitalization and enhancement of cultural capacities while nurturing local specificities, including minority languages. In the period 2016-2018, 16 nationally mixed local self - government units received a total of RSD 218,463,442.42 from the Ministry for the promotion of culture.

56. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has co-financed 164 projects in the field of public information, in the total amount of RSD 23,905,000.00, in order to improve multiculturalism and mutual understanding of national communities in Vojvodina.

57. For example, in 2018, the Provincial Secretariat has co-financed the *Lepote vojvođanskih različitosti* (*Beauty of Vojvodina Diversity*) project of the Media Portal Association, which contributed to a better knowledge of the cultural and linguistic identity of the national minorities, the development of mutual dialogue and understanding between different communities. In 2017, the Provincial Secretariat supported the project *Education in a Multilingual Environment*, Kula doo., which, in order to promote it as a way of integrating into the broader community, pointed out the advantages and disadvantages of multilingual education, while in 2016, it has supported the project *Cultural and Entertainment Content Program in the function of the socialization of the young Roma population*, of the Citizens' Association "Fralipe", which was carried out through a number of local radio stations in Novi Sad, Beočin, Zrenjanin and Deronje and which has undoubtedly contributed to removing barriers to socialization and integration of the Roma minority.

58. The Provincial Government Project *Affirmation of Multiculturalism and Tolerance in Vojvodina*, whose primary objective is to foster cultural diversity and develop the spirit of interethnic tolerance among the citizens from AP of Vojvodina, has been successfully implemented since 2005. The holder of this project is the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, and is implemented in cooperation with many domestic and foreign organizations and institutions.

59. Public service broadcasters broadcast programs that enable the learning about the culture and the customs of persons belonging to national minorities by the people from the majority nation, but also the mutual learning of all minorities living in the territory of Serbia. Public Media Institution "Radio-Television of Serbia" (hereinafter: RTS) broadcasts a program called "Građanin" (Citizen), a collage that is filmed all over Serbia. The broadcasts of “Palete” and “Puls mladih” of Public Media Institution "Radio-Television of Vojvodina" (hereinafter: RTV) offer every day a selection of the best minority program contents, with subtitles in Serbian.

60. Other state bodies, in accordance with their competences, are also taking steps to promote the awareness and tolerance with respect to minority languages and cultures as an integral part of Serbia's heritage. Thus, before the elections for national minorities councils, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has prepared a promotional video "All of us, together, make Serbia"[16] as part of an information campaign on the novelties in the promotion of the rights and the status of persons belonging to national minorities.

61. As part of the Program for General Continuous Professional Development of Civil Servants, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has prepared a training proposal entitled *Rights of persons belonging to national minorities*, within the field of *protection of human rights and confidentiality of information*. In the period 2016-2019, a total of five trainings were delivered, aiming to familiarize the participants with the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, to inform them about the manner and procedure for exercising these rights and to familiarize them with the obligations of the Republic of Serbia in the process of European integration with regard to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, including obligations arising from relevant Council of Europe treaties.

62. Through its participation in the preparation and implementation of development assistance projects aimed at developing tolerance, enhancing the capacity of judicial office holders and developing the Judicial Academy, the Ministry of Justice is continuously working on creating the conditions for the full implementation of the EU acquis.

63. The Office for Human and Minority Rights, as part of the IPA 2013 Twinning Project *Supporting the Promotion of Human Rights and Zero Tolerance for Discrimination*, organized a national media campaign called *Together, We Are Serbia*. The aim of the campaign was to raise the awareness among the general public about Serbia as a country and a society that is rich in diversity, cultural and linguistic, as well as a message on the importance of preserving and nurturing that diversity. The campaign consisted of a video[17] that was broadcasted on public service (RTS) and social networks, radio clip and billboards that were placed in many cities in Serbia.

64. On the occasion of 10 December - International Human Rights Day, the Office for Human and Minority Rights, in cooperation with national councils of national minorities, has organized for several years in a row an event called the *Složni mozaik Srbije* (*The Complex Mosaic of Serbia*) dedicated to national minorities. At these manifestations, national minorities have presented their cultural heritage and publishing; cultural and artistic associations with traditional dances and songs performed in the cultural and artistic program, and panel discussions on topics of importance to national minorities living in Serbia were organized. The entire course

[16] http://mduls.gov.rs/en/announcements/serbia-is-all-of-us-together/
[17] https://bit.ly/2s1jIDi

of the event organized in 2018 was broadcast live on a television channel with national frequency.

65. Also, for several years in a row, with the support of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, an international festival called *Etnology Fest* has been organized, dedicated to the promotion of the intangible cultural heritage and cultural wealth that Serbia has, being a multicultural state. During the festival, through various forms of expression, fashion shows of national costumes and costumes of national minorities living in Serbia, exhibitions, handicrafts, documentaries, workshops and lectures, the importance and significance of the intangible cultural heritage as inspiration, as well as its continued presence in the modern society are presented through modern art and new generations. The special guest and country in the focus of the 2018 festival was Romania.

66. Under the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, five small grants to local self-governments (Bosilegrad, Bujanovac, Medveđa, Sombor and Vranje) of up to EUR 15.000 for the design and implementation of activities that were awarded through the *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia* project are related to promoting the use of minority languages in education or administration at the local level. The supported projects included activities aimed at promoting tolerance to minority rights in the general public, raising the awareness of the use of languages in five municipalities in the areas of education, government and the judiciary, as well as stimulating the media interest and increasing the number of media reports aimed at raising the awareness of promoting tolerance and minority rights.

67. One of the objectives of this program is to raise awareness of the rights of national minorities and to promote tolerance. In this regard, as the part of the programme, analyzes of the selected curricula, subject competencies and educational standards was conducted. The results of this analysis show a heterogeneous situation regarding the presence and attitude towards national minorities in the educational framework in the Republic of Serbia. More detailed information on the results of the analysis is set out in Part III, in section regarding information about the application of Article 8 of the Charter.

68. More information on the implementation of activities under the projects Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia and Promoting Democratic Culture in Schools conducted to promote awareness and tolerance in Serbian society regarding respect for minority languages and cultures are contained in Section 3.1. in response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 3 of the Charter.

3. PART II.

3.1. Application of Article 7 of the Charter – Goals and Principles

Article 1.

With regard to regional or minority languages, within the territories in which those languages are used and in accordance with the situation of each of those languages, Member States shall base their policies, legislation and practices on the following objectives and principles:

c need for decisive action in order to promete regaional or minority languages and perserve them.

69. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, as well as in the relevant parts of the Fifth Report, have outlined the activities of the Republic of Serbia made in the legislative sphere in order to promote the use of minority languages in all areas of social life and the ways in which they are preserved.

70. The Republic of Serbia continued to take decisive action to improve the situation of minority languages and to facilitate and encourage their use, and in early 2016 adopted an Action Plan for the Exercise of National Minority Rights. The Action Plan was prepared by a multi-sectoral working group composed of representatives of relevant state and provincial bodies, representatives of national councils of national minorities, civil society organizations, with the presence of representatives of the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade, the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, etc. The basic framework for its elaboration was the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, as well as the European Commission's Expert Mission Report on National Minorities.

71. The Action Plan consists of 11 chapters containing a total of 115 activities that are aimed to further improve the position of national minorities and the consistent exercise of their rights. A large part of these activities is also focused on further the use of national minority languages.

72. The strategic objective of the section on *Prohibition of Discrimination* is to ensure the exercise of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to national minorities on equal terms throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia and to develop tolerance and prevention of discrimination, which, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Serbia, also includes the prohibition and prevention of discrimination, inter alia, nationality or ethnic origin and language. One of the activities envisaged in this chapter that is relevant for the implementation of the Charter is to raise awareness among the general public, members of national minorities and functionaries and employees of public authorities at all levels about the existence of national minorities in the country, their rights and the right to affirmative action where they are necessary.

73. The chapter on *Culture and Media* identified as a strategic objective the improvement of the media situation and the development of media content of importance for members of minority communities, through the provision of qualitative, quantitative, geographically accessible and financially sustainable information in the languages of national minorities, followed by development culture of minority communities and intercultural dialogue, as well as ensuring continuity of media funding in national minority languages. This chapter contains 13 activities, among which most significant are:

- Securing the application of Art. 6 and 9 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and Article 11 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, by identifying an adequate model among the various modalities, such as enhancing project co-financing, especially regarding the role of national minorities councils; programmatic financing of media founded or published by national minorities councils; exclusion of media owned by national councils of national minorities from the privatization process; increasing the amount of content in the languages of national minorities on public service broadcasters.
- Ensuring sufficient and stable funding to guarantee the sustainability of media in the languages of national minorities.
- Raising public awareness of the rights of national minorities and respecting cultural and linguistic diversity by supporting the production of media content in order to achieve equal rights and further strengthening the understanding of the culture of national minorities as an integral part of society as a whole.
- Call for proposals for financing and co-financing projects in the field of contemporary creativity and cultural activities of national minorities.
- Encouraging the acquisition of books in the languages of national minorities in the field of contemporary creativity.

74. The entire fifth chapter of the Action Plan focuses on *The use of languages and scripts* in order to ensure full respect for the right to use minority language/speech and script, with flexible implementation of the introduction of minority languages into official use in accordance with confirmed international agreements and to provide funding for funding from budget. This chapter provides 14 activities that contribute to the implementation of the obligations deriving from the Charter:

- Improvement of the way of work of bodies of local self-government units throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia in carrying out entrusted tasks of registering a personal name in civil registers in the language and script of members of a national minority in accordance with the law.
- Training of registrars and registrar's deputies regarding the application of laws and other regulations governing the registration of personal names of persons belonging to national minorities in civil registers in the language and script of members of national minorities.
- Increased control over the exercise of the rights by persons belonging to national minorities in connection with the registration of a personal name in the language and script of the national minority in the registers.

- Provision and distribution of resources to bodies and organizations in the territories of local self-governments in which at least one language of a national minority is in official use, in order to promote the exercise of the right to official use of languages and scripts.
- Encouraging the flexible application of the introduction of minority languages for official use in areas where national minorities traditionally live and providing funding for these activities from the budget.
- Amendments to the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, and the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, in order to enable the marking of topographic and other insignia in certain settlements on the territory of local self-government units where a certain national minority language is not in official use, if the percentage of members of that national minority in the total population in the territory of a given settlement reaches 15% according to the results of the last census.
- Raising awareness among persons belonging to national minorities regarding the exercise of the right to use minority languages in contact with local authorities and other competent public authorities in the areas where national minorities live.
- Facilitating the recording of court proceedings in accordance with the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Judicial Reform Strategy to motivate persons belonging to national minorities to seek the conduct of proceedings in the languages of national minorities in official use.
- Provision of a translation function in local self-government units for languages of national minorities that are officially used on a territorial basis (for the territory of one LGU or more affiliated LGUs).
- Providing electronic information, services and documents on the eGovernment Portal in the languages of national minorities in self-government units where these languages are in official use.
- Analysis of the normative framework governing the official use of languages and scripts in judicial and administrative proceedings in order to facilitate the wider use of languages and scripts of national minorities.
- Strengthening the preventive role of fines through more precise prescribing of offenses for which fines are imposed and more effective punishment for violations of the provisions of the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts.
- Publication of regulations in the languages of national minorities in accordance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.
- Reviewing the network of courts in order to improve access to courts for persons belonging to national minorities in places where a large number of persons belonging to a national minority live, in accordance with the regulations on the official use of language and script.

75. The strategic goal of the *Education* chapter is to advance the position and encourage the exercise of the rights of members of minority communities in the field of education. This chapter provides the largest number of activities for the implemenation - a total of 22, which, inter alia, relate to: monitoring the quality of education in the languages of national minorities; strengthening of initial teacher education providing competences in the national minority

language; providing professional staff for working in minority languages in accordance with the Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia until 2020 and the accompanying action plan; providing all textbooks and teaching aids in the languages of national minorities; strengthening language capacities and learning professional terminology for students who study in the national minority language with objective to access the labor market and professional development; enhancing the ability to learn the mother tongue - speech and elements of national culture in schools while maintaining elective subject status and developing facultative and other extracurricular activities, as well as providing the funds for performing extracurricular activities; promoting different models of education for students belonging to national minorities; developing and providing opportunities for learning the language of the social environment in schools.

76. Chapter *Adequate representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the public sector and public enterprises* aims to enable collecting comprehensive information on the representation of national minorities in the public sector and public enterprises at all levels, fully respecting international standards in the field of personal data protection and implementing decisive measures to achieve adequate representation of national minorities in the public sector and public enterprises, which will further enhance the use of national minority languages in contacts with governing bodies and public services. Some of the most significant activities in the context of implementing the provisions of the Charter are:

- Analysis of the situation in order to determine the criteria for prescribing the adequate representation of national minorities in certain parts of the public sector through, inter alia, the analysis of the necessary conditions for conducting business in certain parts of the public sector, in accordance with the functions performed by the public sector, which influence on the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to communicate in an language that is in official use.
- Adoption and implementation of a decree regulating, among other things, knowledge of the languages and scripts of national minorities, as a special condition for conducting jobs in certain workplaces, in order to fully exercise the right of persons belonging to national minorities to communicate in the national minority language, which is in official use in local self-government unit.
- Analysis of the situation in the offices of public prosecutors and courts in areas where national minorities live, with regard, inter alia, to the knowledge of national minority languages.
- Drafting and adoption of the Rulebook on criteria for assessing the competence and suitability for nominating and selecting candidates for the position of public prosecutor, including provisions on the application of Article 82 of the Law on Public Prosecutor's Office, which states that when proposing and selecting public prosecutors and the Deputy Public Prosecutor shall take into account the national composition of the population, adequate representation of persons belonging to national minorities and knowledge of professional legal terminology in the languages of national minorities, which is in official use in court.
- Drafting and adoption of the Rulebook on criteria for assessment of expertise and competence for election of judges and presidents of courts, including provisions on the application of Article

46 of the Judges Act, which states that the national composition of the population is taken into account when proposing and selecting judges; adequate representation of persons belonging to national minorities and knowledge of professional legal terminology in the languages of national minorities that is officially used in court.
- National minority language classes / courses for police officers, with an emphasis on official communication, in environments where national minorities are more represented.

77. The part of the Action Plan concerning the *National councils of national minorities* envisages the adoption of a decree regulating the procedure for allocation of financial resources from the Budget fund for national minorities and providing financial resources for its operationalization, as a support to national councils in the exercise of their powers, in order to further improve the position and work of national councils of national minorities.

78. The strategic goal of the *International Cooperation* chapter is to enhance international cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the countries of origin of national minorities. This objective is realized through activities which, inter alia, envisage the continuation of international cooperation especially in the region, that is, in the territory of the former SFRY and Southeast Europe, through the conclusion and implementation of bilateral and multilateral documents in relation to issues of importance for the region or relations between states, such as protecting and exercising the rights of minority communities and raising awareness of the opportunities and importance of cross-border cooperation between local self-government units.

79. In order to achieve full inclusiveness of national minorities in the process of monitoring and full coordination of the work of state bodies and to provide the highest level of support for the implementation of planned activities, monitoring of the implementation of activities under the Action Plan has been entrusted to the Council for National Minorities, which is a working body of the Government composed of line ministers, directors of competent state bodies and chairmen of all national councils of national minorities.

80. The Office for Human and Minority Rights, which collects data on the implementation of activities and produces quarterly reports on the implementation of the Action Plan, provides expert and administrative-technical support to the Council. Reporting forms are sent to the addresses of more than 70 stakeholders, and since 2017, also to councils for inter-ethnic relations, which are formed at the local level in order to achieve, protect and promote national equality, as well as local self-government units, which are considered multi-ethnic according to the Census and the provisions of the Law on Local Self-Government.

81. National councils of national minorities are involved in the reporting, but also in all stages of the process of monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan. Reports are submitted to the National councils 15 days before the public presentation, in order for them to be able to get acquainted with the content, but also in order to provide comments on the report in a timely manner. Comments by National councils and the replies of line bodies, together with reports on

the implementation of the Action Plan, are publicly available on the Office for Human and Minority Rights website[18], and are also discussed at sessions of the Council for National Minorities.

82. In addition, in order to maximize the availability of this important document, the First Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan, which is a comprehensive overview of the situation of the exercise of national minority rights, has been translated into 11 minority languages which are, in addition to Serbian, in official use in the Republic of Serbia and is also available on the Office's website.

83. During the four years of implementation of the Action Plan, 12 implementation reports were prepared and made publicly available, covering 2016, 2017, 2018 and the first two quarters of 2019. An analysis of implementation indicates that 80% of the activities have been implemented or are ongoing, 9% of the activities have been partially implemented, while 11% of the activities have not been implemented or the competent institution has not submitted a report on the implementation.

84. As noted above, one of the activities planned in the Action Plan concerns the adoption of a decree regulating the allocation of funds from the Budget fund for national minorities and providing funds for its operationalization. The Decree on the allocation of funds from the Budget fund for national minorities was adopted in early 2016, which created the conditions for the implementation of additional measures aimed at improving minority languages.

85. Funds from the Fund are awarded through a public competition for programs and projects in the field of culture, education, information and official use of languages and scripts of national minorities. The right to participate in the competition have institutions, associations, foundations, companies and other organizations whose founders are national councils of national minorities and civil society organizations, whose goals according to statutory provisions are achieved in the field of protection and promotion of the rights and status of members national minorities, which are established in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, as well as endowments, foundations and conferences of universities or academies of vocational studies.

86. Funds allocated in accordance with the Decree on the procedure for allocation of funds from the Budget fund for national minorities are increasing continuously from year to year, while the areas financed and designated as priority for each year are made in accordance with the proposal of the Coordination of National councils of national minorities which is adopted by the Council for National Minorities which is attendeed by the chairmen of all national councils of national minorities. Thus, in 2017, amount that was allocated from the Budget fund for national minorities was 1,800,000 dinars, already in the next 2018 amount was increased to 21,800,000 dinars, and in the budget for 2019 the amount of 30,000,000 dinars was provided.

[18] https://ljudskaprava.gov.rs/sh/node/21795

87. At the meetings of the Council for national minorities, the proposals for programs for the allocation of funds from the Budget fund for national minorities were unanimously adopted, and it was determined that information in the languages of national minorities is a priority area in which programs and projects are financed by the Budget fund for national minorities in 2017 and in 2018, while in 2019 it was decided that cultural programs and projects should be a priority area.

88. Information on the number of projects funded and the amount of funding allocated by languages, as well as information on the implementation of other activities foreseen in the Action Plan relevant to the implementation of the Charter, are contained in the relevant parts of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter.

d Creating conditions for facilitating and / or encouraging the use of regional or minority languages in speech and writing, in public and private life.

89. During this reporting period, a set of laws was adopted or amended to regulate the employment status of employees of autonomous provincial authorities, local self-government units, public services, public agencies and state bodies, which continued to create conditions for facilitating and/or encouraging the use of minority languages in the areas covered by the Charter.

90. All these laws stipulate that the ordinance on the internal organization and systematization may provide posts for which a special condition is knowledge of the language and script of a national minority in official use.

91. The Law on Employees in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units[19], applicable from 1 December 2016 to employees of the Autonomous Provincial Authorities and Local Self-Government Units, provides a basis for the Government to regulate more closely the criteria for job classification and benchmarks a description of the posts of officials, taking into account the knowledge of the languages and scripts of national minorities, as a special condition for those posts that are important for the exercise of the right of citizens to the official use of languages and scripts of national minorities.

92. In order to implement the above provision, the following by-laws have been adopted for its implementation: Decree on criteria for job classification and criteria for job descriptions of officials in autonomous provinces and local self-government units[20], Decree for criteria for job classification and criteria for description jobs of employees in autonomous provinces and local self-government units[21] and the Decree on the implementation of internal and public competition for filling vacancies in autonomous provinces and local self-government units[22].

[19] Official Gazette of RS, no. 21/2016, 113/2017, 95/2018 and 113/2017 - another law
[20] Official Gazette of RS, no. 88/2016, 113/2017 - another law and 95/2018 - another law
[21] Official Gazette of RS, no. 88/2016, 113/2017 - another law and 95/2018 - another law
[22] Official Gazette of RS, no. 95/2016

93. Those acts stipulate that in an autonomous province, local self-government unit or city municipality where official use of the language and script of a national minority is established, in those workplaces that involve direct oral and written communication with citizens, as a special condition for such work post is required knowledge of the languages and scripts of national minorities, as well as specifying this condition in the advertisement for filling the executive post for which special knowledge of the language and script of the national minority is provided as a special condition and any written verification of its completion.

94. In 2017, the Law on Public Service Employees[23] was adopted, effective from 1 January 2020, regulating the employment status of employees in public services (education, science, culture, health and social care). The Law stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs, among other things, shall define jobs for which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat or its organizational unit are located, will be stipulated as a special condition. In addition, the Law stipulates that a person who fulfills, among other things, the requirement to know the language and script of a national minority in official use in the territory of the local self-government unit where the head office of the public service is located may be admitted to a public service employment, that is, its organizational units, if knowledge of the language and script is a condition for working in accordance with this Law. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment.

95. During 2018, the Law on Public Agencies[24] was also amended, which stipulates that, if the vacancy for which the Rulebook on internal organization and systematization of posts has special condition for post, that is the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority, the notice of public competition specifically states this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment.

96. Amendments to the Civil Servants Act[25] from 2018, which applies to employees of state bodies, stipulate that, if a position is filled in a state body that requires a knowledge of the language and script of a national minority as a special condition, the notice of public competition specifies this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. In addition, the Law provides for the keeping of personnel records with employers, which serves the management of personnel and other needs in the field of labor relations, but stipulates which data on employees are entered in the personnel records. One of the information to be entered in the personnel records is the language in which primary, secondary and higher education was acquired, which will result in the possibility of assigning employees to posts where a specific language and writing requirement is officially used in the unit of local self-governments.

[23] Official Gazette of RS, no. 113/2017 and 95/2018
[24] Official Gazette of RS, no. 18/2005, 81/2005 - amendment and 47/2018
[25] Official Gazette of RS, no.79/2005, 81/2005 - amendment, 83/2005 - amendment, 64/2007, 67/2007 - amendment, 116/2008, 104/2009, 99/2014, 94/2017 and 95/2018

97. Other relevant measures and activities to promote the use of minority languages in speech and writing, in public and private life, are presented in the relevant parts of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter.

f making provisions to ensure that the study of regional or minority languages is appropriately and appropriately conducted at all appropriate levels.

98. On the territory of the Republic of Serbia, teaching takes place in 1,302 elementary schools, 61 elementary and secondary music and ballet schools, 48 adult education schools, 44 elementary special schools, 23 secondary special schools and 573 secondary schools.

99. In accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Serbia, the education system for persons belonging to national minorities can be implemented using one of three possible models: a. all teaching in the minority language, with compulsory subject Serbian as a non-native language; b. bilingual education; c. entire education in Serbian, with elective subject/program Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture.

100. The education in their native language is attended by members of 8 national minorities: Albanian, Bosniak, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian national minorities. The following table provides data on the number of students attending classes in the minority language in primary and secondary schools, relative to the total number of students in the Republic of Serbia.

	Number of students 2016/17.	**%**	**Number of students 2017/18.**	**%**	**Number of students 2018/19.**	**%**
The total number of students in primary and secondary schools in the Serbian language	816.911	94,84	803 086	94,73	771.503	94,55
Total number of students in primary and secondary schools in national minority languages	44.481	5,16	44.633	5,27	44.425	5,44
Total number of students in primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Serbia	861.392	100	847 719	100	815.928	100

101. Regarding the formation of classes, the legal minimum is 15 students when enrolling in first grade. However, classes in the language of a national minority often have fewer students than prescribed (average of 10, and often fewer students), as the line minister has the right to approve the formation of classes or groups with fewer students than prescribed. The decision-making process for the formation of classes in minority languages respects the opinions and suggestions given by each local self-government and national councils of national minorities for each place, school and department. In the 2018/19 school year, 57 primary schools approached the Ministry with a total of 128 requests for approval of classes with fewer students than

prescribed for teaching in national minority languages, out of which 103 applications were approved, ie 80%.

102. Elective subject/program Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture is available for students who attend classes in Serbian language and are members of national minorities or wish to learn the language of a national minority, which is implemented as an elective program in 321 elementary schools in the Republic of Serbia. This elective program in the reporting period was conducted in 15 languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Bunjevac, Vlach, Hungarian, Macedonian, Romani, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Slovenian, Ukrainian, Croatian and Czech) in the reporting period, and from the school year 2019/20 the German language with elements of national culture is introduced. The following table provides information on the total number of students who have attended the Mother tongue with elements of national culture by school year.

Mother tongue with elements of national culture	**2016/17.**	**2017/18.**	**2018/19.**
Total number of students	11.509	15.950	13.939

103. Information on the practice of studying minority languages at all levels of education, by language, is contained in the relevant parts of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter.

g facilitating that those who do not speak regional or minority languages, and who live in the area where they are spoken, can learn them if they wish.

104. Teaching in minority languages or studying minority languages in primary and secondary education is available not only to minority languages native speakers, but also to all interested students who do not speak those languages.

105. Groups for the elective subject/program Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture may also be formed at the level of several schools in one municipality, with the consent of the competent school administration. Parent surveys of elective subjects/programs the Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture are conducted every school year, through the Unique Survey Sheet, which, through school administrations, is delivered to all primary schools in the Republic of Serbia. Interested parents are interviewed via this survey sheet. The questionnaire is distributed to all parents in the school, regardless of whether they are members of a national minority, and contains all languages of national minorities that have fulfilled the legal basis. This elective course/program is implemented through a teaching fund of two hours per week in primary schools. In the 2018/19 school year there are 15 languages in total in the survey, while in the 2019/20 school year on the survey there are 16 languages of national minorities.

106. The minimum number of students to form a group at cycle level or in multiple schools is 10 students. However, in practice, groups with at least 5 students are usually approved. During

the 2018/19 school year 30 requests for the formation of groups for the elective subject/program Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture with fewer students than prescribed were sent to the competent state authority, of which 95% were approved. The status of this elective program has been strengthened since the 2017/18 school year, when informatics became a full - time subject instead of elective subject, and previous elective subjects became sections. Thus, only the Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture remained as an elective subject/program. This has led to a better position for this elective subject/program, as students do not have to choose between their native language and computer science, which was the most common case. In the 2018/19 school year 469 teachers were hired to teach this subject/elective program.

107. The implementation of this elective subject in elementary school is financed from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, and the costs of realization in secondary and adult education schools may be borne by the national council of the national minority, local self-government unit or through the project activity.

h promoting the study and research of regional or minority languages at universities or similar institutions.

108. In addition to studying minority languages at universities in the Republic of Serbia, there is also the possibility of studying and researching them. The regulations of the Republic of Serbia stipulate that scientific research work, in addition to universities, may be carried out in other scientific research organizations.

109. The Ethnographic Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SANU) is the most significant scientific and research institution in the Republic of Serbia that deals with the study of culture in the broadest (ethnological-anthropological) sense, that is, the research of cultural heritage, identity and daily life of the population of the Republic of Serbia, as well as Serbs outside the country of origin. This institute implements the following projects: Cultural heritage and identity; Multiethnicity, multiculturalism, migration - contemporary processes; Identity strategies: contemporary culture and religiosity; Interdisciplinary research on the cultural and linguistic heritage of Serbia and development of a multimedia web portal Glossary of Serbian Culture. The most important annual serial is the Gazette of the Ethnographic Institute of SANU. In addition, the Ethnographic Institute of the SASA publishes Proceedings, Special Editions and other publications of a scientific character.

110. Within the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts there is also a Balkan Institute, which studies the Balkans from prehistory to modern times, through archeological, anthropological, ethnographic, historical research and studies of culture, art, literature, customary law, etc. In all fields, the Institute has developed international cooperation with a number of institutions in European countries and organized dozens of international conferences. The Institute publishes the *Balcanica* yearbook and the *Special Editions* edition in all fields of Balkanology research, as well as numerous monographs and proceedings. The Institute conducts its research through six

specific scientific projects, of which the most significant for the study of culture and language are *the Danube and the Balkans: cultural and historical heritage* and *Language, folklore and migration in the Balkans*.

111. Within the Department of Social Sciences of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, a Committee for the Study of National Minorities and Human Rights has been set up to study relevant material and current issues or to organize scientific conferences and to publish papers. This committee has organized several lectures dealing with language issues, such as: Language, multiculturalism and interculturalism; Cincari, language and identity research; Script, language, nation, etc. The Committee has published a collection of papers entitled Rights of National minorities in the constitutional legal system of the Republic of Serbia, which contains several papers dealing with the official use of languages and scripts of national minorities; media in languages of national minorities; cultural autonomy of national minorities; trends in the rights of national minorities, etc.

112. Systematic data on research into minority languages are not available at universities, but the information provided by some higher education institutions that participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter can illustrate the existence of such a possibility. More extensive information on the study and study of minority languages not covered by Part III of the Charter is contained in Section 3.2.

i promoting appropriate forms of transnational exchange, in the areas covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.

113. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have pointed out that the Republic of Serbia is a party to bilateral agreements with states that use languages in identical or similar form to the minority languages present in Serbia, in areas relevant to the implementation of the Charter. The continuation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter provides information on the implementation of the signed agreements or programs of cooperation, as well as the agreements to be signed, which relate to languages not covered by Part III of the Charter. For the languages covered by Part III of the Charter, information is presented within the framework of the implementation of Article 14 of the Charter.

114. The Republic of Serbia has no concluded agreements with any state in which Bunjevac and Vlach are used in identical or similar form. It also lacks information on the established transnational exchange of National councils of the Bunjevci and Vlach national minorities with institutions of other countries.

115. Educational cooperation with the Republic of Northern Macedonia is based on the Agreement between the Federal Government of the FRY and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in the field of culture, education and sports, signed on 3 July 1997. The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on Cooperation in the field of education, science and technology was signed on 16

February 2015. The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on the mutual recognition of public documents on the acquired education and on professional, academic and scientific titles was signed on 21 February 2014.

116. In the field of cultural cooperation, the Program on cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia for the period 2015 - 2019, signed in Skopje, 16 February 2015, is also in force. Serbia and Macedonia are committed to intensive and quality cultural cooperation. To this end, a top-level meeting was held at the end of 2017 to discuss improving cultural cooperation through the integration of the two countries' national institutions. During the meeting, there was also discussion about cooperation within the format China and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (16 + 1). A Cultural Coordination Center within the 16 + 1 mechanism in Skopje was formed during 2018.

117. Cooperation in the field of film production takes place between Serbia and Macedonia on several levels:

• In the field of co-production, in which a large number of films were made;

• The Southeast European Cinema Network (SEE CN), of which Serbia and Macedonia are founders and members (together with Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Romania and Albania), within the framework of promotion, project development and finding an effective model for financing the Network's activities. The network unites the cinema institutions of the countries of the region and was founded in 2001 with the aim of enhancing cooperation in the field of film production, primarily in the field of joint production, distribution and promotion of film. The network allocates funding twice a year: in June for a short feature film (EUR 8,000) and in November for the development of a film project for a feature film (EUR 8,500);

• Regarding participation in the Cannes Market Festival, as part of a joint pavilion (since 2010);

• In an effort to create a Regional Cinema Fund that would not be targeted by budget funding but by interested users of audiovisual products - television and mobile telephony providers, above all;

• Through film participation at festivals in Serbia and Macedonia.

118. In addition, the Film Center of Serbia, in cooperation with the Goethe Institute, started in 2016 a multi-month FIRST FILMS FIRST program aimed at helping young Southeast European filmmakers develop projects for their first feature films, which implemented in several countries (Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia).

119. Film news has an enormous amount of archival material that is significant for Macedonia or is in Macedonian. The proposal for next year for the cooperation of Film News and Macedonian Cinema is to reach an agreement that would enable the realization of the project of digitization of this film material.

120. Protocol on Cooperation between the National Library of Serbia and the National and University Library „St. Kliment Ohridski“ was signed in Belgrade on June 6, 2012 to last indefinitely. The cooperation takes place through an international exchange of publications. The selective procurement department exchanges publications with libraries and Slavic centers: The National and University Library „St. Kliment Ohridski“, the Library of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Faculty of Philology, Institute for Macedonian Language „Krste Misirkov“ and the Cultural and Information Center of Serbs in Macedonia „Spona“. The cooperation is also conducted through the Conference of Directors of European National Libraries (CENL), as well as the Conference of Directors of National Libraries of Southeast Europe, which is held informally every year, as well as through the participation of representatives of the National and University Library „St. Kliment Ohridski“ at the meetings and workshops held at the National Library of Serbia and at the Belgrade Book Fair.

121. In 2004, the Archives of Yugoslavia signed a Cooperation Agreement with the State Archives of the Republic of Macedonia, and the last meeting between the directors of the two archives was held this year in order to propose measures for further enhancement of cooperation.

122. The long-standing cooperation of the twin cities of Kumanovo and Pančevo, as well as the local community of Jabuka and Makedonski Brod takes place with the aim of fostering the culture and tradition and promoting the cultural and spiritual life of the Macedonian national community in the community of Jabuka.

123. The Agreement on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation between the Government of the SFRY and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was signed in 1969 and is still in force. The process of harmonizing the text of the new agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in the field of culture, education and science is still ongoing. The draft agreement, in addition to the provisions presented in the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter relating to the dissemination of cultural knowledge and the promotion of language learning, provides, inter alia, for the parties to assist in the production and exchange of films and other audio-visual content; support the cooperation of public service broadcasters; pay special attention to the translation and publication of literary works by the other party and encourage cooperation at regional and local level. In addition, the Parties will strongly support all forms of cooperation in all fields of education, including schools and higher education institutions, research institutions, organizations and institutions of extracurricular vocational education and training for adults; encourage the exchange of pedagogical and didactic material; will encourage the exchange of scholars, teaching staff, instructors, doctoral students and students, and collaborate in an effort to achieve in their teaching literature such representations of the history, geography and culture of another country that will advance mutual understanding.

124. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding on passing the German Language Diploma Conference of the Conference of Ministers of Culture of the Provinces of the Federal Republic of

Germany in Schools in the Republic of Serbia, signed in 2012, between the ZFA (Center for Foreign Education) and the Embassy of the SR is in force, German and Permanent Conferences of the Ministers of Culture of the Provinces in the Federal Republic of Germany, on the one hand, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, on the other, on the cooperation and implementation of the DSD (German language diploma), which is being implemented worldwide. The memorandum is annexed annually. In the academic year 2018/2019 one lector from Germany was hired at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac, and Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad. The universities in Serbia directly cooperate with the universities in Berlin and Hamburg. The Province of Bavaria awards scholarships for postgraduate studies to the University of Belgrade. For the summer course Serbian as a foreign language, which is held at the Center for Serbian as a foreign language at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, for 2018, 10 scholarships have been offered for candidates from Bavaria. In February 2018, BAYHOST, as in previous years, announced the 2018 German summer courses scholarship contest.

125. Within the cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of culture, cooperation with the German provinces with which Serbia has signed co-operation protocols is particularly significant: Bavaria (1970), Baden-Wurttemberg (2009) and Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia, with which special programs are underway as well as Joint mixed committees, which also include the culture department.

126. In addition, a large number of cultural institutions of the two countries maintain intensive cooperation. The National Theater in Belgrade signed a Cooperation agreement with the Deutsche Theater in Berlin on February 14, 2019, which refers to the artistic collaboration between the two houses, and primarily implies the exchange of artists and performances.

127. The selective procurement department of the National Library of Serbia has a very intensive exchange of publications with thirteen libraries in ten German cities, while supplying books to nine Slavic centers at German universities.

128. In the European COST action Medieval Europe, which studies the culture of the Middle Ages in the context of available technological resources and aims to build a Virtual Center for Middle Ages Studies, the National Library of Serbia cooperates with two partner institutions from Germany: the Heidelberg Academy of Humanities and the University in Bonn.

129. The National Library of Serbia also signed the Protocol on Cooperation with the Goethe Institute (Serbia) in 2013.

130. In 2014, an agreement was signed on the accession of the Republic of Serbia to full membership of the Traduki international translation network. This translation network was established in 2008 as a private-public partner network for literature and books, aiming to

strengthen European and inter-regional cultural exchanges. Traduki supports the translation of works of contemporary literature, non-fiction, as well as books for children and young people. Translation from German into the languages of Southeast Europe, then from the language of Southeast Europe into German is supported, as well as mutual translation into the languages of Southeast Europe.

131. The Republic of Serbia also participates in the most significant book fairs in Germany, presenting works by authors from Serbia translated into German.

132. The Leipzig book fair is important for affirming the so-called small European languages and cultures, such as Serbian and other southern European cultures, in which Serbia traditionally participates. Keeping in mind the constant interest of German and Austrian publishers for writers from Serbia and Southeastern Europe, the Ministry of Culture and Information has in recent years organized a national appearance at the Leipzig Fair, so that the focus is on contemporary writers from Serbia and their works translated into German in cooperation with *Traduki* Translation Network.

133. The Frankfurt Book Fair also traditionally presents Serbian publishers and authors. The translation of the work into German is financially supported by the Ministry of Culture and Information, and German publishers are participating in the Ministry's competition to encourage the translation of books by Serbian authors into German.

134. The Film Center of Serbia is a significant contact for information on new films for festival selectors in Berlin, Mannheim, Kotbus, Wiesbaden, as well as on developing projects for *Co-Co (Connecting Cottbus)*. For many years, the Serbian Film Center has been providing screeners of new films for the pre-selection of the beforementioned festivals.

135. The Assembly of the City of Novi Sad in 1983 made the Decision on friendship and cooperation between the City of Novi Sad and the City of Dortmund in the Federal Republic of Germany, while on 1 February 2017 it concluded an Agreement on Cooperation between the City of Novi Sad and the City of Ulm in the Federal Republic Germany.

136. The City of Sombor has been cooperating with the City of Kispest for several decades, together they implemented the project *In the Sign of Europe*, in which twenty children and five adults go to another city to learn about culture, history, tradition and language.

137. During August 2018, a "Cross-border film camp in German" was realized in Backa Monostor (Sombor), bringing together a total of 48 participants from Serbia, Hungary, Romania, Croatia and Germany. The camp was funded by the Baden-Wittenberg Foundation and the city of Sombor.

138. In 2001, Subotica acceded to a joint declaration establishing partnerships between the Berlin Borough Treptow/Kőpenick, the City of Izola from Slovenia, Mürzzuschlag from Austria, Olomouc from the Czech Republic, Balatonfűzfő, Balatonalmádi, Zirc, Szeged and Veszprém from Hungary.

139. In addition, in the previous period, without formal agreements, the city achieved and nurtured a good cooperation with a number of cities in Germany, such as Berlin, Ulm, Munich and Paderborn. The cooperation takes place in various fields and promotes contacts between speakers of German, among other things, in the field of culture.

140. Subotica also signed a Memorandum of understanding and business and technical co-operation with the Federal Republic of Germany in which, in five elementary schools and in the "Kostolanj Dez" grammar school for talented children, it supported the teaching of German by funding German language teachers teaching students and enhance teacher competencies.

141. The Agreement on Cooperation in the field of culture, education, science, youth and sports between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Czech Republic was signed on 29 November 2016 and entered into force on 21 June 2017. So far, cultural cooperation with the Czech Republic has not been developed to the extent that there are preconditions and opportunities, given the historical links, and the signing of this agreement will certainly intensify and enhance cooperation. There is a special potential in developing cooperation between partner institutions (museums, archives, libraries, etc.).

142. Pursuant to the said agreement, the "Sava Muncan" primary school in Kruščica in the Bela Crkva municipality and the Zaječi primary school, from Breclav district of the South Moravian region of the Czech Republic signed a Memorandum of cooperation. The schools agreed to support and encourage the study of Czech in the Republic of Serbia, to exchange materials and information, and to arrange the organization of professional meetings of teachers in the field of language and culture of the Czech people. The establishment of cooperation between the two schools was financially supported by the National council of the Czech national minority and the municipality of Bela Crkva.

143. The Yugoslav Cinematheque has established an excellent multi-decade collaboration with the Prague National Film Archive. In the first week of October 2018, the Yugoslav Cinematheque organized the Czech Film Days event, which included Slovak films exclusively that year, to mark the centenary of Czechoslovakia and the centenary of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Serbia. This kind of cooperation is planned to continue with the organization of the Czech Film Days in 2019.

Paragraph 3

Member states undertake to foster mutual understanding between all linguistic groups within the country and to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages in the educational process, as well as to encourage the media to pursue the same objective.

144. Legislation and its implementation in the practice presented in the previous but also in this report on the implementation of the Charter contributes to raising awareness and increasing tolerance for multilingualism. Through various activities, authorities encourage respect and understanding among speakers of all languages existing in its territory.

145. One of the five priority areas for compulsory teacher training set out in the Rulebook on continuing professional development of teachers, educators and professional associates is the creation of a tolerant and non-discriminatory environment for each individual, as well as the prevention of violence, prevention of discrimination and inclusion of children from socially marginalized groups. One of the four areas in the Catalog of continuing professional development programs is strengthening the educational role of the educational institution through the development of programs for the prevention of violence, discrimination, abuse and neglect.

146. In the Catalog of permanent professional development programs for teachers, educators and professional associates for the school years 2015/16, 2016/2017 S and 2017/2018, two programs in the field of education and upbringing in the languages of national minorities have been accredited, as well as in the Catalog of programs of continuous professional development of teachers, educators and professional associates for the school year 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. The Catalog contains a total of 32 programs dealing with human rights. There are 7 programs in the field of enhancing competences for civic values, and 24 programs are aimed at improving the capacities of teachers and other professional associates to act in the field of protection against violence and discrimination.

147. Programs related to education for democracy and civil society are part of the Teaching and learning program for elementary and secondary schools, and are delivered through the Civic education curriculum. This course has the status of a compulsory elective program to be selected for each school year. During 2017, in accordance with the Action plan for the implementation of the education strategy until 2020, the Institute for the advancement of education prepared new plans and programs for teaching and learning for primary education. Programs are outcome-oriented and should ensure the development of cross-curricular competencies, one of which is *Responsible participation in a democratic society*, which is recognized in outcomes related to respect for human rights and freedoms. Under the new Civic education curriculum, the goal of teaching and learning is to make the student aware of his or her rights and responsibilities, learning about the basic principles, values and procedures of civil society, sensitive to the needs of individuals and the community, and willing to actively participate in the community while respecting democratic values. Other teaching subjects, to the best of their ability, introduce

outcomes related to respect for gender equality, diversity and intercultural dialogue. Respect for democratic values and procedures, responsible, humane and tolerant behavior in society, sensitivity to social injustice, cooperation and teamwork are some of the human rights outcomes of the curriculum.

148. In the previous period, training *Teachers as carriers of quality education for all children* was organized, which is part of a unique list of trainings of special importance, and the training was attended by 275 educational advisers - external assistants and representatives of the Ministry. Civic education teachers have undergone gender-based violence prevention training as part of the *School for Non-Violence* project. The Catalog of Accredited Programs for teachers and professional associates contains several accredited seminars. The accredited program/seminar *All Our Identities* stands out in particular. The seminar has so far had 7 realizations attended by 140 civic education teachers, as well as class teachers and social science teachers in primary and secondary schools. The aim of this program is to integrate all aspects of identity into primary education by directly engaging teachers, through empowering them to intervene in teaching content, and by changing attitudes about national, gender roles and other relationships, to further develop a fair and sustainable society. Civic education teaching is recognized by other education and youth stakeholders as an adequate place to undertake smaller projects aimed at introducing a gender perspective or sensitizing young people to discrimination and inequality.

149. Within the project of the Council of Europe and the European Union *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*, activities based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Council of Europe's supervisory bodies have been implemented. One of the goals of this initiative is to raise awareness of the rights of national minorities and to promote tolerance. Within the project, activities were undertaken in order to strengthen the capacity of institutions to ensure adequate representation of national minorities in education and to improve the knowledge of the general public about national minorities in the Republic of Serbia.

150. Guidelines for the adequate representation of national minorities in teaching and learning programs and textbook content in the Republic of Serbia have been developed and presented to the public within the project. This document is derived from the Report on the representation of National minorities in curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on the representation of National minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia, as well as recommendations made through the project for the needs of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. Recommendations are defined as a form of support for institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, position and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and comprehensive social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia. The recommendations are directed to institutions in charge of education,

which relate to teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality.

151. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers providing lectures in one of the minority languages. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines that include examples and instructions on how to implement recommendations appropriately into educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions in charge of the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include content on national minorities. In the upcoming period, this document will be submitted to National councils of national minorities for comment. One of the results of the implementation of this project is that on the basis of the Guidelines and opinions and recommendations in the programs of teaching and learning for the second grade of high school are clearly marked elements of democratic culture, ie contents that support and encourage respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the framework education system and the like.

152. The project also includes producing a booklet on educational opportunities in the languages of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia, which was translated into the languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Bunjevac, Vlach, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Romani, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Slovenian, Ukrainian, Croatian and Czech). In the upcoming period, the project team is preparing promotional activities and distribution of brochures to parents.

153. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development supports and actively participates in a number of projects and programs of extracurricular activities that foster tolerance and multiculturalism in schools in the Republic of Serbia.

154. The Project *Strengthening Intercultural Practices in Culturally Diverse Schools* is implemented by the Center for Educational Policies in collaboration with the Open Society Foundation. The project envisages the participation of five schools that educate a high percentage of students belonging to national minorities. Each school conducts five activities aimed at enhancing collaboration, understanding and tolerance among students of different nationalities. Within the project activities, two accredited trainings for about 150 teachers in the field of interculturalism and anti-discrimination were implemented. A series of teaching and extracurricular activities in schools was also implemented - regular classes with intercultural content, thematic lessons with outcomes in the field of interculturalism, as well as extracurricular activities aimed at promoting intercultural and multilingualism in the school or wider community.

155. The two main objectives of the *Youth in Multicultural Community* project are to map attitudes related to intercultural education among young people in Novi Pazar, Sjenica, Tutin, Prijepolje, Priboj and Nova Varoš, including their parents and teachers, through conducting research and presenting research data on attitudes on intercultural education. The results of the survey were presented to teachers, students, parents, local youth offices, youth and youth organizations, student and student parliaments, local self-governments, representatives of civil society organizations, educational institutions, and all citizens. The research findings of this project, implemented by the Center for Educational Policies in collaboration with the Open Society Foundation, generally give a positive picture of the extent to which intercultural skills have been developed in students (1st and 4th grade high school students), their parents and their teachers in the Raška area. They also point to low social distance and present good social cohesion among young people (students). On the other hand, they point out that activism on human and minority rights and humanitarian issues is not a very common occurrence among young people, and given that it stands for social cohesion and strengthening democratic values, it is recommended that such behavior be strengthened. young people. The results also showed that intercultural skills are related to aspects of intergroup relations in young people (social distance and activism), suggesting that investing in the development of intercultural skills can create a basis for strengthening good intergroup relations. In addition, assessed school support for the permeation of different cultures (interculturalities) and perceived equality of ethnic groups in the country are not only related to intercultural skills (e.g., the higher the perceptions of inequality, the less developed the skills) and aspects of intergroup relations (e.g. the more negative the perceptions, the greater the activism), but they can also form links between them and aspects of intergroup relations (e.g., the more perceptions of the position of ethnic groups are more positive, the more the links between intercultural skills and social distances ma stronger minority groups).

156. The project *Promoting Democratic Culture in Schools* is a two-year activity co-financed by the European Union and the Council of Europe, within the framework of the European Union and Council of Europe Program Horizontal Assistance for the Western Balkans and Turkey. The overall objective of the project is to increase the quality of education by fostering democratic culture and languages in the formal education system, by applying anti-discriminatory approaches based on Council of Europe standards and practices.

157. The specific objectives of the project are: to enhance the competences of teachers, students and citizens in the community on the concept, policy, practice and benefits of inclusive education and democratic culture in schools; empowering and increasing the resources of pilot schools to eliminate prejudice and discriminatory approaches to vulnerable groups, as well as reduce school violence situations. The expected results of the project are the identification of examples of good practice of democratic culture in schools that will be promoted in the education system in the country and the region, as well as the preparation of an action plan with projected activities and how the experiences from pilot schools will be used to develop a strategic plan.

158. The project selected 20 pilot schools (10 primary and 10 secondary schools) that were given the opportunity to introduce anti-discrimination measures and activities and mechanisms to monitor those measures. Schools from Bečej, Belgrade, Bor, Jagodina, Kraljevo, Niš, Novi Pazar, Pančevo, Banatsko Novo Selo, Požarevac, Subotica, Turija, Veliko Gradište, Vladičin Han, Žabalj and Đurđevo were selected. These 20 selected schools actively worked to promote the concept of democratic culture at school through teaching and extracurricular content, staff training, establishing practices and activities that, through the provision of new knowledge, skills and understanding, developing attitudes and behaviors, students learn how to defend their democratic rights and take responsibility. Three conferences and several workshops and consultative meetings were also held in which, in addition to the line ministry, representatives of schools participated in the work, which implement measures and activities to combat discrimination and mechanisms to monitor these measures. The topics covered by the participants were: competences for a democratic culture in a comprehensive educational approach, the presentation of the Council of Europe's Educational Policy Advisers Network (EPAN Network). Through a framework of twenty competencies from the Competence Model from the Value Group, Attitude Group, Skill Group and Knowledge and Critical Understanding Group, schools have organized a wide variety of activities, with pedagogical approaches appropriate for developing competencies for a democratic culture and creating a more enjoyable, interesting and safe school environment, enhancing at the same time its capacity to eliminate violent, discriminatory and anti-democratic structures in the school and school environment, furthering the ethos of the school and providing support for students. Of the twenty competencies included in the core model, the majority of schools opted for the competence in the attitude group - openness to cultural diversity, as well as other beliefs, worldviews and practices (9) and the competencies in the skill group - cooperation skills (9) and skills for conflict resolution (8).

159. As part of this project, which not only changes school practice but represents part of changes to educational policies at the systemic level, a Handbook of good practice examples of applying competencies in schools in three areas was developed and published:
1. Area of teaching activities,
2. Area of extracurricular activities,
3. Area of cooperation with the local community.

160. The project *Our City, Our Schools* is implemented by the Coordination body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa in cooperation with the Children's Foundation Pestaloci from Switzerland and in partnership with the “Group 484“ organization, which provides training for teachers and students. Primary and secondary schools in the territory of the municipality of Bujanovac participated in the project. In primary schools, participants were sixth, seventh and eighth grade students, while in secondary schools, first and second year students were included. The main objective of the project is to improve cooperation between primary and secondary schools in the territory of the municipality of Bujanovac in which teaching is conducted in Serbian and

Albanian, as well as to create opportunities for interaction and cooperation between students and teachers.

161. In addition, the project encourages joint activities through the creation of school mini-projects dedicated to the study of culture and language in the city in which they live. During the project, three three-day teacher trainings and seven two-day student workshops were implemented. At the end of the training, teachers and students presented their research activities through public presentations attended by their colleagues, students and parents. A group of 40 students resided in the children's village of Trogen, Switzerland, as part of the Intercultural exchange program "Pestalets of the Children's Foundation". Pupils from 6 schools from the territory of the municipality of Bujanovac had the opportunity to actively participate in educational workshops with their peers from Switzerland. Topics covered in this program were: intercultural education, understanding of diversity, children's rights, topics on stereotypes and prejudices, etc. At the end of the project, a public presentation was held during which students from both high schools presented the results and products created during the workshops. A *Bujanovac Guide*, seen through the eyes of young people, was also presented during the workshops, showing, in addition to describing young people's favorite places, what would they like their city to look like, what they miss, what they love and what they would change. The guide was presented through a short play in which about 50 students participated.

162. *Our Story* project is implemented by the Government Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. The project involves students and teachers from two primary schools in Preševo: Primary School "Professor Ibrahim Kelmendi" and Primary School "Vuk Karadžić". The main objective of the project is to create a platform for overcoming segregation in educational institutions and contributing to the affirmation of interculturalism and multilingualism in a multicultural environment.

163. The specific objectives are to establish a link between schools through the organization of extracurricular activities for pupils belonging to different national communities in order to communicate and learn about cultural and linguistic similarities and specificities among pupils; contributing to building mutual trust and respect between students belonging to different national groups and documenting a process that can serve as a model of good practice, as well as building the capacity of Preševo teachers to strengthen intercultural practices through teaching and extracurricular activities.

164. The main project activities include workshops with sixth-grade students of the schools mentioned, as well as workshops with teachers aimed at strengthening intercultural practices in school and extracurricular activities. During the final event of the project participants, a publication that was prepared during the project duration was promoted based on the materials

used, the contributions of the participants, documenting the completion of homework, examples of cooperation and good practices.

Paragraph 4

In determining their policies in relation to regional or minority languages, Member States shall consider the needs and wishes of those populations using those languages. They should be encouraged to establish, if necessary, appropriate bodies to advise the authorities on all matters concerning regional or minority languages.

165. National councils of national minorities have been established to exercise the right of persons belonging to national minorities to cultural autonomy in certain areas of social life. Authorities at all levels of government are required to consult National councils in the fields of culture, education, information and official use of languages and scripts. In this way it is possible to consider the needs and desires of population groups that use minority languages.

166. Following the successful completion of the last election cycle for members of National minorities councils on 4 November 2018, all national councils were constituted and, in addition to existing National councils, two new National councils were formed: The National Council of the Polish National Minority and the National Council of the Russian National Minorities. A total of 23 national councils have been registered in the Register of National councils kept by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government.

167. The Council for National minorities was set up to monitor and consider the status of the exercise of national minority rights and the status of inter-ethnic relations in the Republic of Serbia. Representatives of republic bodies in whose jurisdiction areas are relevant to the status of national minorities and the presidents of all national councils of national minorities are members, including the president of the Union of Jewish Municipalities of Serbia, which has the status of National council. By adopting the National minorities rights Action plan (2016), the Council for National minorities was given a new task. The Council was entrusted with monitoring the implementation of the Action plan activities to achieving full inclusion of national minorities in the monitoring process, as well as full coordination of the work of state bodies and providing the highest level of support for the implementation of the planned activities.

3.2. Information on the application of the Charter in minority languages for which the obligations under the Part III of the Charter have not been committed

168. The Republic of Serbia has assumed obligations under Part III in respect of Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romani, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Croatian, while the following paragraphs contain information on Bunjevac, Vlach, Macedonian, German and Czech language.

3.2.1. Bunjevac language

169. In its annex to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the National council of the Bunjevac national minority states that standardization of the Bunjevac language has been made as a strategic and priority task of the National council and has been implemented over the past ten years. The development of the second and revised edition of the “Dictionary of Bunjevci from Bačka“ (2018) was done in cooperation with Matica Srpska, who was the publisher of the first edition from 1990. In 2019, a "Grammar and Language Manual for the Bunjevac Language" was published. In February 2018, the National Council of the Bunjevac National Minority adopted a Decision establishing the Bunjevac language standard. This provided the conditions for the Bunjevac speech to become the Bunjevac language. The following paragraphs give an overview of the use of Bunjevci language.

170. The Bunjevac language is in the system of education and upbringing through the model of education in the Serbian language with the optional subject/program Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture in primary school. Name of the item from the 2018/2019 school year is Bunjevac language with elements of national culture.

171. In the 2016/2017 school year 412 students studied the Bunjevac speech, in 2017/2018 school year 414 students and in the school year 2018/2019 369 students attended this course.

172. As public information on Bunjevac is comprised of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of the provision of media services of Bunjevac language radio and television broadcasting services; basic activities of public media services; financing of media content on privately owned Bunjevac media, and media indirectly founded by the National council of Bunjevci national minorities.

173. Providers of media services providing media service of television broadcasting of programs in the Bunjevac language via cable system are the television stations: VTV COMNET DOO, SUBOTICA-TV SUBOTICA and INFORMATIVE PRESS CENTER OF THE MUNICIPALITY VLADIČIN HAN DOO, VLADIČIN HAN - TV HAN.

174. The radio program in Bunjevac language is broadcasted on three radio stations: Radio Novi Sad, Radio Subotica and Bunjevac Radio (in Subotica), for a total of 158 hours of program broadcasting on a monthly basis. The TV program is broadcast on three television stations: RTV (Novi Sad), YU ECO TV and K23 (both from Subotica), for a total of 10 hours of program broadcasting on a monthly basis. The following periodicals are printed on Bunjevac: biweekly *Bunjevačke novine*, *Tandrčak* and *Bocko* in Subotica.

175. RTV continuously broadcasts radio and television programs on Bunjevac language. During the reporting period, there was a significant increase of 40% of the program in Bunjevac language on the RTV 2 program, compared to 2015. The program of RTV 2 on Bunjevac

language in 2018 is fully realized in its own production. It was presented with a predominantly half-hour program - Spectrum, which gathers news and reports from cultural, artistic and socio-political events relevant to the life of members of the Bunjevac national community in Vojvodina. The show is produced at the RTV studio in Subotica. One-third of Bunjevac's programs (34.55%) are premiers[26].

176. Information on Bunjevac language is financially supported from the republic, provincial and local budgets, by co-financing projects through competition.

177. The Ministry of Culture and Information have supported project implemented through various types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Bunjevac language in media.

Year	Number of projets	Type of media	Approved funds
2016.	1	Press	400.000,00
2016.	1	Internet	400.000,00
2017.	1	Press	400.000,00
2017.	1	Internet	400.000,00
2018.	1	Press	400.000,00
2018.	1	Internet	400.000,00

178. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information in the languages of national minorities. In 2017, RSD 20,000.00 was allocated for a project intended to inform the Bunjevac national minority, while in 2018, RSD 80,000.00 was allocated for one project intended to inform the Bunjevac national minority.

179. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Bunjevac language.

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Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016.	1	Internet	100.000,00
2017.	2	Press	750.000,00
2017.	2	Internet	320.000,00
2017.	2	Production	250.000,00
2018.	3	Press	650.000,00
2018.	4	Internet	850.000,00
2018.	1	Production	150.000,00

180. The budget of AP of Vojvodina subsidizes newspapers of provincial importance, including newspapers in Bunjevac language. The table below provides information on subsidizing this type of media.

[26] Public media Service RTV – ways of meeting the legal programme obligations, Report of the Regulatory body for Electronic Media for the period 01/01 – 31/12 2018, p. 91

Media publisher	Media	2016	2017	2018
NIU Bunjevac Information Center	Bunjevačke novine	6.466.800,00	6.466.800,00	6.790.200,00
	Tandrčak	1.782.000,00	1.782.000,00	1.872.000,00
Total amount		8.248.800,00	8.248.800,00	8.662.200,00

181. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of information in the Bunjevac language in 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

LSG	2016	2017	2018
Sombor	400.000,00	150.000,00	150.000,00
Subotica	950.000,00	800.000,00	950.000,00

182. In addition, in the reporting period, the city of Subotica allocated RSD 7,257,000.00 to media broadcasting media in three languages (Hungarian, Croatian and Bunjevac).

183. The relevant state and provincial authorities, as well as local self-government units, also co-financed projects in the field of Bunjevac culture.

184. The table below provides an overview of projects in the field of cultural activities related to Bunjevac, co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Year	Field	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016	Multiple areas of art	3	600.000,00
2017	Multiple areas of art	3	440.000,00
	Literary and language preservation	1	120.000,00
2018	Multiple areas of art	3	520.000,00

185. The Bunjevac minority projects relate to a number of artistic fields and are predominantly concerned with tradition. Although rare, publishing projects are interesting and often aimed at the youngest population. A good example of this is *TANDRAČAK AND ITS GOODS*, which came about by first publishing a magazine for children in the Bunjevac language by the "Bunjevac Information Center" in Subotica, and later publishing regular books for children in the later period.

186. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities co-finances the work of cultural institutions and other cultural entities not financed from the budget of AP of Vojvodina, which through their programs exceed the local significance and more permanently satisfy the cultural needs of citizens in AP of Vojvodina. Among such funded institutions is the Institution of Culture Center of Bunjevci, Subotica.

Institution	2016	2017	2018
Culture center of Bunjevci	-	443.000,00	300.000,00

187. The same secretariat supported projects in the following fields of culture concerning the Bunjevac language.

Year	An area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016.	Publishing	1	390.000,00
	Magazines/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural manifestation	6	190.000,00
2017.	Publishing	2	90.000,00
	Magazines/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural manifestation	4	274.000,00
2018.	Publishing	5	400.000,00
	Magazines/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural manifestation	7	497.000,00

188. Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, grants funds on the basis of the annual competition for the organization of ethnic communities. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, procurement of equipment, projects and organizing events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing language, folk customs and ancient crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, anniversary events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, guest ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with countries of origin and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

189. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects of the Bunjevac minority associations and the amount of funding awarded in the call for proposals for grants to ethnic community organizations in 2016-2018.

Year	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016.	13	320.000,00
2017.	10	1.000.000,00
2018.	11	1.000.000,00

190. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of members of the Bunjevac national minority in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

LSG	2016	2017	2018
Sombor	524.000,00	942.800,00	1.130.000,00
Subotica	2.904.000,00	3.862.000,00	4.815.000,00

191. Bunjevac language is not officially used in any unit of local self-government, since according to the 2011 census, the number of members of Bunjevac national minority does not reach 15%.

3.2.1.1. Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on Bunjevac

a. Introduce the use/teaching of Bunjevac language in preschool and secondary education.

192. The educational laws prescribe the conditions for the introduction of teaching in the minority language into the education and upbringing system. For preschool education, consent of 50% of parents is required, and in order for teaching to be held in a minority language in primary and secondary schools, at least 15 students enrolled in the first grade are needed. Educational institutions at all educational levels carry out parental surveys when enrolling students in the first year of the educational or educational cycle (enrollment in preschool, first grade of primary school and first middle school). By completing the survey, the parent declares the desired language of the educational work or teaching. The institution is obliged, if the conditions prescribed by law are fulfilled, to provide educational work, ie teaching in the language of the national minority according to the models of education defined by law. Considering that the legal conditions for the realization of the entire upbringing work, ie teaching in Bunjevac language, have not been achieved, it does not currently take place either in preschool institutions or at primary and secondary level of education.

193. Since secondary education is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, for the time being, the realization of the optional Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture in secondary schools to be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia it is not possible. For the time being, this optional program is being implemented with the support of National councils of national minorities and local self-government, that is, international donors and embassies.

194. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development supports initiatives that promote minority rights in education, and as a prerequisite it is necessary to map the needs of the Bunjevac language community for the type and mode of education at all levels of education. In order to inform parents/legal representatives, as well as to promote education in minority languages, within the project of *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia* of the Council of Europe and the European Union, a brochure on educational opportunities in national minority languages in the Republic of Serbia that has been translated into Bunjevac language. In the upcoming period, promotional activities and brochures are distributed to parents.

b. Increase of the number of hours per week during which the subject "Bunjevac language with elements of national culture" is taught in primary schools.

195. The Rulebook on the curriculum for the first cycle of primary education and the program of teaching and learning for the first grade of primary education[27] sets the number of classes on a weekly and annual basis for each of the courses and elective programs. The Mother tongue/speech program with elements of national culture is presented two hours a week. In the first cycle, the weekly class schedule is 20 hours for students attending Serbian language classes, while for students who attend the Mother tongue/speech program with elements of national culture, the weekly class schedule is 2 hours higher and is 22 hours. This actually means that 10% of the total lesson fund is devoted to learning the mother tongue with elements of national culture, which is a larger fund of classes than the one provided for certain compulsory subjects. The eventual increase in the number of elective courses/programs would further burden students attending this elective/program compared to students not attending it.

c. Providing funds for non-Bunjevac language speakers, including adults who do not speak Bunjevac language, to learn Bunjevac language.

196. Information on the implementation of this recommendation is provided in Section 3.1. in response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1 g.

3.2.2. Vlach speech

197. Although Vlach has not yet been standardized, the Republic of Serbia is encouraging or facilitating its use in certain areas where standardization of the language is not a condition for its implementation. The following paragraphs give an overview of the use of the Vlach in these spheres of social life.

198. Vlach speech is in the system of education and upbringing through the model of education in Serbian with the optional subject/program Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture in primary school.

199. In the 2016/2017 school year 331 students studied Vlach speech, in the year 2017/2018 394 students and in the school year 2018/2019 369 students attended this course.

200. A key challenge in the implementation of the elective course/program Vlach speech with elements of national culture in primary schools remains the lack of professional staff. The Institute for the Advancement of Education has decided that teachers in elementary schools who are native or well-known in Vlach can also teach Vlach speech with elements of national culture, if they complete a previously accredited seminar “Get across, get to know the speech and culture of Vlachs” organized by the National council of the Vlach national minority, with the support of

[27] Official Gazette of RS – Education Gazette, no. 10/2017

the Association for the Preservation of the Identity, Culture, Tradition and Language of Vlach "Gergina" from Negotin.

201. The National council of the Vlach national minority drafted the alphabet as a precondition for the further development of Vlach speech. With the aim of preserving and promoting Vlach speech as minority speech, fieldwork, collecting and recording of preserved intangible linguistic and cultural heritage in the territory of eastern Serbia and the part of Pomoravlje, where the Vlach minority is mostly located, were initiated. Based on the collected material, a "Map of Current Vlach Cultural Events in Eastern Serbia" and "Vlach Culture Development Strategy 2014-2020" was created. The vision of the Vlach National council of the Vlach minority also relates to the improvement of competences in education. Among the objectives are the standardization and codification of Vlach speech, the preservation and revitalization of speech and its dialects. In his annex to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Vlach Forum emphasized the need to hold an international symposium on the meaning and content of the Vlach language, bearing in mind all Balkan vlaphones and/or rumophones and their linguistic identities, similarities and differences.

202. Since public information in Vlach is realized through broadcasting of Vlach program in private media, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing media radio service and media broadcasting of television program in Vlach and financing media content in Vlach broadcasted by privately owned media.

203. The following radio stations are providing media service by means of terrestrial analogue and media television broadcasting services via digital signal in Vlach: MIG EKSTRA DOO, SVILAJNAC - MIG RADIO; PRINT, RADIO AND FILM DOO, BOR - RADIO BOR and MLAVA-MEDIA DOO, PETROVAC NA MLAVI - RADIO MLAVA, while television programs are broadcasted by: PRINT, RADIO AND FILM DOO, BOR - TV BOR; MLAVA-MEDIA DOO, PETROVAC ON MLAVI-TV MLAVA; RTV MAJDANPEK DOO, MAJDANPEK-T 1 and RTV F KANAL DOO, ZAJECAR - TV F KANAL.

204. The radio program on Vlach is broadcast on four radio stations: Radio "F-kanal", Zaječar; Radio Zvižd, Kučevo; Radio Hit, Salaš and Radio Saxony Radio, Mosna, with total 152 hours of broadcasting on a monthly basis. The TV program is broadcasted on six television stations: RTV Bor, Bor; TV Homolje, Žagubica; TV "F-Channel", Zaječar; TV Kučevo, Kučevo; TV Kladovo, Kladovo and TV Istog, Salaš totaling 184 hours of broadcasting on a monthly basis. *Reč naroda*, the weekly magazine from Pozarevac prints one page in Vlach.

205. Information on Vlach is financially supported from the republic and local budgets by co-financing projects on the basis of competition.

206. The Ministry of Culture and Information through calls for proposals supported projects implemented through various types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Vlach in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016.	3	Television	1.450.000,00
2016.	1	Press	460.000,00
2016.	1	Production	400.000,00
2017.	3	Television	1.200.000,00
2017.	1	Radio	400.000,00
2017.	1	Press	400.000,00
2017.	2	Internet	800.000,00
2018.	3	Television	1.400.000,00
2018.	1	Radio	400.000,00
2018.	1	Press	500.000,00
2018.	1	Production	400.000,00

207. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information in the languages of national minorities. In 2018, RSD 650,000.00 was allocated for two projects aimed at informing the Vlach minority.

208. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the Vlach language area for the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

LSG	2016	2017	2018
Kučevo	225.000,00	500.000,00	400.000,00

209. Competent governmental bodies and local self-government units also co-financed Vlach-related cultural projects.

210. The table below provides an overview of projects related to Vlachs in the field of cultural activities, co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Year	Area	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016.	Music	2	400.000,00
2017.	Traditional dancing	1	120.000,00
	Music	2	400.000,00
2018.	Literary and language preservation	1	120.000,00
	Visual arts	1	120.000,00
	Music	3	360.000,00
	Multiple areas of art	1	120.000,00

211. The Vlach national minority traditionally realizes the Vlach Original Song Festival, which preserves in a specific way the linguistic specificity of its members. In the period 2016-2018. The Ministry of Culture and Information co-financed printing of a collection of stories

“One Vlach story“ by Živorad Tomić. The Municipality of Svilajnac supported the publication of the book "National Identity and Traditions of the Vlachs of Northeastern Serbia", by Dr. Miodrag Perić, at a competition to stimulate programs of public interest in 2018. The “Gergina“ Association, attached to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, stated that it had published 23 books in Vlach.

212. The Vlach Institute for Culture, founded by the National Council of the Vlach National Minority, financed the production of the documentary film “The Guardians of the Vlach Tradition“. This movie premiered in 2018 on Serbian Science TV, which is available in the cable system throughout Serbia, as well as in the region.

213. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of members of the Vlach minority in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

LSG	2016	2017	2018
Bor	350.000,00	750.000,00	1.000.000,00
Kučevo	70.000,00	365.000,00	340.000,00
Majdanpek	-	80.000,00	150.000,00
Negotin	171.000,00	216.000,00	254.000,00
Petrovac na Mlavi	500.000,00	500.000,00	500.000,00

214. Following the amendments to the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts of 2018, the Statute of the Municipality of Petrovac na Mlavi was amended in early 2019, which established that in the settlements Busur, Vitovnica, Dubočka, Ždrelo, Kladurovo, Leskovac, Manastirica, Melnica, Ranovac, Rasanac, Stamnica and Starčevo names of public authorities, the name of the municipality, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms, are also written on the script of the Vlach minority.

3.2.2.1. Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on Vlach

a. Introduce Vlach language in preschool education and strengthen its use at all appropriate levels.

215. The educational laws prescribe the conditions for the introduction of teaching in the minority language into the education and upbringing system. For preschool education,consent of 50% of parents is required, and in order for teaching to be held in a minority language in primary and secondary schools, at least 15 students enrolled in the first grade are needed. Educational institutions at all educational levels carry out parental surveys when enrolling students in the first year of the educational or educational cycle (enrollment in preschool, first grade of primary school and first middle school). By completing the survey, the parent declares the desired language of the educational work or teaching. The institution is obliged, if the conditions

prescribed by law are fulfilled, to provide educational work, ie teaching in the language of the national minority according to the models of education defined by law. Considering that the legal conditions for the realization of the entire upbringing work, ie teaching in Vlach language, have not been achieved, it does not currently take place either in preschool institutions or at primary and secondary level of education.

216. Since secondary education is not an obligatory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, for the time being it is not possible for the realization of the optional program Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture in secondary schools to be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. For the time being, this optional program is being implemented with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-government, that is, international donors and embassies.

217. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development supports initiatives that promote minority rights in education, and as a prerequisite it is necessary to map the needs of the Vlach language community by type and mode of education at all levels of education. In order to inform parents/legal representatives, as well as to promote education in minority languages, within the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia* of the Council of Europe and the European Union, a brochure on educational opportunities in national minority languages in the Republic of Serbia has been translated into Vlach. In the upcoming period, promotional activities and brochures are distributed to parents.

b. Increase the number of hours per week during which the Vlach language with elements of national culture will be taught in primary schools.

218. The Rulebook on the teaching and learning plan for the first cycle of primary education and the teaching and learning program for the first grade of primary education[28] sets the number of weekly and annual lessons for each of the courses and elective programs. The Mother Tongue/Speech Program with Elements of National Culture is represented with two lessons a week. In the first cycle, the weekly lesson schedule is 20 lessons for students attending the classes in Serbian language, while for students who attend the elective program Mother Tongue/Speech with Elements of National Culture, the number of lessons per week is higher by 2 and it is 22 lessons. This actually means that 10% of the total lessons is devoted to learning the mother tongue with elements of national culture, which is a higher number of lessons than the one provided for certain compulsory subjects. The possible increase in the number of elective courses/programs would further burden the students attending this elective subject/program compared to the students not attending it.

c. Provide facilities to enable non-speakers, including adult non-speakers, of Vlach to learn this language.

[28] Official Gazette of RS - Education Gazette, no. 10/2017

219. Information on the implementation of this recommendation is provided in Section 3.1 in response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1 g.

d. Promote transnational exchange, in the area covered by the Charter, for the benefit of the Vlach language.

220. The Republic of Serbia has not concluded agreements with any country in which Vlach language is used in identical or similar form. It also does not have information on the transnational exchange of the National Council of the Vlach National Minority with the institutions of other countries.

e. Promote studies and research about the Vlach language at universities or equivalent institutions.

221. The first results of a survey on the visibility of Vlach speech in Serbia, conducted by the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, were published in 2006.

222. More detailed information on the work of the institutes and departments of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in the study of minority languages and cultures is given in Section 3.1., within the response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1 h.

3.2.3. Macedonian language

223. Macedonian language is in the system of education through the model of education in the Serbian language with the elective subject/program Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture in primary school.

224. In the school year 2016/2017, 131 students studied Macedonian in the school year 2017/2018, there were 214 students, while in the school year 2018/2019, 219 students have attended this course.

225. From the school year 2016/2017, students of elementary schools in the territory of Central Serbia have the opportunity to study this subject. Lessons are organized in the towns of Bogojevce and Leskovac, and in the school year 2018/2019 they were attended by 118 students, of the total number of students taking this course.

226. Macedonian language is taught at universities in Serbia as a subject within the department/Group/Section for Serbian Language/Serbian Language and South Slavic Languages at the Universities of Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš. This course is delivered over one or two semesters, depending on the university. At the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš, in the academic year 2017/2018, one Macedonian language teached from Northern Macedonia was hired.

227. Since public information in Macedonian is made up of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing a media service for television broadcasting in Macedonian; financing of media content in Macedonian on privately owned media, the main activity of public media services and media indirectly founded by the National Council of the Macedonian National Minority.

228. The media service providers providing service of digital television broadcasting, in Macedonian, are televisions: NIŠKA TELEVIZIJA DOO, NIŠ - NTV; KANAL 9 DOO, NOVI SAD - K9 i M OD, VRANJE - TV FOKUS.

229. The media service providers providing media service of television broadcasting, in Macedonian, via cable system are televisions: M OD, VRANJE - TV FOKUS; KANAL 9 DOO, NOVI SAD - K9; EURO MB PLUS DOO, VRANJE - PULS; RTV PANČEVO DOO, PANČEVO - TV PANČEVO and NIŠKA TELEVIZIJA DOO, NIŠ - NTV.

230. The radio program is broadcast by three radio stations: Radio Novi Sad, Naksi radio 016 from Leskovac and Radio Fokus plus from Vranje, for 12 hours/month. The television program is broadcast by the public broadcaster RTV and by TV Pančevo for four hours/month. Two print media are published in the Macedonian language, the bi-weekly *Makedonska videlina* and the quarterly for children, *Sunica*, both in Pančevo.

231. RTV continuously broadcasts radio and television programs in Macedonian. The program in Macedonian language RTV 2 in 2018 was fully carried out in its own production and dominantly presented by the half-hour program *Makedonsko sonce*. The program in Macedonian is predominantly rerun (66.25%), with 1/3 being prime broadcast[29].

232. Information in Macedonian is financially supported from the republic, provincial and local budgets by co-financing projects through competition.

233. The Ministry of Culture and Information has supported projects implemented in different types of media, through competitions, thus facilitating and encouraging the use of Macedonian in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016	1	Radio	450,000.00
2017	1	Radio	400,000.00
2017	1	Production	400,000.00
2018	1	Radio	400,000.00
2018	1	Production	400,000.00

[29] Public media Service RTV– ways of meeting the legal programme obligations, Report of the Regulatory body for Electronic Media for the period 01/01 – 31/12 2018, p. 92

234. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information in the languages of national minorities. In 2017, RSD 50,000.00 was allocated for a project aimed at informing the Macedonian national minority, while in 2018, RSD 200,000.00 was allocated for one project intended to inform the Macedonian national minority.

235. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Macedonian.

Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016	1	Production	100,000.00
2017	1	Production	100,000.00
2018	2	Production	250,000.00

236. Newspapers of importance for the province, including newspapers in Macedonian language, are subsidized from the budget of AP of Vojvodina. The table below provides information on the subsidizing of this type of media.

Media pubisher	Media	2016	2017	2018
NIU Macedonian Information Center	Makedonska videlina	5,139,000.00	5,139,000.00	5,395,800.00

237. The table below provides data on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of information in the Macedonian language in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of allocated funds.

LSGU	2016	2017	2018
Pančevo	-	396,900.00	200,000.00

238. In 2017, the city of Pančevo has supported with the amount of RSD 4,900,000.00 the newspaper publishing company "Pančevac", which issues a multilingual supplement in the "Pančevac" weekly, which among other things is published in the Macedonian language.

239. The relevant state and provincial authorities, as well as local self-government units, have also co-financed cultural projects related to the Macedonian language.

240. The table below provides an overview of projects in the field of cultural activities related to Macedonian language that have been co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Year	Area	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016	More art areas	3	600,000.00
2017	More art areas	3	520,000.00
	Music	1	120,000.00

2018	More art areas	2	240,000.00
	Music	1	120,000.00
	Literature and preservation of languages	1	120,000.00

241. The Macedonian national minority in Serbia implements projects that encompass multiple areas of creativity at the same time, such as the Days of Macedonian Culture in Belgrade "Dodir Makedonije" or Days of Macedonian Creativity in Serbia - "Sebi u pohode" In this way, it nurtures linguistic and cultural specificity, but it also establishes a connection with the native country through the visiting and the exchange of artists.

242. The largest number of translations supported by the Competition for Translation of Works by Domestic Authors into Foreign Languages is in Macedonian. In the period 2016-2018, as many as 33 titles were translated and the amount allocated for these purposes amounted to EUR 32,000 and RSD 240,000.

243. The table below shows the amount of funds allocated from the budget of AP of Vojvodina for cultural projects related to the Macedonian language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016	Publishing	-	-
	Journals/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural events	1	70,000.00
2017	Publishing	-	-
	Journals/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural events	1	91,000.00
2018	Publishing	2	130,000.00
	Journals/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural events	4	191,000.00

244. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

245. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects of the Macedonian minority associations and the amount of funding awarded in the Call for Proposals for Ethnic Community Organizations in the period 2016-2018.

Year	Number of proects	Approved funds
2016	9	200,000.00
2017	15	630,000.00
2018	11	630,000.00

246. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of the members of the Macedonian national minority in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

LSGU	2016	2017	2018
Vranje	45,000.00	-	40,000.00
Pančevo	-	235,000.00	80,000.00
Plandište	50,000.00	75,000.00	165,000.00

247. The Macedonian language is in official use in the territory of the municipality of Plandište, and in the settlements of Jabuka and Kačarevo (city of Pančevo). Namely, after the amendments to the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts of 2018, the statute of the city of Pancevo was amended in early 2019, which established that in the settlements of Jabuka and Kačarevo the names of bodies exercising public authority, the name of the City, of the settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms are also printed in the Macedonian language and script.

248. In 2017, the competent Provincial Secretariat awarded the Plandište municipal administration with 200,000.00 in the competition for the allocation of funds to bodies and organizations in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, with official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities - national communities, for the purpose of erecting signboards with names of settlements on routes in the languages that are officially used in the municipality of Plandište.

3.2.3.1. Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts regarding Macedonian

a. Extend the number of hours per week during which the subject "Macedonian with elements of national culture" is taught in primary education.

249. The Rulebook on the teaching and learning plan for the first cycle of primary education and the teaching and learning program for the first grade of primary education[30] sets the number of weekly and annual lessons for each of the courses and elective programs. The Mother Tongue/Speech Program with Elements of National Culture is represented with two lessons a week. In the first cycle, the weekly lesson schedule is 20 lessons for students attending the classes in Serbian language, while for students who attend the elective program Mother Tongue/Speech with Elements of National Culture, the number of lessons per week is higher by 2 and it is 22 lessons. This actually means that 10% of the total lessons is devoted to learning the mother tongue with elements of national culture, which is a higher number of lessons than the one provided for certain compulsory subjects. The possible increase in the number of elective courses/programs would further burden the students attending this elective subject/program compared to the students not attending it.

b. Consult the National Council of Macedonian National Minority concerning the possibility of introducing Macedonian into preschool and secondary education.

250. The education laws prescribe the conditions for the introduction of all teaching in the minority language into the education system. For preschool education, the consent of 50% of parents is required, and in order for teaching to be held in a minority language in primary and secondary schools, at least 15 students enrolled in the first grade are needed. Educational institutions at all educational levels carry out parental surveys when enrolling the students in the first year of the educational cycle (enrollment in preschool, first grade of primary school and first grade of secondary school). By completing the survey, the parent declares the desired language of the educational work or teaching. The institution is obliged, if the conditions prescribed by law are fulfilled, to provide educational work, i.e. teaching in the language of the national minority according to the models of education defined by law. Considering that the legal conditions for the entire education, i.e. teaching in the Macedonian language, have not been obtained, it does not currently take place either in preschool institutions or at primary and secondary level of education.

251. Since secondary education is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture in secondary schools that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments and of international donors and embassies.

252. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development supports the initiatives that promote minority rights in education, and as a prerequisite it is necessary to map the needs of the Macedonian language community for the type and mode of education at all levels of education. In order to inform parents/legal representatives, as well as to promote education in minority languages, within the project of *Strengthening the Protection of National*

[30] Official Gazette of RS - Education Gazette, no. 10/2017

Minorities in Serbia of the Council of Europe and the European Union, a brochure on educational opportunities in national minority languages in the Republic of Serbia has been translated. Macedonian. In the coming period, promotional activities and brochures are distributed to the parents.

c. Provide facilities to enable non-speakers, including adult non-speakers, of Macedonian to learn it.

253. Information on the implementation of this recommendation is provided in Section 3.1., in response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1 g.

d. Promote transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by the Charter, for the benefit of Macedonian.

254. Information on the implementation of this recommendation is provided in Section 3.1., in response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1 i.

e. Promote study and research on Macedonian at universities or equivalent institutions.

255. The Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts have implemented a joint project *Language as a Record of Culture in Ethnological and Linguistic Analysis* between Serbia and Macedonia.

256. More detailed information on the work of the institutes and departments of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in the study of minority languages and cultures is given in Section 3.1., in the response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1 h.

3.2.4. German Language

257. In the reporting cycle, the German language was implemented as a foreign language in the education system in the Republic of Serbia, and it was studied as such at all levels of education. Accordingly, textbooks for all levels of the education system are also printed.

258. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development has supported the initiative of the National Council of the German National Minority to develop a Teaching and Learning Program for the German language with the elements of national culture, which is a prerequisite for it to be offered as such to the parents in the survey for the elective courses/programs in elementary schools. The elective program German language with elements of national culture was published in the Rulebook on the amendments to the Rulebook on the teaching and learning plan for the first cycle of primary education and the teaching and learning program for the first grade of primary education. German language with elements of national culture was in the survey for selecting the elective subject/program Mother tongue/speech with

the elements of national culture for the school year 2019/2020, which will be more detailed in the next report.

259. Preschool education is organized bilingually, in German and Hungarian, in one preschool in Subotica. Data on the number of children covered by the bilingual teaching are contained in the table below.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of groups	Number of children
2016/2017	1	1	1	24
2017/2018	1	1	1	23
2018/2019	1	1	1	25

260. In addition that, at the preschool Vera Gucunja in Sombor, as of 2017, about 120 children in the preparatory preschool program have been included in the bilingual, Serbian-German program. The German Humanitarian Association Gerhard has donated some of the equipment to the facility and supported the teaching staff who came from Germany to work with children in German and to promote the program.

261. The Hungarian-German model of bilingual teaching was organized in the school system of the Vojvodina AP in the school system, which is implemented in one primary school in Subotica. The table below provides information on the number of students attending this model of teaching.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/17	1	1	14	306
2017/18	1	1	12	258
2018/19	1	1	10	240

262. At the secondary level, bilingual teaching was organized in three secondary schools - grammar schools, the Serbian-German model in Valjevo, Niš and Novi Sad. The table below provides an overview of the organized bilingual model in secondary education.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/17	3	3	11	165
2017/18	3	3	12	192
2018/19	3	3	12	212

263. German is taught at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, and the Faculty of Philology and Arts in Kragujevac. The tables below provide information on the number of students studying in these higher education institutions.

Faculty of Philology in Belgrade

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students at all years of studies
2016/17	95	-
2017/18	102	-
2018/19	93	451

Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students at all years of studies
2016/17	60	299
2017/18	60	313
2018/19	60	306

Faculty of Philology and Arts in Kragujevac

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students at all years of studies
2016/17	31	116
2017/18	31	108
2018/19	28	114

264. At the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš, 2018/2019, 27 students have enrolled in the first year as the first generation of basic academic studies German Language and Literature.

265. In the academic year 2018/2019, in the framework of the internal project of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš, in the part of the project implemented by the Center for Foreign Languages and the Department for German Language and Literature entitled *Foreign Language Courses: Theoretical Positions and Practical Implications*, a research was conducted regarding bilingual teaching in Niš gymnasiums (German and Serbian at the First Niš gymnasium "Stevan Sremac"). A paper entitled "Linguistic competences of teachers in the context of bilingual teaching" presented at the scientific conference *Language, Literature, Context* at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš is being prepared by Janković N. and Momčilović N.

266. Since public information in German has different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing a radio media service and a television broadcasting service in German, core activities of a public media service and financing the media content in privately owned German media.

267. The media service provider providing a media service of television broadcasting of programs in German by digital signal is television PLANETA DOO, APATIN - NAKSI RADIO APATIN 105.8.

268. The media service provider providing media service of television broadcasting of programs in German by a cable system is television KULA DOO, KULA - Q.

269. Programs in German are broadcasted through electronic media - the radio program is broadcasted by three radio stations: Radio Novi Sad, Q Radio, Kula and Radio Marija, Subotica, for 7 hours a month. As for the print media, the Foundation for the Protection of the Heritage of the Danubian Swabians, the "Native House", is published by *Fenster*[31], the only German-language periodical in Serbia.

270. On the radio of the third program of RTV, a half-hour German-language broadcast *"Deutsche Minuten" (German Minutes)* is broadcast every week. Also, on the second program of RTV television, a half-hour German-language program of the same name was introduced and is regularly broadcast every month. In addition to the German Minutes program in 2018, the German language program also included *Nationalratswahlen* - a specialized program dedicated to the elections for the National Council of the German National Minority[32].

271. Information in German is financially supported by the republic and provincial budgets, through co-financing of projects selected in a competition.

272. The Ministry of Culture and Information through has supported projects selected in a competition, which were implemented through various types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of German in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016	1	Production	400,000.00
2017	1	Radio	400,000.00

273. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information in the languages of national minorities. In 2018, RSD 250,000.00 was allocated for a project aimed at informing the German national minority.

274. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in German.

Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016	1	Press	100,000.00
2017	1	Production	100,000.00
2018	1	Production	130,000.00

275. In 2017, RSD 250,000.00 was allocated for the production of two multilingual projects in the Hungarian and German languages.

[31] Available at: http://www.fenster-vojvodina.com/index.html
[32] Public media Service RTV– ways of meeting the legal programme obligations, Report of the Regulatory body for Electronic Media for the period 01/01 – 31/12 2018, p. 93

276. The relevant republic and provincial authorities, as well as local self-government units, have also co-financed German language related cultural projects.

277. The table below provides an overview of German cultural projects co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Year	Area	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016	Theater	1	200,000.00
2017	Many arts areas	2	240,000.00
	Literature and preservation of the language	1	120,000.00
2018	Many arts areas	1	150,000.00

278. In addition to the National Council of the German National Minority, cultural projects are being implemented by the *German Foundation - Deutsche Stiftung* from Subotica and the German Humanitarian Association *Gerhard* from Sombor. Among the projects supported in the reporting period, we stress as particularly important the Multinational Workshop *KINDERSPIELHAUS - LEARN GERMAN THROUGH PLAY*, as well as the Third Cross-border Theater Festival in German. The first project nurtures German language from an early age, not only among members of a national minority, but in the community with fellow citizens, while the other strengthen cooperation in the region.

279. It is important to emphasize that the Ministry of Culture and Information has been financing the national team of the Republic of Serbia at the International Book Fair in Leipzig for 12 years in a row, which is also a book fair with the longest organized participation of publishers from the Republic of Serbia. As a result of direct collaboration, several publishers apply every year at a competition to translate the works of local authors into foreign languages. In the past three years, this competition has contributed to the translation of 6 titles, with the support of the Ministry amounting to EUR 2,000 and RSD 726,000.00.

280. The table below shows the amount of funds allocated from the budget of AP of Vojvodina for cultural projects related to the German language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016	Publishing	-	-
	Journals/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural events	4	90,000.00
2017	Publishing	1	90,000.00
	Journals/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural events	8	117,000.00
2018	Publishing	2	185,000.00
	Journals/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural events	12	267,000.00

281. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

282. The table below provides information on the number of projects supported by associations of members of the German minority and the amount of funding awarded in the call for proposals for donations to ethnic community organizations in 2016-2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	8	90,000.00
2017	7	280,000.00
2018	6	280,000.00

283. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of members of the German national minority from 2016 to 2018, as well as the amount of allocated funds.

LSGU	2016	2017	2018
Bačka Palanka	60,000.00	20,000.00	40,000.00
Sombor	180,000.00	-	180,000.00
subotica	90,000.00	105,000.00	115,000.00

284. German language is not in official use in any unit of local self-government, since the number of members of the German national minority does not reach 15%, according to the 2011 census.

3.2.4.1. Activities on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts concerning German

285. Certain recommendations of the Committee of Experts referred to in section 2.7.2. of the Fourth Report, above all recommendations b, c, f. and g, exceed the obligations assumed by the Republic of Serbia in Article 7, paragraph 1 d of the European Charter regarding the German language. The authorities of the Republic of Serbia indicate that the Committee of Experts has appreciated Article 7 of the Charter, that is, the obligations for the German language under Part

II of the Charter in the context of the commitments made by the State for the languages of Part III of the Charter. Creating conditions for facilitating and/or encouraging the use of the German language in speech and writing, in public and private life, does not mean that, in reference to German language, the State has undertaken obligations to the extent set out in Article 11 (b) (ii) in the field of public information, c (ii) nor is the State obliged, for example, to facilitate the establishing of newspapers that are regularly published in the German language to ensure the implementation of the Charter, as recommended by the Committee of Experts. As the laws, policies and practices of the Republic of Serbia are in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 1 d. of the European Charter regarding the use of German in the media, the authorities of the Republic of Serbia consider that this obligation has been fulfilled, since the programs in German are broadcast on RTV. The new offer of German-language radio and television programs on RTV adequately replaces the offer of private media in German, especially because it is available to German speakers throughout the territory of AP of Vojvodina. The same is true of recommendation g, which goes beyond the obligations assumed by the state under Article 7, paragraph 1. d. of the European Charter, which do not imply the introduction of German into official use at the local level.

a. Provide bilingual education in German at preschool, primary and secondary levels in additional municipalities where German is used, in particular in Apatin, Backa Topola, Kikinda, Sremska Mitrovica, Sremski Karlovci and Zrenjanin.

286. According to the official results of the 2011 census in the Republic of Serbia, 4,064 Germans live in the Republic of Serbia, while the number of German speakers is 2,190. The following table shows the number of members of the German national minority who are up to 15 years of age and between 15 and 29 years old, in units of local self-government for which the Committee of Experts has recommended that bilingual education be provided in German at preschool, primary and secondary education.

Local self-government unit	Under 15 years	Between 15 and 29 years
Apatin	8	14
Bačka Topola	3	4
Zrenjanin	6	12
Kikinda	3	9
Sremska Mitrovica	7	17
Sremski Karlovci	8	8

287. From the above data, it can be concluded that there are an extremely small number of members of the German minority of school age in these local self-government units. In addition, it can be assumed that the number of German speakers is even smaller, since the total number of speakers of this language is almost double that of the German minority. It is also important to note that these numbers refer to the entire territory of the local self-government unit, which includes all settlements in its territory. With all this in mind, especially the fact that the largest number of members of the German minority up to 15 years is in the municipalities of Apatin and

Sremski Karlovci, and that it is 8 persons, including children of preschool and primary school age, it is clear that implementation of this recommendation, in line with the situation of the German language, is not possible. On the other hand, the laws, policies and practices of the Republic of Serbia are harmonized with Article 7, paragraph 1 f of the European Charter, i.e. the State, in accordance with the situation of the languages covered by Part II of the European Charter, has enacted the provisions to ensure, in an appropriate way and by appropriate means, the study of minority languages at all appropriate levels.

d. With regard to the territory in which German is traditionally used (especially Vojvodina), integrate "elements of German culture and history in Serbia" in the curriculum for teaching German as a foreign language.

288. Information on the introduction of the elective subject German language with elements of national culture is contained in the previous paragraphs.

e. Promote awareness and tolerance in education and media of the German language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Serbia.

289. Information on the implementation of this recommendation is given in response to Recommendation No. 5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

h. Adopt a structured policy for the promotion of transnational exchanges for German in the fields covered by the Charter, including with Austria.

290. Information on the implementation of this recommendation is provided in Section 3.1., in response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1 i.

3.2.5. Czech Language

291. The Czech language is in the system of education through the model of education in the Serbian language with the elective subject/program Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture in primary school.

292. In the school year 2016/2017, 73 students were studying Czech and in the school year 2017/2018, 93 students, while in the school year 2018/2019, 168 students attended this course.

293. The Pedagogical Institute of Vojvodina has approved a professional development program in the Czech language “Ahoj! Learning more languages and cultures of the Czechs".

294. The Czech language is taught at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade. The table below provides information on the number of students studying at that institution of higher education.

School year	Number of students enrolled in the first year	Number of students at all years of studies
2016/17	24	
2017/18	14	
2018/19	12	59

295. As public information in Czech language has different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing a radio media service in Czech, core business of public media services and financing of media content in privately owned Czech media.

296. Information company BC INFO DOO, Bela Crkva - Radio Bela Crkva 92.4 provides radio media service through a terrestrial analog signal.

297. The Czech-language radio program is broadcast on Radio Bela Crkva, for eight hours of program broadcasted monthly. The Czech television program is not broadcast on any TV station. The National Council of the Czech National Minority is the publisher of the bilingual print media (Serbian and Czech) Česká beseda, which has been published monthly in Bela Crkva since 2016.

298. As of 2017, České slovo –a half-hour program in Czech is broadcast on the Third Radio Program of RTV. The program is prepared by an independent production, the Czech Media Center, Bela Crkva.

299. Information in Czech language is financially supported from the republic and provincial budgets by co-financing of projects selected on a competition.

300. The Ministry of Culture and Information has supported competition-selected projects implemented through different types of media, which has facilitated and encouraged the use of Czech in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016	1	Production	508,320.00
2017	1	Radio	400,000.00
2018	1	Production	400,000.00

301. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has granted funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Czech language.

Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016	-	-	-
2017	1	Internet	100,000.00
2018	1	Production	130,000.00

302. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information in the languages of national minorities. In 2018, RSD 100,000.00 has been allocated for the project aimed at informing the Czech national minority.

303. The competent state and provincial authorities as well as local self-government units have also co-financed cultural projects connected to Czech language.

304. The table below provides an overview of the projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities connected to Czech language, co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016	More arts areas	1	200,000.00
2017	More arts areas	2	270,000.00
	Art dance	1	200,000.00
2018	More arts areas	1	125,000.00
	Literature and preservation of the language	1	120,000.00

305. In the Bela Crkva area, the associations *Česka Beseda* Kruščica and *Škola plus Dositej Obradović* are particularly active, nurturing the Czech language through the implementation of various cultural projects and paying due attention to children and young people. Although the Czech national minority mostly lives in places in the municipality of Bela Crkva, the activities of the association *Česi Šumadije* from Kragujevac are significant. This association organizes the Days of Czech Culture in Kragujevac, a city where the Czechs are represented in a very small number; this reflects its added value for the Serbian cultural scene. In 2018, a second edition of the Czech language book, Lumir, was supported.

306. In the framework of the Competition for Translating the Works by Domestic Authors to Foreign Languages, six titles were translated into the Czech language from 2016 to 2018, and the amount allocatted for these purposes was EUR 9,000.

307. The table below shows the amount of funds allocated from the budget of AP of Vojvodina for projects in the field of culture related to the Czech language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016	Publishing	-	-
	Journals/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural events	1	15,000.00
2017	Publishing	-	-
	Journals/Publications	-	-
	Other cultural events	1	20,000.00

2018	Publishing	-	-
	Journals/Publications/	-	-
	Other cultural events	2	70,000.00

308. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

309. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects of the associations of members of the Czech minority and the amount of funding awarded in the call for proposals for donations to ethnic community organizations in 2016-2018.

Year	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016	3	50,000.00
2017	4	125,000.00
2018	4	125,000.00

310. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of members of the Czech national minority in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

LSGU	2016	2017	2018
Kovin	-	-	130,000.00

3.2.5.1. Activities in implementing the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Czech

a. Introduce Czech in preschool education.
b. Introduce the teaching of Czech in secondary education..

311. The education laws prescribe the conditions for the introduction of all teaching in the minority language into the education system. for preschool education, the consent of 50% of parents/legal guardians is required, and in order for teaching to be held in a minority language in

primary and secondary schools, at least 15 students enrolled in the first grade are needed. Educational institutions at all educational levels carry out parental surveys when enrolling the students in the first year of the educational cycle (enrollment in preschool, first grade of primary school and first grade of secondary school). By completing the survey, the parent declares the desired language of the educational work or teaching. The institution is obliged, if the conditions prescribed by law are fulfilled, to provide educational work, i.e. teaching in the language of the national minority according to the models of education defined by law. Considering that the legal conditions for the entire education, i.e. teaching in the Czech language, have not been obtained, it does not currently take place either in preschool institutions or at primary and secondary level of education.

312. Since secondary education is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture in secondary schools would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments and of international donors and embassies.

313. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development supports the initiatives that promote the minority rights in education, and as a prerequisite it is necessary to map the needs of the Czech language community for the type and mode of education at all levels of education. In order to inform parents/legal representatives, as well as to promote education in minority languages, within the project of *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia* of the Council of Europe and the European Union, a brochure on educational opportunities in national minority languages in the Republic of Serbia has been translated in Czech. In the coming period, promotional activities and brochures are distributed to the parents.

c. Extend the number of hours per week during which the subject "Czech with elements of national culture" is taught in primary education.

314. The Rulebook on the teaching and learning plan for the first cycle of primary education and the teaching and learning program for the first grade of primary education[33] sets the number of weekly and annual lessons for each of the courses and elective programs. The Mother Tongue/Speech Program with Elements of National Culture is represented with two lessons a week. In the first cycle, the weekly lesson schedule is 20 lessons for students attending the classes in Serbian language, while for students who attend the elective program Mother Tongue/Speech with Elements of National Culture, the number of lessons per week is higher by 2 and it is 22 lessons. This actually means that 10% of the total lessons is devoted to learning the mother tongue with elements of national culture, which is a higher number of lessons than the one provided for certain compulsory subjects. The possible increase in the number of elective

[33] Official Gazette of RS – Education Gazette, no. 10/2017

courses/programs would further burden the students attending this elective subject/program compared to the students not attending it.

d. Facilitate the use of Czech by the local authorities of Bela Crkva.

315. In 2017, project *Improvement of language rights in the municipality of Bela Crkva* was implemented, executed by the Citizens' Association "Češka beseda Beograd", with the participation of representatives of the Municipality of Bela Crkva, the Bela Crkva Municipal Administration and the Council for Interethnic Relations of the municipality of Bela Crkva.

316. In 2017, the Provincial Secretariat allocated funds to the Bela Crkva Municipal Administration in the amount of 250,000,00 in the competition for the allocation of funds to bodies and organizations in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, with official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities - national communities, for the purpose of erecting signboards with names of settlements on routes in the languages that are officially used in the municipality of Bela Crkva.

317. In addition, a training course for national minority languages (Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak and Czech) for a total of 50 police officers was organized in 2016, at the Police Administration in Pančevo (which is also competent in the municipality of Bela Crkva).

318. In order to increase the representation of national minorities in the police force, a program of professional information, recruitment and marketing is being carried out, informing potential candidates about the conditions of the competition in their languages, and encouraging them to apply for jobs in the police. In this regard, the text of the 2018 competition and promotional materials were translated into the languages of national minorities (Albanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romani, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Croatian and Czech) and promotional events were organized in March. ("Open Doors Day") at the regional police departments for which the public call was published.

e. Facilitate the broadcasting of a television programme in Czech on private television (for example TV Banat).

319. By making such a recommendation, the Committee of Experts actually appreciated Article 7, paragraph 1 d. of the Charter, that is, the obligations regarding the Czech language under Part II of the Charter in the context of the commitments made by the State for minority languages under Part III of the Charter. Creating the conditions for facilitating and/or encouraging the use of Czech in public life does not mean that the State has undertaken obligations regarding the Czech language to the extent set out in Article 11 of the Charter. The authorities of the Republic of Serbia consider that, with regard to the Czech language, within the territories in which the language is used and in accordance with the situation of that language,

the Republic of Serbia has facilitated and/or encouraged the use of Czech language in the media by its legislation, policy and practice.

f. Provide facilities to enable non-speakers, including adult non-speakers, of Czech to learn it.

320. Information on the implementation of this recommendation is provided in Section 3.1, in the response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1. g.

g. Adopt a structured policy for the promotion of transnational exchanges for Czech in the fields covered by the Charter.

321. Information on the implementation of this recommendation is provided in Section 3.1., in the response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1 i.

h. Promote research on Czech as a traditional minority language of Serbia at universities or equivalent institutions.

322. In the academic year 2018/2019, Czech language teacher was hired at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. The Government of the Czech Republic has published a competition for postgraduate studies in Czech and English for the academic year 2019/2020. Citizens of the Republic of Serbia may also apply. The CEEPUS III program of cooperation facilitates the exchange of teaching staff and students. 10 professors and 2 students from the Czech Republic were approved in the academic year 2018/2019. Cooperation in the field of digital education development is achieved through the participation in the Working Group on Digital Education: Learning, Teaching and Assessment, of the European Commission, where representatives of all EU countries, including the Czech Republic, are involved.

323. Information on the work of the institutes and departments of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in the study of minority languages and cultures is given in Section 3.1., in the response to the implementation of Article 7, paragraph 1 h.

4. PART III.

4.1. Application of the Charter in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 2

324. Part III of the Charter applies to: Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romani, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Croatian. The following paragraphs contain information on the measures taken in accordance with the commitments made in the Charter, or on the measures taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts in the fourth monitoring cycle.

4.1.1. ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

Article 8 – Education
paragraph 1. a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

Preschool education

325. Preschool education in Albanian-language is carried out in two local self-government units in two preschools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	2	2	78	1,033
2017/2018	2	2	46	584
2018/2019	2	2	44	591

326. Education in preschool institutions is organized bilingually as well, in Serbian and Albanian language in one unit of local self-government in one preschool institution.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	3	23
2017/2018	1	1	3	22
2018/2019	1	1	3	24

Primary Education

327. Entire education in Albanian language is carried out in three local self-government units in 16 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	3	16	425	4,862

2017/2018	3	16	299	4,497
2018/2019	3	16	298	4,322

328. The Albanian language course with elements of national culture is organized in three local self-government units in four primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	2	2	2	7
2017/2018	3	6	9	70
2018/2019	3	4	8	70

Secondary education

Gymnasium

329. Entire education in Albanian language is carried out in one local self-government unit in one high school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	26	1,284
2017/2018	1	1	31	820
2018/2019	1	1	30	807

Technical or specialist education

330. Entire education in Albanian language is carried out in one local self-government units in three vocational or technical schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	3	3	88	1,604
2017/2018	3	4	104	1,950
2018/2019	3	3	104	1,879

University and higher education

331. Opening of the Department of the Faculty of Economics from Subotica, University of Novi Sad in Bujanovac is a very significant result of activities on providing multi-ethnic education in the south of Serbia, as a result of the *Feasibility Study on Higher Education Development Opportunities in Bujanovac and Preševo*. Albanian students, attend 14 of a total of 32 subjects in their native language, and the lecturers are from the Faculty of Economics of the State University of Tetovo, Republic of Northern Macedonia. About 400 students are studying at

the Department of the Faculty of Economics from Subotica in Bujanovac in the four years of studies.

332. At the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Albanian language, literature, culture are taught at basic Albanian studies.

Study profile	2016	2017	2018	Total number of students in all years of studies, academic year 2018/2019
Albanian language, literature, culture	15	9	8	67

333. Students who have studied at the departments of the Faculty of Economics and Law in Niš, opened in Medveđa in the academic year 2009/2010, had the opportunity to attend classes and take exams in Albanian, and textbooks in that language have been provided. As of October 2018, both departments were closed.

334. The table below shows data on the number of students who have followed the teaching in Albanian at the departments of the Faculty of Economics and Law in Medveđa during the academic years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

Academic year	Faculty of Economics Department	Faculty of Law Department	Total number of students
2016/2017	5	12	17
2017/2018	3	10	13

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

c. Favour and encourage the offering of Albanian as a subject of adult and continuing education.

335. Parents' surveys on elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture* are conducted each school year, through the Uniform Survey Sheet, which is distributed to all primary schools through school administrations. Interested students in Adult Elementary Education schools are also interviewed by this survey sheet on attendance of the elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture*. In the previous school years, there wasn't a sufficient number of students interested in learning Albanian with elements of national culture. If the legal requirements are met and at least 15 students apply to learn Albanian with elements of national culture, the institution will be obliged to form a group and organize the teaching of this subject.

336. Since secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools for

adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

d. Within the territory in which Albanian is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Albanian, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

337. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle and Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

338. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society*, *History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

339. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

340. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

341. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

342. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

343. The Office of the High Commissioner of the OSCE for National Minorities, in co-operation with the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa, produced a Serbian-Albanian Albanian-Serbian Small Dictionary/Fjalor i vogël[34], which was promoted and distributed in 16 primary schools in the municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa. The dictionary is bilingual, illustrated and adapted to elementary school students, both in content and in graphics. It has over 12,200 items with over 16,600 meanings, 21,300 examples of word use in a sentence, as well as relevant grammatical information and concise grammar of both languages. In addition, the digital version for computers and smartphones also has audio pronunciation of more than 23,800 words in both languages; it is easily accessible outside of school, and it it is also user friendly, interactive and it enables continuous improving of its content. Over 350 students had the opportunity to learn how to use the digital version of the Dictionary in a series of interactive workshops delivered in collaboration with teachers and teaching assistants.

Article 9 - Judicial powers
paragraph 1, a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d
paragraph 2, a, b, c
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

e. Take measures to encourage Albanian speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

344. The previous reports on the application of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire

[34] http://dictionary.hcnm.org/dict/

judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Albanian.

345. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Albanian speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

346. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

347. Although, according to the available data, at the beginning of 2019 there were 25 persons who knew the Albanian language at the Basic Court in Bujanovac, of which three judges were trained to conduct proceedings in the Albanian language, there were no proceedings conducted in this language during the reporting period.

f. Inform Albanian speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

348. In addition to the above rules, the Rules of Procedure also contain additional rules of relevance for the wider use of minority languages in judicial proceedings. Namely, if the court proceedings are not conducted in the language of a national minority, and in the court, besides the Serbian language, the language of the national minority is also officially used, written documents shall be submitted in his language to the member of the national minority at their request. Translation of submissions and documents submitted to the court in the languages of national minorities is carried out by a translator. The minutes and decisions in the first instance proceedings relating to the proceedings shall be drafted, as authentic texts, in the Serbian language and in the established language of the proceedings. If necessary, they shall be translated into another language of the national minority, if required by a member of the national minority

as a participant in proceedings not conducted in his language. Minutes and decisions in legal remedies proceedings shall be made in the Serbian language. The court of first instance shall translate the decisions taken by legal remedies into the established language of the proceedings and, if necessary, into the second language of national minorities, as well as submit them in a text credibly translated to the appropriate language (to the members of national minorities as participants in the proceedings). If written in the language of a national minority and sent to a court where the language is not in official use, a translation into Serbian shall be enclosed.

349. The full application of the above rules ensures that speakers of minority languages are informed at each stage of the proceedings of their right to use their language before a court and to decide to exercise their rights.

g. Make available in Albanian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Albanian.

350. In order to increase the availability of the most important regulations pertaining to the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the amendments to the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities of 2018 stipulate that the ministry responsible for exercising the rights of national minorities provides the translation and publishes the collections of consolidated texts of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia, whose subject matter of regulation is, in whole or in most part, the exercise of rights of national minorities.

351. The Ministry is obliged to make these laws available in electronic format, on its website and on the eGovernment Portal, as well as to agree to send to the national councils of national minorities a certain number of collections of consolidated texts of these laws. Exceptionally, the national council of a national minority may submit a proposal to the line ministry, on the grounds that it is of particular importance for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the national minority, for the line ministry to translate and publish a collection of consolidated texts of certain laws within its legal scope containing provisions pertaining to the exercise of rights and freedoms of national minorities, that is, to the social relations that are of particular importance to national minorities. When deciding on a proposal of a national council, particular consideration shall be given to the availability of the planned budgetary funds, as well as to whether amendments to these laws or an adoption of a new law is planned in the next one year.

352. Translating regulations into minority languages will help harmonize the professional legal terminology in minority languages and further affirm their use in proceedings before the state authorities.

353. As a number of laws governing the rights and status of persons belonging to national minorities have been amended in 2018, those laws, as well as the accompanying by-laws, have been translated into languages of national minorities that are in official use. These are the Law

on National Councils of National Minorities, the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the Decree on the Procedure for Allocating Funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities, and the Rulebook on the Method of Entering and Keeping the Register of National Councils, which are also available in Albanian.

354. In addition, during the election cycle for the election of the members of the national councils of national minorities in November 2018, the following documents were translated into Albanian: the Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament; Election Day Schedule for the Direct Election Procedure for National Minority Council Members, announced for November 4, 2018; Rules on the Work of Voting Committees for Electing the Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Instruction for direct elections for members of the national councils of national minorities; Election list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Albanian National Minority; Statement of acceptance of candidacy for membership of the National Council of the Albanian National Minority; Consent of the holder of the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Albanian National Minority; Authorization to submit an electoral list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Albanian National Minority; Voter Statement to Support the Election List of Candidates for Members of the National Council of the Albanian National Minority; List of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Albanian National Minority; ballot paper.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services

paragraph 1, a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2, b, c, d, g
paragraph 3, c
paragraph 4, c
paragraph 5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Take organisational measures to ensure that Albanian speakers can submit oral or written applications in Albanian to local branches of the national authorities.

355. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, administrative districts in the Republic of Serbia have been formed to perform public administration tasks outside the seats of the state administration bodies and reflect the dispersion of state affairs. For easier carrying out tasks within the scope and outside their seats, the ministries or provincial secretariats establish for a certain territory their detached units - district territorial units. The cluster of all district regional units in a certain territory is an administrative district - a regional center of state administration.

356. In the administrative district, public administration bodies may, at their discretion, perform one or more of the following public administration tasks: to resolve administrative matters in the first instance, to supervise the work of holders of public authority, and to conduct the supervisory inspections.

357. District regional units of the state administration bodies have been formed in order to optimize the carrying out of state administration tasks, and above all the supervisory inspection activities. Ministries conduct for their district territorial units the HR policy, establish work plans, issue directives and instructions, and, on the basis of their competencies, on their websites, they direct parties to the district regional units of state administration bodies, in areas where the language of a national minority is in official, they may conduct the proceedings both in the language and using the script of that national minority.

358. An Administrative Service is established in the administrative district, which shall essentially perform the tasks, general and common to all district regional units and provide expert and technical support to the head of the administrative district. Jobs within the scope of the Professional Services of the administrative district can be grouped into: legal, financial, registry, professional and technical support to the head of the administrative district and others.

359. Although there are no obstacles or restrictions to the use of oral or written applications in minority languages by the speakers of minority languages, most of the administrative districts have stated in their contributions to the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that so far there have been no cases in the professional service of the administrative district of an oral or written address in minority languages to the Head of the District, national inspection services, or provincial secretariats. All employees of the professional services of the administrative districts, as far as they are in contact with the parties, respect the rights of national minorities and always serve every party, regardless of their nationality or the language in which the party has addressed them. Should the party address them orally or in writing in a minority language, the professional service would meet him, enable him to exercise his right, and to the extent possible, to obtain a response in the minority language.

h. Encourage the local branches of the national authorities to draft documents in Albanian.

360. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System, which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this

ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

i. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure concerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Albanian to be appointed in the territory in which this language is used.

361. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[35], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charterthere were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the Albanian language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

362. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

363. PE Post of Serbia notes that during the reporting period two employees from the Regional Work Unit "Jagodina, Kruševac, Kragujevac" and the Regional Unit "Kragujevac" were engaged in the Regional Work Unit "Kosovo and Metohija". In this regard, the said company, when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in the area.

364. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

[35] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

365. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the employment contract.

366. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1st of January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs shall, among other things, define jobs for which, as a special condition, knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat, or its organizational unit are located. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

j. Draw the attention of local authorities to the right to use family names in Albanian in conformity with the spelling and script of that language, and if needed, provide them with technical support to ensure the effective use of this right.

367. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have detailed the legislative framework for exercising the right of persons belonging to national minorities to enter their personal name according to their language and spelling. The right to enter a personal name in the minority language and spelling in the registers does not depend on the official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities, it is provided in the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia.

368. The provision of Article 17 of the Law on Civil Registers[36] stipulates that the personal name of a child, parents, spouse and deceased is entered in the Serbian language, in Cyrillic script, and the persons belonging to national minorities have the right to enter their personal name in accordance with the language and spelling of the language of the national minority members, which does not exclude a parallel entry of a personal name in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script as well.

369. In the past period, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has provided to all the bodies performing the entrusted activities of keeping the registry books an Instruction on the method of entering the personal name of persons belonging to a national minority in the registers in order to harmonize the practice of work and application of the

[36] Official Gazette of RS, no. 20/2009, 145/2014 and 47/2018

regulations on the registry. The instruction directs the manner of work related to the registration of the personal name of a member of a national minority, regardless of the place of entry of a particular fact in the registers and irrespective of whether that information is entered during the basic registration in the registry or during subsequent registration. Also, along with the aforementioned instruction, an example of the Notice on the procedure and manner of entering the personal name of a national minority member in the registers was distributed for placing on the bulletin boards of all the registered areas of the cities/municipalities for which the registers are kept.

370. An Administrative Inspectorate has been set up in the Ministry; among other things, it supervises the work and activities of territorial autonomy bodies and local self-government units. The Administrative Inspectorate verifies whether these bodies comply with the regulations governing, among other things, the official use of languages and scripts and the registry.

371. The Administrative Inspectorate carries out inspection supervision in accordance with the annual work program proposed by the Chief Administrative Inspector and approved by the Government. In the course of the implementation of the Work Program, the Administrative Inspectorate performed a total of 4,341 inspections and has acted upon 4,607 petitions from citizens and legal entities and has notified the petitioners of the outcome of the proceedings in the period 2016-2018.

372. A total of 7,056 measures have been proposed to the inspection bodies in the Minutes of the supervisory inspection, to remedy the identified irregularities, irregularities and deficiencies. Of the total number of the proposed measures, 23 measures were concerning the right a national minority member to enter their personal name in the register in the language and script of the national minority in accordance with the Law on Civil Registers and the Instruction on Keeping Registers and Registry Forms. The measures proscribed included the local self-government units, which provided by their Statutes that, in addition to the Serbian language and script, the official language was Albanian (Bujanovac and Preševo).

373. In order to improve the exercise of the right to use and register the personal name of the Albanian national minority members, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, carries out activities to develop a catalog of names in the language and script of the Albanian national minority and their transcription into Serbian language and script. It is important to emphasize that these activities are carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Special Report of the Protector of Citizens on the official use of the Albanian language and script. The National Council of the Albanian National Minority also supports this project.

374. The development of this catalog represents a significant instrument in the work of the registrar when registering a personal name of the Albanian national minority members in the

registry, and will also serve as an auxiliary instrument for health institutions that report births of children under the Baby, Welcome to the World project.

375. Examples from the civil registry offices, in the table below illustrate how the right to enter a personal name in civil registers in the Albanian language is executed in practice.

Local self-government unit	Number of entries of personal names in Albanian		
	2016	2017	2018
Bački Petrovac	-	-	2
Bujanovac	388	372	337
Vranje	614	640	648
Kikinda	-	-	1
Leskovac	26	52	42
Medveđa	28	32	12
Niš	115	74	92
Subotica	50	-	21

376. In addition, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable the civil register forms to be printed bilingually in local self-government units where the Statutes establish that minority languages are in official use. Item 137 of the Instruction on keeping the registers and registers forms[37] stipulates that in the units of local self-government where the Statutes establish that the language of a national minority is in official use, the civil register forms are printed as bilingual, in Serbian, in Cyrillic script and in the language and script of that national minority whose language is in official use.

377. The table below provides information on civil register forms issued on bilingual, Serbian-Albanian forms.

Local self-government unit	Number of registers issued on bilingual, Serbian-Albanian forms		
	2016	2017	2018
Bujanovac	3,408	6,351	3,022
Medveđa	726	102	16
Preševo	11,345	12,321	10,157

Article 11 - Media

paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
paragraph 2
paragraph 3

378. As public information in Albanian has different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing Albanian-language radio and television broadcasting, basic activities of public-service media and financing of media content in Albanian on privately-owned media.

[37] Official Gazette of RS, no.93/2018

379. The table below lists the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analogue signal and media service of television broadcasting via digital signal, in Albanian.

No.	Radio	Television
1.	RTV Bujanovac DOO, Bujanovac-Radio Bujanovac	RTV Bujanovac DOO, Bujanovac-TV Bujanovac
2.	Radio Medveđa DOO, Medveđa-Radio Medveđa	PE Preševo, Preševo-TV Preševo
3.	PE Preševo, Preševo-Radio Preševo	RTV Aldi DOO, Preševo-TV Aldi
Total	3	3

380. The table below lists media service providers providing media service of television broadcasting of programs in Albanian via the cable system.

No.	TELEVISION
1.	RTV Bujanovac DOO, Bujanovac-TV Bujanovac
2.	EURO MB PLUS DOO, Vranje-Puls
Total	2

381. RTS has started broadcasting an Albanian-language news program from October 1, 2018. In addition, a half-hour program in Albanian is broadcast once a week on the Third Radio Program of RTV.

382. Printed media in the Albanian language are *Nacional* and *Perspektiva*, both from Bujanovac.

383. The information in Albanian is financially supported from the republic and local budgets, by co-financing projects through competition.

384. The Ministry of Culture and Information has supported through public competition projects implemented through different types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Albanian in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Type of media	Approved funds
2016	1	Radio	400,000.00
2016	2	Production	800,000.00
2017	4	Production	200,250.00
2017	1	Radio	400,000.00
2017	2	Television	1,100,000.00
2018	1	Press	400,000.00
2018	1	Television	500,000.00
2018	2	Production	800,000.00

385. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information for national minorities.

386. The table below shows the number of programs and projects and the amount of funding allocated per year to the Albanian national minority.

Year	Number of projects	Approved funds
2017	3	261,000.00
2018	2	600,000.00

387. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed Albanian-language programs and projects in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Bujanovac	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00
2.	Preševo	15,698,000.00	15,318,000.00	5,500,000.00

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

b. Make provision so that RTV Serbia offers radio and television programmes in Albanian.

388. On 1 October 2018, the public service broadcaster RTS began broadcasting a news program in Albanian. The program is entitled "Lajmet" (News) and is aired daily from 7 PM, with two reruns.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits
paragraph 1 a, b, c, f,
paragraph 2

389. Each year, the Ministry of Culture and Information allocates financial resources through a competition for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities.

390. The table below shows information on the number of programs and the amount of funding allocated to institutions and organizations in the Albanian language.

Year	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016	2	400,000.00
2017	3	440,000.00
2018	4	480,000.00

391. Within the Competition for translating the representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the

languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In 2016-2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages.

392. The table below provides information on the number of works and the resources allocated to translations into Albanian.

Language of translation	Albanian			
	2016	2017	2018	Total
Number of works	3	2	1	6
Amount in dinars	-	-	-	-
Amount in euros	3,600	2,300	1,000	6,900

393. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

394. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects by associations of the Albanian minority members and the amount of funding awarded in the Call for Proposals for Ethnic Community Organizations in 2016-2018.

Year	Number of projects	Approved funds
2016	1	12,151.00
2017	-	-
2018	-	-

395. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of persons belonging to the Albanian national minority from 2016 to 2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Bujanovac	700,000.00	700,000.00	700,000.00
2.	Preševo	18,867,700.00	23,345,000.00	20,698,000.00

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

k. Foster access in other languages to works produced in Albanian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

396. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces an open call for co-financing the cultural activities of national minorities, and support for translations, dubbing and subtitling of translations of works produced in national minority languages is cited as one of the priorities of the competition. So far, relatively few users have applied for projects of this type, and the reasons for this may differ. Projects are often planned and implemented without a broader perception of the importance of translating the content, in the context of accessibility and audience development. That is why networking of different cultural actors from different territories, when planning and implementing the program, is another important competition priority that can contribute to a greater use of minority languages.

397. Compared to the previous reporting period, there is an increase in the number of subtitling or translation projects, as well as those that correspond with the broader community, i.e. not targeting members of only one national minority; it cannot be said that a standard has been established but that these are sporadic examples of good practice. In the last three years, the Ministry has supported the issuing of 22 publications, for which 12 different national minorities have applied. Some of them are translations, while the others are original works, sometimes resulting from scientific and research work.

l. Foster access in Albanian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

398. The Republic of Serbia fosters the access to the content in languages of national minorities originating in other languages by providing assistance or developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling of translations. The Ministry of Culture and Information co-finances projects selected at public calls for proposals, to the extent in which there are interested applicants. However, having a particular type of project must take into account both the realistic production and the artistic value of the resulting work.

399. By conducting a competition for translation of representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, the Ministry of Culture and Information subsidizes foreign publishers for translation into the language of their native country. Within the Competition for translating representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, which actually subsidizes foreign publishers, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In the period from 2016 to 2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages, and EUR 108,300, USD 2,000 and RSD 1,612,000.00 were allocated for these purposes.

400. When it comes to the audiovisual production (film industry), it is well known that it belongs to the creative industries and is therefore market-oriented. The Ministry sees a potential reason for the lack of great number of translations into minority languages in this very fact, because it is not profitable to translate into languages that will not generate market value, even if the government subsidizes this activity. An example of this is the translations of films supported by the Ministry, mainly made for the purpose of participating at festivals or other events in the native countries (the Film Center of Serbia allocates funds for the translation of films if distributors show interest).

m. In territories other than those in which Albanian is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Albanian.

401. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities through competition, which encourage cultural activities and content in the languages of national minorities and territories which they are not the ones in which these languages are traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

402. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

403. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

404. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called Cities in Focus, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42 from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development.

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

n) Encourage regular activities promoting Albanian in the framework of existing agreements on transfrontier co-operation at national and local levels.

405. The Agreement on Scientific, Educational and Cultural Cooperation between the SFRY and the NSR of Albania was signed in 1988. In order to improve cooperation in the field of education, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development has sent through diplomatic channels a call for cooperation to the addresses of line institutions in the countries whose national minorities in Serbia have their entire education in their mother tongue. The invitation was also sent to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Albania, and the National Council of the Albanian National Minority has proposed the topics of relevance to the education in the Albanian language that will be dealt with in the agreement. This agreement is in the process of being harmonized and is expected to be signed. The agreement will define the provision of textbooks in Albanian, the quality assurance of translation into Albanian, the exchange of proofreaders between Albania and Serbia, the exchange of students and the improvement of the professional competences of teachers teaching Albanian.

406. Several cultural institutions in Serbia have signed protocols and programs for cooperation in the field of culture with the relevant institutions in Albania. Cooperation in the field of culture is also achieved through joint participation in regional and multilateral projects of UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the Regional Cooperation Council. Serbia and Albania have the potential to co-operate through programs of international organizations, and joint projects e.g. within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) or the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), within which there are working groups for cultural cooperation.

407. During the Conference of the Council of Ministers of Culture of the countries of Southeast Europe, held in Tirana in 2017, the Ministers of Culture of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Albania have signed the Cultural Cooperation Program for the period 2017-2021, aimed at developing and supporting cultural cooperation between different institutions and organizations of the two countries, as well as encouraging regular exchange of programs and projects between national cultural institutions.

408. The Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments has signed in 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding with Albania, under the Cultural Heritage without Borders project and the cooperation of the countries of Southeastern Europe CHwB-Albania.

409. In 2018, the Protocol on Cooperation between the National Theater in Belgrade and the Tirana National Opera and Ballet was signed as a continuation of the good cooperation that has previously existed between the two institutions.

410. Cooperation with the Tirana Film Festival has been ongoing for many years through the regular participation of films from Serbia at this festival. The 25th European Palić Film Festival (2018), as part of the Black Sea Focus program, featured films by member countries of the Organization for Black Sea Economic Cooperation, including the film "Chrome" from Albania.

411. Together with Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Macedonia and Romania, Serbia and Albania are members of the South East European Cinema Network (SEE CN). This network unites the cinema institutions from the countries of the region and was established in 2001 with the aim of improving cooperation in the field of film, primarily in the field of joint production, distribution and promotion of film. The network allocates funding twice a year: in June for a short feature film (EUR 8,000) and in November for the development of a film project for a feature film (EUR 8,500).

412. The National Library of Serbia supports an initiative for the exchange of publications that has been implemented for years with the National Library of Albania, the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Albania and the Association of Serbian-Montenegrin Minority "Morača-Rozafa" from Shkodra.

4.1.2. BOSNIAN LANGUAGE

Article 8 - Education
paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

Primary Education

413. Three local self-government units have entire education in the Bosnian language in 27 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	3	26	622	12,402
2017/2018	3	21	609	12,374
2018/2019	3	27	791	12,124

414. The study of the subject Bosnian language with elements of national culture was organized in four local self-government units in 19 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students

2016/2017	5	14	150	2,302
2017/2018	4	22	300	3,916
2018/2019	4	19	210	3,020

Secondary Education

Gymnasiums

415. The entire education in the Bosnian language is delivered in one local self-government unit in one secondary school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	17	440
2017/2018	1	1	25	755
2018/2019	1	1	29	839

University and Higher Education

416. At the request of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, the State University of Novi Pazar, within the lifelong learning program, has accredited a program for teaching Bosnian language for subject teachers and professional associates in primary and secondary schools and for teaching of Bosnian language with methodology, for preschool teachers and homeroom teachers.

417. After the training, which includes 24 hours of lectures and 12 hours of exercises and exams, the State University issues the candidates a certificate recognized by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. From 2016 to date, a total of 376 teachers, professional assistants and educators from Novi Pazar, Tutin and Sjenica have completed this training.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Extend the offer of preschool education in Bosnian.

418. As the education laws prescribe the conditions for the introduction of teaching in the minority language the consent of 50% of parents is required at enrollment; therefore the preschool institutions carry out the surveys with parents. By completing the survey, the parent/legal guardian declares the desired language of the educational work. The institution is obliged, if the conditions prescribed by law are fulfilled, to provide educational work in the language of the national minority.

419. In accordance with the statement of parents/legal guardians of children, educational work in preschools is also organized in Bosnian, which is presented in the following table.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	3	3	100	1,238
2017/2018	3	3	102	1,242
2018/2019	3	3	111	1,305

d. Make available technical and vocational education in Bosnian.

420. The entire education in the Bosnian language is delivered in three local self-government units, in nine vocational and technical schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	-	-	-	-
2017/2018	3	5	25	674
2018/2019	3	9	44	1,339

e. Favour and encourage the offering of Bosnian as a subject of adult and continuing education.

421. Parents' surveys on elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture* are conducted each school year, through the Uniform Survey Sheet, which is distributed to all primary schools through school administrations. Interested students in Adult Elementary Education schools are also interviewed by this survey sheet on attendance of the elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture*. In the previous school years, there wasn't a sufficient number of students interested in learning Bosnian with elements of national culture. If the legal requirements are met and at least 15 students apply to learn Bosnian with elements of national culture, the institution will be obliged to form a group and organize the teaching of this subject..

422. As secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools for adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

f. Within the territory in which Bosnian is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Bosnian, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

423. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian

language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle and Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

424. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society, History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

425. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

426. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

427. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

428. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the second year gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

Article 9 - Judicial powers
paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d
paragraph 2 a, b, c
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

g. Take measures to encourage Bosnian speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

429. The previous reports on the application of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Bosnian.

430. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Bosnian speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

431. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

432. During the reporting period, three litigations in Bosnian language were tried in the High Court in Novi Pazar, while one criminal trial and one litigation in Bosnian language were tried in the Basic Court in Priboj. In the Basic Court in Prijepolje, one judge was trained to conduct the

proceedings in Bosnian, but no proceedings were conducted in Bosnian language in this court during the reporting period.

h. Inform Bosnian speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

433. In addition to the above rules, the Rules of Procedure also contain additional rules of relevance for the wider use of minority languages in judicial proceedings. Namely, if the court proceedings are not conducted in the language of a national minority, and in the court, besides the Serbian language, the language of the national minority is also officially used, written documents shall be submitted in his language to the member of the national minority at their request. Translation of submissions and documents submitted to the court in the languages of national minorities is carried out by a translator. The minutes and decisions in the first instance proceedings relating to the proceedings shall be drafted, as authentic texts, in the Serbian language and in the established language of the proceedings. If necessary, they shall be translated into another language of the national minority, if required by a member of the national minority as a participant in proceedings not conducted in his language. Minutes and decisions in legal remedies proceedings shall be made in the Serbian language. The court of first instance shall translate the decisions taken by legal remedies into the established language of the proceedings and, if necessary, into the second language of national minorities, as well as submit them in a text credibly translated to the appropriate language (to the members of national minorities as participants in the proceedings). If written in the language of a national minority and sent to a court where the language is not in official use, a translation into Serbian shall be enclosed.

434. The full application of the above rules ensures that speakers of minority languages are informed at each stage of the proceedings of their right to use their language before a court and to decide to exercise their rights.

i. Make available in Bosnian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to its users.

435. In order to increase the availability of the most important regulations pertaining to the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the amendments to the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities of 2018 stipulate that the ministry responsible for exercising the rights of national minorities provides the translation and publishes the collections of consolidated texts of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia, whose subject matter of regulation is, in whole or in most part, the exercise of rights of national minorities.

436. The Ministry is obliged to make these laws available in electronic format, on its website and on the eGovernment Portal, as well as to agree to send to the national councils of national minorities a certain number of collections of consolidated texts of these laws. Exceptionally, the national council of a national minority may submit a proposal to the line ministry, on the grounds that it is of particular importance for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the national

minority, for the line ministry to translate and publish a collection of consolidated texts of certain laws within its legal scope containing provisions pertaining to the exercise of rights and freedoms of national minorities, that is, to the social relations that are of particular importance to national minorities. When deciding on a proposal of a national council, particular consideration shall be given to the availability of the planned budgetary funds, as well as to whether amendments to these laws or an adoption of a new law is planned in the next one year that would replace the law proposed for translation or publishing.

437. Translating regulations into minority languages will help harmonize the professional legal terminology in minority languages and further affirm their use in proceedings before the state authorities.

438. As a number of laws governing the rights and status of persons belonging to national minorities have been amended in 2018, those laws, as well as the accompanying by-laws, have been translated into minority languages that are in official use. These are the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the Decree on the Procedure for Allocating Funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities, and the Rulebook on the Method of Entering and Keeping the Register of National Councils are also available in Bosnian.

439. In addition, during the election cycle for the election of the members of the national councils of national minorities in November 2018, the following documents were translated into Bosnian: the Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament; Election Day Schedule for the Direct Election Procedure for National Minority Council Members, announced for November 4, 2018; Rules on the Work of Voting Committees for Electing the Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Instruction for direct elections for members of the national councils of national minorities; Election list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Bosnian National Minority; Statement of acceptance of candidacy for membership of the National Council of the Bosnian National Minority; Consent of the holder of the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Bosnian National Minority; Authorization to submit an electoral list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Bosnian National Minority; Voter Statement to Support the Election List of Candidates for Members of the National Council of the Bosnian National Minority; List of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Bosnian National Minority; ballot paper.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services
paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2 b, c, d, g
paragraph 3c
paragraph 4c

paragraph 5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

b. Take organisational measures to ensure that users of Bosnian can submit oral or written applications in Bosnian to local branches of the national authorities and encourage Bosnian speakers to make use of this possibility in practice.

440. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, administrative districts in the Republic of Serbia have been formed to perform public administration tasks outside the seats of the state administration bodies and reflect the dispersion of state affairs. For easier carrying out tasks within the scope and outside their seats, the ministries or provincial secretariats establish for a certain territory their detached units - district territorial units. The cluster of all district regional units in a certain territory is an administrative district - a regional center of state administration.

441. In the administrative district, public administration bodies may, at their discretion, perform one or more of the following public administration tasks: to resolve administrative matters in the first instance, to supervise the work of holders of public authority, and to conduct the supervisory inspections.

442. District regional units of the state administration bodies have been formed in order to optimize the carrying out of state administration tasks, and above all the supervisory inspection activities. Ministries conduct for their district territorial units the HR policy, establish work plans, issue directives and instructions, and, on the basis of their competencies, on their websites, they direct parties to the district regional units of state administration bodies, in areas where the language of a national minority is in official, they may conduct the proceedings both in the language and using the script of that national minority.

443. An Administrative Service is established in the administrative district, which shall essentially perform the tasks, general and common to all district regional units and provide expert and technical support to the head of the administrative district. Jobs within the scope of the Professional Services of the administrative district can be grouped into: legal, financial, registry, professional and technical support to the head of the administrative district and others.

444. Although there are no obstacles or restrictions to the use of oral or written applications in minority languages by the speakers of minority languages, most of the administrative districts have stated in their contributions to the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that so far there have been no cases in the professional service of the administrative district of an oral or written address in minority languages to the Head of the District, national inspection services, or provincial secretariats. All employees of the professional services of the administrative districts, as far as they are in contact with the parties, respect the rights of national

minorities and always serve every party, regardless of their nationality or the language in which the party has addressed them. Should the party address them orally or in writing in a minority language, the professional service would meet him, enable him to exercise his right, and to the extent possible, to obtain a response in the minority language.

j. Encourage the local branches of national authorities to draft documents in Bosnian.

445. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System, which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

k. Encourage the local authorities to publish their official documents also in Bosnian.

446. The statutes of local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use also determine the publication of local general acts in the official gazettes of the local self-government units. In this regard, as it leaves to the local self-government units to identify minority languages that are in official use, the state approves and encourages local authorities to publish their documents in minority languages. Many local self-government units have taken the opportunity to provide in their statutes that official journals that publish local documents are also published in minority languages that are in official use.

447. The municipalities of Prijepolje, Sjenica and Tutin publish the Official Gazette in the Bosnian language as well, which means that the statutes and all general acts of these local self-government units are also available in the Bosnian language. The availability of official documents of local self-government units in the Bosnian language is also made available on the official web sites of these local self-government units.

448. The official documents of local self-government units are available to speakers of minority languages and through various printed publications, bulletins or newsletters published by local self-government units.

l. Ensure the use or adoption of place names in Bosnian.

449. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have provided detailed explanations of legislative solutions that have enabled the adoption and use of traditional names of towns and settlements in minority languages. Namely, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that in areas where members of national minorities constitute a significant population, traditional local names, street names, settlements and topographical marks should also be written in their minority language. The Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities encourages the use of traditional forms of names of towns and settlements in minority languages, since the law provides that in the territory of a local self-government unit where official language is in official use, the names of bodies exercising public authority, the names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms are also written in the minority language, in line with the tradition and spelling of that language. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities prescribes that the traditional names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographical names are determined by the national council of the national minority.

450. Section 4.3.5 of the second report on the implementation of the Charter contains information on the traditional names of towns, municipalities and settlements in Bosnian language, which has been established by the National Council of the Bosniak National Minority and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia in 2010.

451. At the end of 2018, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government sent a letter to the heads of the city and municipal administrations that officially used the languages and scripts of national minorities, in which it was emphasized that they were obliged to adhere to all relevant regulations guaranteeing the right to official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities in their work and conduct, which also includes the provision of names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other place names on multilingual boards.

452. There are numerous examples of the use of traditional names of settlements in minority languages, from the printing of nameplates of settlements, through the names of institutions, memoranda and stamps of local self-government bodies, to the use of these names in public documents, in forms for being entered or erased from the special electoral roll of a national minority, during the election process, on tourist signage, in official gazettes, bulletins and brochures of the local self-government units, etc.

453. In the election process for members of national councils of national minorities held in November 2018, traditional forms of place names in minority languages were used in the electoral material, inter alia, on the election lists of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; statements of acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority; the approvals of the holders of the electoral list of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; the power of attorney to submit an election

list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; voters' statements that they support the election list of candidates for members of the national minority council; lists of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; decisions on the establishment of an aggregate electoral list for members of national councils of national minorities; forms for collecting electorate signatures; lists of candidates for members of the national council of the national minority for elections by electoral assembly; statements on the acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority in elections through the electoral assembly; certificates of the voting right for voting outside the polling station, etc.

454. Traditional forms of names of towns and settlements in minority languages are also used in forms for being entered or erased from the a special electoral roll of a national minority. The above forms have been translated into the languages of national minorities that are in official use and the traditional name of the settlement in the minority language may be used when filling in the section on the place of residence. The aforementioned information is entered in an identical manner in the special electoral roll of a national minority.

455. The following table provides available information on the practice of using traditional names of towns and settlements in Bosnian.

Local self-government unit	Use of traditional place names in Bosnian
Novi Pazar	Most of the town names boards are also written in Bosnian. Traditional names of settlements in the Bosnian language are used on the boards with the names of municipal and republic authorities.
Prijepolje	The boards in all populated areas are bilingual, in Serbian and Bosnian. The board at the entrance to the seat of the Municipal Administration is in Bosnian.
Sjenica	The boards with the names of the towns and settlements places are also in Bosnian. Traditional names of settlements in the Bosnian language are used on the board with the names of the authorities.
Tutin	The boards with the names of the towns and settlements places are also in Bosnian. Traditional names of settlements in the Bosnian language are used on the board with the names of the authorities.

t. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure co'ncerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Bosnian to be appointed in the territory in which this language is used.

456. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[38], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charterthere were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the

[38] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

Bosnian language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

457. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

458. PE Post of Serbia notes that when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in the area.

459. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

460. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the Employment Contract.

461. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1 January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs shall, among other things, define jobs for which, as a special condition, knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat, or its organizational unit are located. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

Article 11 - Media
paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
paragraph 2
paragraph 3

462. Since public information in Bosnian has different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing a Bosnian-language radio and television broadcasting service and financing media content in Bosnian language on privately owned media.

463. The table below shows the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analog signal and media television broadcasting via a digital signal in Bosnian.

No.	Radio	Television
1.	Radio Amaro DOO, Sjenica Radio Amaro	RTV Novi Pazar DOO, Novi Pazar-TV Novi Pazar
2.	RTV Novi Pazar DOO, Novi Pazar-Radio Novi Pazar	UG Forum of Women of Prijepolje, Prijepolje-TV Forum
3.		TV Jedinstvo media team DOO, Novi Pazar-TV Jedinstvo
4.		Sandžak Television DOO, Novi Pazar-Sandžak TV
5.		Info center DOO, Tutin-Sandzak TV Network
Total	2	5

464. The following table lists the media service providers providing television broadcasting service in Bosnian via cable system.

No.	TELEVISION
1.	Sandžak Television DOO, Novi Pazar-Sandžak TV
2.	Info center DOO, Tutin-Sandžak TV network
3.	TV Jedinstvo media team DOO, Novi Pazar-TV Jedinstvo
4.	RTV Novi Pazar DOO, Novi Pazar-TV Novi Pazar
5.	UG Women's Forum Prijepolje, Prijepolje-TV Forum
Total	5

465. The newspapers *Glas Islama*, Novi Pazar and *Polimlje*, Prijepolje are published in Bosnian.

466. Informing in Bosnian is financially supported from the republic and local budgets by co-financing projects on the basis of competitions.

467. The Ministry of Culture and Information supported projects selected in competitions and implemented through different types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Bosnian in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Media	Amount
2016	1	Radio	400,000.00

2016	1	Television	700,000.00
2016	1	Production	500,000.00
2017	3	Production	1,250,000.00
2017	1	Television	700,000.00
2018	2	Television	1,000,000.00
2018	2	Production	850,000.00

468. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information for national minorities.

469. The table below shows the number of programs and projects and the amount of funding allocated per year to the Bosniak minority.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2017	1	175,000.00
2018	4	968,850.00

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

c. Make provision so that RTV Serbia offers radio and television programmes in Bosnian.

470. In the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the Committee of Experts found that public service broadcasters did not offer television or radio programs in the Bosnian language and recommended that Serbia ensures that RTS offers programs in that language. In relation to the above, the authorities of the Republic of Serbia indicate that the freedom of media is an area in which the intervention of public authorities is limited by the principle of independence and autonomy of the media guaranteed by Article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Bearing in mind the aforementioned, as well as the fact that public authorities in different countries have different levels of authority over the media, the authorities of the Republic of Serbia indicate that, according to Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Charter, the obligations of public authorities to facilitate the broadcasting of programs in minority languages are conditioned by the scope of their powers and legitimate roles in the area of media freedom. In accordance with the aforementioned article of the Charter, the Republic of Serbia has encouraged broadcasting of programs in the Bosnian language and on RTS by legal solutions related to public media services and regular and stable financing of their main activity, which includes broadcasting of programs in the languages of national minorities. This is the degree to which the state has jurisdiction, power or role in relation to the public media services, which means that it may not interfere with the institutional, programmatic and financial independence of the public service broadcasters. Bearing in mind that Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Charter takes into account the situation of the Bosnian language as well as the fact that the forms through which RTS will provide the content in Bosnian language fall within the institutional autonomy and editorial independence of the public media service, the authorities of the Republic of Serbia indicate that in RTS, the content in

Bosnian is represented in the regular program of the RTS, therefore, not only in the special programs "Građanin" and "Da nam nije - Autobiografija o mom narodu", which are intended for speakers of minority languages, but also in other programs[39] on the First and the Second Program of the Public Media Service, bearing in mind that informative, cultural and other content in the Bosnian language can be followed without translation and subtitles by Serbian citizens who are not speakers of the Bosnian language.

n. Encourage the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Bosnian.

471. The Republic of Serbia continuously encourages the production of audio and audiovisual content in the Bosnian language through project co-financing, In the reporting period, projects of independent productions, i.e. legal entities engaged in the production of media content, were co-financed. For example, in 2017, the Ministry of Culture and Information co-financed the project "Untold Stories of the Bosniak Culture and Tradition in Serbia" by the Association Academic Initiative Forum 10, which was realized on Regional Television Novi Pazar. The distribution of audiovisual content in Bosnian is also possible through the provision of cable media services.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits
paragraph 1 a, b, c, f
paragraph 2

472. Each year, the Ministry of Culture and Information allocates financial resources through a competition for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities.

473. The table below shows information on the number of programs and the amount of funding allocated to institutions and organizations in Bosnian.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	7	1,750,000.00
2017	12	2,040,000.00
2018	20	2,511,000.00

474. In the past period, as many as 39 projects of the Bosniak national minority have been co-financed, 17 of which relate to literary work and the preservation of linguistic specificity. What sets this minority apart from others who participate in the competition for co-financing projects of the Ministry of Culture and Information is that it publishes the only electronic magazine in the field of culture (www.eckermann.org.rs). In addition to this, another journal deals with the culture, language and tradition of Bosniaks, the journal *Bošnjačka riječ*. When it comes to literary events, Sandžak Literary Meetings - SAKS has been traditionally held, organized by the National Council of the Bosniak National Minority, while recently there are also Literary

[39] Daily News, Ovo je Srbija, Jutarnji program, Oko, Beogradska hronika, Kvadratura kruga, Šarenica, Kuhinja moga kraja, Od zlata jabuka, Moja lepa Srbija, etc.

Meetings of Writers of National Minorities in Serbia, organized by the National Library "Dositej Obradović" in Novi Pazar.

475. Support is also given to the publishing projects, among which we highlight the translation of school textbooks into Bosnian for the needs of elementary school students attending school in Bosnian. In 2017, the literary award "Amir Dautović", awarded by the Novi Pazar Cultural Center, was established, which is also the only award of its kind to appear in the competition for cultural activities of national minorities.

476. Although the Regional Theater in Novi Pazar has regular production of plays in the Bosnian language, we highlight the documentary film project of the Academic Initiative Forum 10 from Novi Pazar, entitled *Gledanje u kaldrmu*. The project addresses the political moment in 1951, when the Law on the Banning of Hijab and Niqab was passed. The film shows personal confessions of women in Bosnian language and it is a testimony of cultural, political, sociological, religious and other peculiarities related to one space and historical moment. Traveling screenings and discussions about the film have also been co-financed.

477. The Cities in Focus contest supported a project called "Novi Pazar for New Generations" worth RSD 6 million.

478. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

479. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects of the Bosniak minority association and the amount of funding awarded in the call for proposals for donations to ethnic community organizations in 2016-2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	-	-
2017	1	130,000.00
2018	1	200,000.00

480. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of the Bosniak minority in 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Priboj	100,000.00	100,000.00	531,000.00

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

o. Foster access in other languages to works produced in Bosnian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

481. The Ministry of Culture and Information announces annually an open call for co-financing the cultural activities of national minorities, and support for translations, dubbing and subtitling of translations of works produced in the languages of national minorities is cited as one of the priorities of the competition. So far, relatively few users have applied for projects of this type, which can be due to different causes. The reason for the inactivity in this field may lie in the similarity of the language with the official language of the state, that is, the ability to understand without translation.

482. Compared to the previous reporting period, there is an increase in the number of projects related to subtitling or translation, as well as those that correspond with the wider community, that is, not only intended for members of one national minority; it cannot be said that a standard has been established but these are sporadic examples of good practice. In the last three years, the Ministry has supported the publication of 22 publications, for which 12 different national minorities applied. Some of them are translations, while others are original works, sometimes resulting from scientific and research work.

p. Foster access in Bosnian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisatitn and subtitling.

483. The Republic of Serbia fosters the access to content in languages of national minorities originating in other languages by providing assistance or developing translation, synchronization, post-synchronization and subtitling of the translation. The Ministry of Culture and Information, through public calls for proposals, co-finances selected projects to the extent in which that there are interested applicants. However, both the realistic production and the artistic value of the resulting work must be taken into account for the presence of a particular type of project.

484. By conducting a competition for the translation of representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, the Ministry of Culture and Information subsidizes foreign publishers for translation into the language of their native country. Within the Competition for translating representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, which actually subsidizes foreign publishers, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the

languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In the period from 2016 to 2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages, and EUR 108,300, USD 2,000 and RSD 1,612,000.00 were allocated for these purposes

485. When it comes to audiovisual production (film industry), it is well known that it belongs to the creative industries and is therefore market oriented. The Ministry, in this very fact, sees a potential reason for the absence of more translations into minority languages, because it is not profitable to make translations into languages that will not bring market value, even if the government subsidizes this activity. An example of this is the translations of films supported by the Ministry, mainly made for the purpose of appearing at festivals or other events in the countries of origin (the Film Center of Serbia allocates funds for translation of films if distributors show interest).

q. In territories other than those in which Bosnian is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Bosnian.

486. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities through competition, which encourage cultural activities and content in the languages of national minorities and territories which they are not the ones in which these languages are traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

487. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

488. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

489. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called *Cities in Focus*, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42

from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development.

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

r. Encourage regular activities promoting Bosnian in the framework of existing agreements on transfrontier co-operation at national and local levels.

490. An Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of education, culture and sport was signed in 2010 and it is in force.

491. To date, the following activities in the field of education have been implemented through the Agreement: direct cooperation between educational institutions of the two countries; exchange of experts, teachers, interns, postgraduates and students; participation in symposia, conferences and meetings; approval, on the basis of reciprocity, of scholarships for students, postgraduates and interns, and exchanges of teachers and scholars; joint work on the analysis of history and geography textbooks for primary and secondary schools; exchange of publications and information on all aspects of education; cooperation in the field of nurturing talent; mutual study of language and literature; exchange of associates, teachers and experts in language and literature and organizing appropriate courses and seminars; exchange of information and documentation regarding the recognition of certificates and diplomas.

492. In order to enhance cooperation in the field of education, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development sent through diplomatic channels a call for cooperation to the addresses of line institutions in the countries whose national minorities have their entire education in Serbia in their mother tongue. The invitation was also sent to the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the meantime, information on these activities was provided to the National Council of the Bosniak National Minority, with a request to suggest topics of relevance for education in Bosnian language that should be in this bilateral agreement.

493. In the area of cultural cooperation, a Memorandum on Cultural Cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republika Srpska was signed in 2014 and it is in force.

494. In 2016, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro have conducted, as part of a joint interstate project, the first joint nomination of the entry of medieval tombstones -

Stećak tombstones on the UNESCO World Heritage List. At the 40th meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Istanbul (2016), a decision was taken to register 28 necropoles, 20 of which are located in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, three each in the territory of Serbia and Montenegro and two in the territory of Croatia. Most of the stećak tombstones were erected between the 13th and 16th centuries. The UNESCO Committee praised the cooperation of countries on this project, which is also valued in the capacity of the reconciliation process in the region.

495. With regard to cultural institutions, the National Theater in Belgrade has a continuous exchange of guest performances with the National Theater in Sarajevo, and a protocol on international cooperation has been signed.

496. Cooperation is also being pursued in the field of film. Every year, the Serbian Film Center participates in the Sarajevo Film Festival. As a result of the co-production of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, four films were filmed in the reporting period.

497. The Protocol on Cooperation between the National Library of Serbia and the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina was signed in 2012, defining cooperation in the field of exchange of publications and experts, as well as the execution of joint programs and projects.

498. The National Library of Serbia has continuous cooperation with other institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the exchange of publications, knowledge and experts, participation in expert meetings, joint projects, workshops, exhibitions, literary panels and research. A collaboration with the TRADUKI literary network has been launched. Regional meetings of the directors of national libraries have been successful, as well as cooperation through the Conference of Directors of European National Libraries (CENL).

4.1.3. BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

Article 8 - Education
paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

Preschool education

499. Bilingual educational work in Serbian and Bulgarian is organized in two local self-government units in two preschools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	2	2	23	289
2017/2018	2	2	24	308
2018/2019	2	2	26	311

Primary Education

500. The entire teaching in Bulgarian language is conducted in two local self-government units in two primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	1	19
2017/2018	1	1	2	36
2018/2019	2	2	3	76

501. At the initiative of the National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority, from the school year 2018/2019, bilingual teaching was organized, in Serbian and Bulgarian.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2018/2019	1	1	4	38

502. The study of the subject Bulgarian language with elements of national culture is organized in five local self-government units in five primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	3	3	35	617
2017/2018	4	7	55	1,031
2018/2019	5	5	66	990

Secondary Education

Gymnasiums

503. The entire teaching in the Bulgarian language is held in one gymnasium in one local self-government.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	3	93
2017/2018	1	1	4	102
2018/2019	1	1	2	47

Technical and vocational education

504. The entire teaching in Bulgarian language is conducted in one local self-government unit in one vocational-technical school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	2	35
2017/2018	1	1	2	47
2018/2019	1	1	4	110

University and higher education

505. At the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Bulgarian language, literature, culture is taught on basic studies.

Study profile	2016	2017	2018	Total number of students in all years of studies, academic year 2018/2019.
Bulgarian language, literature, culture	15	1	7	63

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

d. Favour and encourage the offering of Bulgarian as a subject of adult and continuing education.

506. Parents' surveys on elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture* are conducted each school year, through the Uniform Survey Sheet, which is distributed to all primary schools through school administrations. Interested students in Adult Elementary Education schools are also interviewed by this survey sheet on attendance of the elective course/program Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture. In the previous school years, there wasn't a sufficient number of students interested in learning Bulgarian with elements of national culture. If the legal requirements are met and at least 15 students apply to learn Bulgarian with elements of national culture, the institution will be obliged to form a group and organize the teaching of this subject.

507. Since secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools for adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

e. Within the territory in which Bulgarian is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Bulgarian, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

508. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle and Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

509. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society*, *History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

510. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

511. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

512. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

513. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the second year gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

Article 9 - Judicial powers
paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d
paragraph 2 a, b, c
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

c. Take measures to encourage Bulgarian speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

514. The previous reports on the application of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Bulgarian.

515. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Bulgarian speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

516. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the

litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

517. According to available data, at the beginning of 2019, 18 members of the Bulgarian national minority who have knowledge of Bulgarian were employed in the courts of the Republic of Serbia, followed by three judges and eight lay judges. During the reporting period, three criminal proceedings were conducted in the Basic Court in Krusevac in the Bulgarian language.

f. Inform Bulgarian speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

518. In addition to the above rules, the Rules of Procedure also contain additional rules of relevance for the wider use of minority languages in judicial proceedings. Namely, if the court proceedings are not conducted in the language of a national minority, and in the court, besides the Serbian language, the language of the national minority is also officially used, written documents shall be submitted in his language to the member of the national minority at their request. Translation of submissions and documents submitted to the court in the languages of national minorities is carried out by a translator. The minutes and decisions in the first instance proceedings relating to the proceedings shall be drafted, as authentic texts, in the Serbian language and in the established language of the proceedings. If necessary, they shall be translated into another language of the national minority, if required by a member of the national minority as a participant in proceedings not conducted in his language. Minutes and decisions in legal remedies proceedings shall be made in the Serbian language. The court of first instance shall translate the decisions taken by legal remedies into the established language of the proceedings and, if necessary, into the second language of national minorities, as well as submit them in a text credibly translated to the appropriate language (to the members of national minorities as participants in the proceedings). If written in the language of a national minority and sent to a court where the language is not in official use, a translation into Serbian shall be enclosed.

519. The full application of the above rules ensures that speakers of minority languages are informed at each stage of the proceedings of their right to use their language before a court and to decide to exercise their rights.

g. Make available in Bulgarian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to its users.

520. In order to increase the availability of the most important regulations pertaining to the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the amendments to the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities of 2018 stipulate that the ministry responsible for exercising the rights of national minorities provides the translation and publishes the collections of consolidated texts of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia, whose subject matter of regulation is, in whole or in most part, the exercise of rights of national minorities.

521. The Ministry is obliged to make these laws available in electronic format, on its website and on the eGovernment Portal, as well as to agree to send to the national councils of national minorities a certain number of collections of consolidated texts of these laws. Exceptionally, the national council of a national minority may submit a proposal to the line ministry, on the grounds that it is of particular importance for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the national minority, for the line ministry to translate and publish a collection of consolidated texts of certain laws within its legal scope containing provisions pertaining to the exercise of rights and freedoms of national minorities, that is, to the social relations that are of particular importance to national minorities. When deciding on a proposal of a national council, particular consideration shall be given to the availability of the planned budgetary funds, as well as to whether amendments to these laws or an adoption of a new law is planned in the next one year that would replace the law proposed for translation or publishing.

522. Translating regulations into minority languages will help harmonize the professional legal terminology in minority languages and further affirm their use in proceedings before the state authorities.

523. As a number of laws governing the rights and status of persons belonging to national minorities have been amended in 2018, those laws, as well as the accompanying by-laws, have been translated into languages of national minorities that are in official use. These are the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the Decree on the Procedure for Allocating Funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities, and the Rulebook on the Method of Entering and Keeping the Register of National Councils, which are also available in Bulgarian.

524. In addition, during the election cycle for the election of the members of the national councils of national minorities in November 2018, the following documents were translated into Bulgarian: the Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament; Election Day Schedule for the Direct Election Procedure for National Minority Council Members, announced for November 4, 2018; Rules on the Work of Voting Committees for Electing the Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Instruction for direct elections for members of the national councils of national minorities; Election list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority; Statement of acceptance of candidacy for membership of the National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority; Consent of the holder of the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority; Authorization to submit an electoral list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority; Voter Statement to Support the Election List of Candidates for Members of the National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority; List of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority; ballot paper.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services
paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2 b, c, d, g
paragraph 3 c
paragraph 4 c
paragraph 5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

b. Take organisational measures to ensure that Bulgarian speakers can submit oral or written applications in this language to local branches of the national authorities and encourage Bulgarian speakers to make use of this possibility in practice.

525. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, administrative districts in the Republic of Serbia have been formed to perform public administration tasks outside the seats of the state administration bodies and reflect the dispersion of state affairs. For easier carrying out tasks within the scope and outside their seats, the ministries or provincial secretariats establish for a certain territory their detached units - district territorial units. The cluster of all district regional units in a certain territory is an administrative district - a regional center of state administration.

526. In the administrative district, public administration bodies may, at their discretion, perform one or more of the following public administration tasks: to resolve administrative matters in the first instance, to supervise the work of holders of public authority, and to conduct the supervisory inspections.

527. District regional units of the state administration bodies have been formed in order to optimize the carrying out of state administration tasks, and above all the supervisory inspection activities. Ministries conduct for their district territorial units the HR policy, establish work plans, issue directives and instructions, and, on the basis of their competencies, on their websites, they direct parties to the district regional units of state administration bodies, in areas where the language of a national minority is in official, they may conduct the proceedings both in the language and using the script of that national minority.

528. An Administrative Service is established in the administrative district, which shall essentially perform the tasks, general and common to all district regional units and provide expert and technical support to the head of the administrative district. Jobs within the scope of the Professional Services of the administrative district can be grouped into: legal, financial, registry, professional and technical support to the head of the administrative district and others.

529. Although there are no obstacles or restrictions to the use of oral or written applications in minority languages by the speakers of minority languages, most of the administrative districts

have stated in their contributions to the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that so far there have been no cases in the professional service of the administrative district of an oral or written address in minority languages to the Head of the District, national inspection services, or provincial secretariats. All employees of the professional services of the administrative districts, as far as they are in contact with the parties, respect the rights of national minorities and always serve every party, regardless of their nationality or the language in which the party has addressed them. Should the party address them orally or in writing in a minority language, the professional service would meet him, enable him to exercise his right, and to the extent possible, to obtain a response in the minority language.

h. Encourage the local branches of the national authorities to draft documents in Bulgarian.

530. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System, which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

i. Facilitate the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Bulgarian.

531. The statutes of local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use also determine the publication of local general acts in the official gazettes of local self-government units. In this sense, since it allows the local self-government units to identify minority languages that are in official use, the state approves and encourages local authorities to publish their documents in minority languages.

532. The availability of official documents of local self-government units in minority languages is also made available on official websites of the municipalities Bosilegrad and Dimitrovgrad, as well as on the website of the city of Pančevo.

533. Official documents of local self-government units are available to speakers of minority languages through various printed publications, bulletins, or newsletters published by the local self-government units.

j. Encourage Bulgarian speakers to use this language in communication with public service providers.

534. The Law on Public Services does not contain an explicit provision on the language in which citizens can address public services to exercise their rights and obligations, but bearing in mind that public services, when deciding on the rights and obligations of citizens, organizations or users of their services and when they carry out other tasks prescribed by law, decide and work under the General Administrative Procedure Act and the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, this means that oral and written requests may also be submitted in minority languages.

535. As there is no legal obligation to specifically keep records of requests made by minority language speakers to public services, there is no aggregate information on the number of requests submitted. To illustrate the possibility of using minority languages in communication with public services, information provided by public companies founded by the Republic of Serbia, which participated in the preparation of this report, according to which there was no written address by users of services in one of the minority languages, highlighting their competence to respond to requests in minority languages. The following public companies have responded to the invitation to participate in the development of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter: Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" doo., Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

536. Distribution System Operator EPS d.o.o. Belgrade points out that the general acts of the Operator are not conceived on a territorial, but on a functional principle, with the exception of branches - power distribution, which perform the technical part of the operations of the Operator's predominant activity, but also these units are designed to represent the connection of one functional entity with the same individual operations of that functional whole that are performed in the consumption areas of the branches. According to the above, the normative and nomotechnical determination of the concept of the general acts of the Operator is not territorial, but unique and functional, and for the above reasons no knowledge of minority languages is foreseen as a special condition for carrying out any job in the Operator. Likewise, the general acts of the Operator do not contain any negative or discriminatory norms that prevent the filing or receipt of requests in minority languages, and therefore there is a possibility that requests to the Operator may be submitted in minority languages, in accordance with the law.

537. The Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade states that it has ensured the application of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts in the areas of working units and regional work units in which official languages and scripts of national minorities are in use. No requests were made in the languages of national minorities during the reporting period, although conditions were provided for such requests to be addressed. Namely, the work units and the regional work units in their work strive to enable users to use languages that are in equal official use when providing postal and other services, which implies that the names of work units or

regional units are written in the territory of certain local self-government units, among others, work units, stamps and stamps, as well as the forms used on a daily basis in the work of the post network front office and in the delivery (e.g. shipment arrival notification form, registered receipt form) letter consignments, departure telegram form, etc.).

538. PE Srbijagas points out that it is possible for clients to address the company in minority languages and to use them in this public company.

539. Local self-government units involved in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, in which the Bulgarian language is in official use, state that public services and public enterprises founded by local self-government units allow speakers of Bulgarian to submit requests or other written documents in Bulgarian. The exercise of this right is made possible in practice, both by the employment of minority language speakers in public services and public enterprises, and by the hiring of court interpreters or translators as needed. In the territories of local self-government in which the Bulgarian language is officially used, in public companies all employees have the same rights regarding the use of both languages for official purposes, which is regulated by the acts adopted by their founder.

540. An example of good practice can be seen in the municipality of Dimitrovgrad, in which citizens can address any authority, institution or company in Bulgarian language and receive a reply in Bulgarian. Bulgarian language oral communication is also facilitated by a large number of Bulgarian public-speaking employees working in municipal public services:

- Public Utility Company - of 145 employees, 138 speak Bulgarian;
- National Library "Detko Petrov" - all 7 employees speak Bulgarian;
- Preschool "8 September ”- 37 employees speak Bulgarian;
- Culture Center - 6 employees are fluent in Bulgarian and 7 employees understand Bulgarian;
- Sports and Tourism Institution "Caribrod Sports and Tourism Center" - all employees know Bulgarian.

541. In addition, at the Detko Petrov National Library, each document (membership cards, library cards, record sheets, etc.) was printed in Serbian and Bulgarian, while at the Caribrod Sports and Tourism Center Caribrod in Bulgarian tourism materials are available in Bulgarian language (flyers, brochures, posters, tourist tickets, etc.).

542. Also, the municipality of Bosilegrad points out that all public enterprises and services founded by local self-government (Center for Culture, Library, PE "Service", PE "Directorate for Construction Land and Roads, Bosilegrad", Preschool, educational institutions and Center for social work) allow speakers of Bulgarian to submit their requests or other written documents in Bulgarian.

k. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure concerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Bulgarian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

543. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[40], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charterthere were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the Bulgarian language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

544. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

545. PE Post of Serbia notes that when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in the area.

546. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

547. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and who speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the Employment Contract.

548. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1 January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization

[40] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs shall, among other things, define jobs for which, as a special condition, knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat, or its organizational unit are located. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

l. Draw the attention of local authorities to the right to use family names in Bulgarian in conformity with the spelling and script of that language, and if needed, provide them with technical support to ensure the effective use of this right.

549. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have detailed the legislative framework for exercising the right of persons belonging to national minorities to enter their personal name according to their language and spelling. The right to enter a personal name in the minority language and spelling in the registers does not depend on the official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities, it is provided in the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia.

550. The provision of Article 17 of the Law on Civil Registers[41] stipulates that the personal name of a child, parents, spouse and deceased is entered in the Serbian language, in Cyrillic script, and the persons belonging to national minorities have the right to enter their personal name in accordance with the language and spelling of the language of the national minority members, which does not exclude a parallel entry of a personal name in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script as well.

551. In the past period, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has provided to all the bodies performing the entrusted activities of keeping the registry books an Instruction on the method of entering the personal name of persons belonging to a national minority in the registers in order to harmonize the practice of work and application of the regulations on the registry. The instruction directs the manner of work related to the registration of the personal name of a member of a national minority, regardless of the place of entry of a particular fact in the registers and irrespective of whether that information is entered during the basic registration in the registry or during subsequent registration. Also, along with the aforementioned instruction, an example of the Notice on the procedure and manner of entering the personal name of a national minority member in the registers was distributed for placing on the bulletin boards of all the registered areas of the cities/municipalities for which the registers are kept.

[41] Official Gazette of RS, no. 20/2009, 145/2014 and 47/2018

552. An Administrative Inspectorate has been set up in the Ministry; among other things, it supervises the work and activities of territorial autonomy bodies and local self-government units. The Administrative Inspectorate verifies whether these bodies comply with the regulations governing, among other things, the official use of languages and scripts and the registry.

553. The Administrative Inspectorate carries out inspection supervision in accordance with the annual work program proposed by the Chief Administrative Inspector and approved by the Government. In the course of the implementation of the Work Program, the Administrative Inspectorate performed a total of 4,341 inspections and has acted upon 4,607 petitions from citizens and legal entities and has notified the petitioners of the outcome of the proceedings in the period 2016-2018.

554. A total of 7,056 measures have been proposed to the inspection bodies in the Minutes of the supervisory inspection, to remedy the identified irregularities, irregularities and deficiencies. Of the total number of the proposed measures, 23 measures were concerning the right a national minority member to enter their personal name in the register in the language and script of the national minority in accordance with the Law on Civil Registers and the Instruction on Keeping Registers and Registry Forms. The measures proscribed included the local self-government units, which provided by their Statutes that, in addition to the Serbian language and script, the official language was Bulgarian.

555. In the reporting period, the right to enter their personal name in the Bulgarian language in the civil registers in the reporting period has been exercised in the Registry Office of the Municipality of Dimitrovgrad.

local self-government unit	**Number of entries of personal names in Bulgarian**		
	2016	**2017**	**2018**
Dimitrovgrad	3	-	1

556. In addition, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable the civil register forms to be printed bilingually in local self-government units where the Statutes establish that minority languages are in official use. Item 137 of the Instruction on keeping the registers and registers forms[42] stipulates that in the units of local self-government where the Statutes establish that the language of a national minority is in official use, the civil register forms are printed as bilingual, in Serbian, in Cyrillic script and in the language and script of that national minority whose language is in official use.

557. The table below provides information on civil register forms issued on bilingual, Serbian-Bulgarian forms.

[42] Official Gazette of RS, no.93/2018

Local self-government unit	Number of issued excerpts on bilingual, Serbian-Bulgarian forms		
	2016	2017	2018
Dimitrovgrad	2	1	-

Article 11 - Media

paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
paragraph 2
paragraph 3

558. As public information in Bulgarian is made up of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing media radio and television broadcasting services in Bulgarian, financing media content in Bulgarian language on private media and financing of the media indirectly founded by National the Council of the Bulgarian National Minority.

559. The table below shows the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analog signal and media television broadcasting via a digital signal in Bulgarian.

No.	Radio	Television
1.	RTV Caribrod DOO, Dimitrovgrad-Radio Caribrod	RTV Caribrod DOO, Dimitrovgrad-TV Caribrod
2.	Surdulička RTV DOO, Surdulica-Gold Radio	Niška Televizija DOO, Nis-NTV
Total	2	2

560. The table below lists media service providers providing media service of television broadcasting of programs in Bulgarian via the cable system.

No.	Television
1.	Niška Televizija DOO, Niš-NTV
2.	Euro MB Plus DOO, Vranje-Puls
Total	2

561. In addition, a half-hour Bulgarian-language program is broadcast once a week on the Third Radio Program of RTV.

562. Three periodicals are published in the Bulgarian language: *Novo Bratstvo,* published by the New Brotherhood Newspaper Publishing Company, *Списание визия/Vision Magazine*, published by the Citizens' Association "Obzor" and *Бюлетин* (*Bulletin*), published by the Cultural Information Center of the Bulgarian national minority Bosilegrad.

563. Information in Bulgarian is financially supported from the republic and local budgets by co-financing projects.

564. The Ministry of Culture and Information supported projects selected at competition that were implemented in different types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Bulgarian in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Media	Amount
2016	1	Radio	400,000.00
2016	1	Television	450,000.00
2016	1	Printed	400,000.00
2016	1	Production	450,000.00
2017	2	Television	1,450,000.00
2017	1	Internet	550,000.00
2018	1	Radio	400,000.00
2018	1	Television	700,000.00
2018	2	Production	890,000.00
2018	1	Internet	400,000.00

565. The National Council of the Bulgarian National Minority is the founder of two media outlets, the bi-weekly newspaper *Novo Bratstvo* and Nova RTV Bosilegrad, which broadcasts a Bulgarian-language radio program.

566. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information for national minorities.

567. The table below shows the number of programs and projects and the amount of funding allocated per year to the Bulgarian national minority.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2017	2	150,000.00
2018	6	2,220,550.00

568. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed Bulgarian language information programs and projects in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Niš	-	-	476,200.00

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Bulgarian on a regular basis.

569. The Republic of Serbia encourages and/or facilitates regular broadcasting of private radio programs in Bulgarian. According to the program scheme, Radio Caribrod from Dimitrovgrad equally produces and broadcasts a bilingual program in Bulgarian and Serbian even after privatization. The Ministry of Culture and Information and the Municipality of Dimitrovgrad provide continuous support to this media and in the reporting period they have co-financed the media content of this radio in Bulgarian in the total amount of RSD 5,925,000.00.

570. On 27 September 2018, the Government of the Republic of Serbia issued a Conclusion agreeing that one-time financial assistance in the total amount of RSD 45,439,900.00 should be granted to media publishing information in the Bulgarian language for the purpose of giving a grant or providing assistance to a number of written and electronic media.

m. Encourage the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Bulgarian.

571. The Ministry of Culture and Information and the Municipality of Dimitrovgrad continuously encourage the production of audio and audiovisual content in Bulgarian through project co-financing. In the reporting period, the Ministry of Culture and Information have co-financed 3 production projects, that is, the legal entities engaged in the production of audio and audio-visual content in Bulgarian, in the total amount of RSD 1,340,000.00. For example, the municipality of Dimitrovgrad has co-financed the project “Positive production” in the amount of RSD 600,000.00 in 2018. The distribution of audiovisual content in Bulgarian is also possible by the cable system.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits
paragraph 1 a, b, c, f
paragraph 2

572. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually awards, through competition, the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities.

573. The table below shows information on the number of programs and the amount of funding allocated to institutions and organizations in Bulgarian language.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016.	3	600,000.00
2017.	3	550,000.00
2018.	4	610,000.00

574. Within the Competition for translating the representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In 2016-2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages.

575. The table below provides information on the number of works and the funds allocated to translations into Bulgarian.

Language of translation	Bulgarian			
	2016	2017	2018	Total
Number of works	5	4	2	11

Amount in dinars	-	-	-	-
Amount in euros	9,000	4,400	3,000	16,400

576. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities finances from its budget (within the program activity Support to the Cultural Activity of National Minorities) programs and projects of importance for the culture and art of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina through a public competition it publishes annually. Programs and projects in the field of protection of the intangible cultural heritage and artistic creation of national minorities and in the field of publishing in the languages of national minorities are co-financed.

577. The table below provides information on the number and the type of co-financed projects and programs and the amount of funds paid for the Bulgarian language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds	Total
2016	Publishing			15,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	1	15,000.00	
2017	Publishing			20,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	1	20,000.00	
2018	Publishing			70,000.00
	Journals/Publications/			
	Other cultural events	2	70,000.00	

578. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

579. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects by associations of members of the Bulgarian minority and the amount of funding awarded in the Call for Proposals for Ethnic Community Organizations in 2016-2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016.	2	40,000.00

2017.	4	230,000.00
2018.	3	220,000.00

580. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of members of the Bulgarian national minority in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**
1.	Pančevo	-	215,000.00	70,000.00

581. Following the long publishing tradition of the Bratstvo publisher from Niš and its long cooperation with the Ministry on these projects, the Bulgarian minority has significantly reduced the number of publications participating in the competition. The National Library "Detko Petrov" from Dimitrovgrad is active in this field, and the projects are predominantly traditional and are based on the preservation of dance and song.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

n. Foster access in other languages to works produced in Bulgarian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

582. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces an open call for co-financing the cultural activities of national minorities, and support for translations, dubbing and subtitling of translations of works produced in national minority languages is cited as one of the priorities of the competition. So far, relatively few users have applied for projects of this type, and the reasons for this may differ. Projects are often planned and implemented without a broader perception of the importance of translating the content, in the context of accessibility and audience development. That is why networking of different cultural actors from different territories, when planning and implementing the program, is another important competition priority that can contribute to a greater use of minority languages.

583. Compared to the previous reporting period, there is an increase in the number of subtitling or translation projects, as well as those that correspond with the broader community, i.e. not targeting members of only one national minority; it cannot be said that a standard has been established but that these are sporadic examples of good practice. In the last three years, the Ministry has supported the issuing of 22 publications, for which 12 different national minorities have applied. Some of them are translations, while the others are original works, sometimes resulting from scientific and research work.

584. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities attaches great importance to the protection of the linguistic identity of national minorities, inter alia, through the co-financing of projects of translation, dubbing, post-

synchronization and subtitling of works produced in national minority languages, which were selected at a competition.

o. In territories other than those in which Bulgarian is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities ui ·ng this language.

585. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities through competition, which encourage cultural activities and content in the languages of national minorities and territories which they are not the ones in which these languages are traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

586. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

587. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

588. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called *Cities in Focus*, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42 from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development.

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

p. Encourage regular activities promoting Bulgarian in the framework of existing transfrontier cooperation at national and local level.

589. Educational cooperation with the Republic of Bulgaria is based on the Agreement on Cultural Co-operation between the Government of the FPR Yugoslavia and the Government of the PR Bulgaria, signed on 24 December 1956. The program between the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on cooperation in the field of education, culture and sports for 2005, 2006 and 2007 shall be implemented until the new one is signed. The text of the new Program between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on co-operation in the field of education and science is underway.

590. The Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences have worked together for several years on a project called "The Study and Interpretation of Archeological Cultures in the Territory of Serbia and Bulgaria". As part of the project, a digital exhibition "Ancient Naisus - the Crossroads of Trans-Balkan Roads of Communication Through the Ages" was opened in Sofia in 2018.

591. Successful cooperation with Bulgaria is achieved in the field of film. Through the Film Center of Serbia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the filming of three films co-produced by Serbia and Bulgaria was co-financed during the reporting period. Bulgarian films have also been screened at the 2017 Kustendorf International Film and Music Festival and the 25th Palić European Film Festival in 2018.

592. The collaboration of Serbian and Bulgarian cultural-artistic societies and ensembles marked the Slavic Literacy Day in 2017 and 2019. The exhibition "Traces of Cyril and Methodius - Photographic Biography of the Patrons of Europe" was opened on this occasion.

593. Representatives of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria have participated in the Creative Europe Forum, in Belgrade in 2018, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria, under the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union. Creative Europe supports international cooperation projects, and its main objectives relate to the promotion and advancement of creativity and innovation in European culture.

594. In the framework of the projects "Novi Sad 2021 - European Capital of Culture", in 2018, cooperation was established with the city of Plovdiv, which was the European Capital of Culture. On that occasion, a twinning agreement was signed between the two cities - the European Capitals of Culture, projects to promote the Cyrillic script as part of a common European cultural heritage were launched and a calligraphy workshop for writing a Cyrillic by visiting calligraphers from Plovdiv was organized.

595. The municipality of Bosilegrad cooperates with the municipalities in Bulgaria in the fields of education, culture, sports, business and health.

596. The Municipality of Dimitrovgrad has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Municipality of Asenovgrad, and the Government has approved the signing of such an agreement with the Municipality of Dimitrovgrad in Bulgaria. The Dimko Petrov National Library in Dimitrovgrad has excellent cooperation with related institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria. In addition to cooperation in the field of librarianship, thanks to the funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, the library building was renovated and a summer scene was built with an amphitheater in the library yard in 2015-2017.

4.1.4. HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE

Article 8 - Education
paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

Preschool education

597. Preschool education in Hungarian language is carried out in 22 local self-government units in 22 preschools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	23	21	142	1,651
2017/2018	23	21	133	1,529
2018/2019	22	22	135	1,512

598. Bilingual educational work in Serbian and Hungarian is organized in eight local self-government units in eight preschools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	8	7	14	175
2017/2018	9	8	14	164
2018/2019	8	8	14	172

Primary Education

599. The entire education in Hungarian language is carried out in 28 local self-government units in 75 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students

2016/2017	28	74	935	14,830
2017/2018	28	74	921	14,308
2018/2019	28	75	903	13,680

600. The Hungarian - German model of bilingual teaching is organized within the school system in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, which is implemented in a primary school in Subotica. The table below provides information on the number of students attending this model of teaching.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/17	1	1	14	306
2017/18	1	1	12	258
2018/19	1	1	10	240

601. The study of the subject Hungarian language with elements of national culture is organized in 23 local self-government units in 61 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	23	49	44	2,168
2017/2018	23	58	36	2,064
2018/2019	23	61	44	2,659

Secondary Education

Gymnasiums

602. The entire education in the Hungarian language is carried out in seven local self-government units in nine secondary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	7	9	65	1,252
2017/2018	7	9	65	1,213
2018/2019	7	9	62	1,138

Technical and vocational education

603. The entire education in the Hungarian language is carried out in 11 local self-government units in 17 three-year technical schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	11	17	57	927
2017/2018	11	17	52	830

2018/2019	11	17	52	827

604. The entire education in the Hungarian language is carried out in 11 local self-government units in 25 four-year technical schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	11	25	255	5,577
2017/2018	11	25	258	5,372
2018/2019	11	25	253	5,001

605. The subject Hungarian language with elements of national culture is taught in two local self-government units in two technical schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	-	-	-	-
2017/2018	2	2	2	35
2018/2019	2	2	3	89

University and higher education

606. At the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, at basic academic studies, the Hungarian language, literature and culture are studied.

Study profile	2016	2017	2018	Total number of students in all years of studies, academic year 2018/2019
Hungarian language, literature, culture	21	10	8	60

607. At the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, in the basic academic studies, the Hungarian language and literature are taught in Hungarian.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	16	16	12
Total number of students	77	74	68

608. Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad delivers basic academic studies Serbian Philology: Serbian in Contact with Slovak and Hungarian Philology.

609. The Faculty of Science of the University of Novi Sad does not deliver classes in Hungarian, but it allows its students to take exams in Sociology, Psychology and Pedagogy in the Hungarian language.

610. At the Academy of Arts, Acting in Hungarian, University of Novi Sad, basic academic studies are taught in Hungarian. In accordance with the Program Accreditation Decision, enrollment in the first year of study is organized every other year.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	-	9	-
Total number of students	14	15	14

611. At the Technical High School of Vocational Studies, Subotica the teaching is carried out in bilingual accredited study programs (Serbian - Hungarian).

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	111	93	89
Total number of students	345	315	297

612. At the Higher School of Vocational Studies for the Education of Educators and Trainers in Subotica, classes are taught according to accredited study programs in Hungarian.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	8	6	2
Total number of students	24	19	14

613. At the High School of Vocational Studies for the Education of Educators in Novi Sad, classes are taught in Hungarian.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	3	1	1
Total number of students	3	4	5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

d. Encourage the offering of Hungarian as a subject of adult and continuing education.

614. Persons who have not completed primary education have the opportunity to acquire it subsequently. Every school year, interested students in adult elementary education schools are surveyed through a single survey questionnaire, which is sent to all elementary schools in the Republic of Serbia through school administrations. If legal requirements are met, a group of at least 15 participants will be formed.

615. In addition to the Serbian language, adult education is also organized in the Hungarian teaching language.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	3	3	4	63

2017/2018	3	3	4	78
2018/2019	2	2	5	95

e. Within the territory in which Hungarian is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Hungarian, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

616. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle and Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

617. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society*, *History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

618. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

619. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

620. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of

democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

621. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the second year gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

Article 9 - Judicial powers
paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d
paragraph 2 a, b, c
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

b. Take measures to encourage Hungarian speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

622. The previous reports on the application of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Hungarian.

623. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Hungarian speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

624. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

625. According to the available data, at the beginning of 2019, the courts in the Republic of Serbia have employed 106 members of the Hungarian national minority, 129 employees of the courts speak Hungarian, 16 judges and 28 lay judges are members of the Hungarian national minority, and 14 judges are qualified to lead the proceedings in Hungarian.

626. During the reporting period in the Basic Court in Novi Sad, where the Hungarian language is officially used, 21 proceedings were conducted in the languages of national minorities, of which 10 in civil matters, 1 in criminal matters and 10 in non-contentious matters. In the Senta Basic Court, in which 7 judges were trained to conduct the proceedings in the Hungarian language, there was no trial in this language, but in proceedings where members of the Hungarian national minority appear as parties, witnesses and others, judges communicate with parties and witnesses in Hungarian.

f. Inform Hungarian speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

627. In addition to the above rules, the Rules of Procedure also contain additional rules of relevance for the wider use of minority languages in judicial proceedings. Namely, if the court proceedings are not conducted in the language of a national minority, and in the court, besides the Serbian language, the language of the national minority is also officially used, written documents shall be submitted in his language to the member of the national minority at their request. Translation of submissions and documents submitted to the court in the languages of national minorities is carried out by a translator. The minutes and decisions in the first instance proceedings relating to the proceedings shall be drafted, as authentic texts, in the Serbian language and in the established language of the proceedings. If necessary, they shall be translated into another language of the national minority, if required by a member of the national minority as a participant in proceedings not conducted in his language. Minutes and decisions in legal remedies proceedings shall be made in the Serbian language. The court of first instance shall translate the decisions taken by legal remedies into the established language of the proceedings and, if necessary, into the second language of national minorities, as well as submit them in a text credibly translated to the appropriate language (to the members of national minorities as participants in the proceedings). If written in the language of a national minority and sent to a court where the language is not in official use, a translation into Serbian shall be enclosed.

628. The full application of the above rules ensures that speakers of minority languages are informed at each stage of the proceedings of their right to use their language before a court and to decide to exercise their rights.

g. Make available in Hungarian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Hungarian.

629. In order to increase the availability of the most important regulations pertaining to the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the amendments to the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities of 2018 stipulate that the ministry responsible for exercising the rights of national minorities provides the translation and publishes the collections of consolidated texts of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia, whose subject matter of regulation is, in whole or in most part, the exercise of rights of national minorities.

630. The Ministry is obliged to make these laws available in electronic format, on its website and on the eGovernment Portal, as well as to agree to send to the national councils of national minorities a certain number of collections of consolidated texts of these laws. Exceptionally, the national council of a national minority may submit a proposal to the line ministry, on the grounds that it is of particular importance for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the national minority, for the line ministry to translate and publish a collection of consolidated texts of certain laws within its legal scope containing provisions pertaining to the exercise of rights and freedoms of national minorities, that is, to the social relations that are of particular importance to national minorities. When deciding on a proposal of a national council, particular consideration shall be given to the availability of the planned budgetary funds, as well as to whether amendments to these laws or an adoption of a new law is planned in the next one year that would replace the law proposed for translation or publishing.

631. Translating regulations into minority languages will help harmonize the professional legal terminology in minority languages and further affirm their use in proceedings before the state authorities.

632. An exceptionally big number of national regulations is available in Hungarian, which has been reported in detail in item 275 of the Fourth Report on the Implementation of the Charter.

633. As a number of laws governing the rights and status of persons belonging to national minorities have been amended in 2018, those laws, as well as the accompanying by-laws, have been translated into languages of national minorities that are in official use. These are the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the Decree on the Procedure for Allocating Funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities, and the Rulebook on the Method of Entering and Keeping the Register of National Councils, which are also available in Hungarian.

634. In addition, during the election cycle for the election of the members of the national councils of national minorities in November 2018, the following documents were translated into

Hungarian: the Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament; Election Day Schedule for the Direct Election Procedure for National Minority Council Members, announced for November 4, 2018; Rules on the Work of Voting Committees for Electing the Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Instruction for direct elections for members of the national councils of national minorities; Election list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority; Statement of acceptance of candidacy for membership of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority; Consent of the holder of the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority; Authorization to submit an electoral list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority; Voter Statement to Support the Election List of Candidates for Members of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority; List of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority; ballot paper.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services
paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2 b, c, d, g
paragraph 3c
paragraph 4c
paragraph 5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Take organisational measures to ensure that users of Hungarian can submit oral or written applications in Hungarian to local branches of the national authorities and encourage Hungarian speakers to make use of this possibility in practice.

635. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, administrative districts in the Republic of Serbia have been formed to perform public administration tasks outside the seats of the state administration bodies and reflect the dispersion of state affairs. For easier carrying out tasks within the scope and outside their seats, the ministries or provincial secretariats establish for a certain territory their detached units - district territorial units. The cluster of all district regional units in a certain territory is an administrative district - a regional center of state administration.

636. In the administrative district, public administration bodies may, at their discretion, perform one or more of the following public administration tasks: to resolve administrative matters in the first instance, to supervise the work of holders of public authority, and to conduct the supervisory inspections.

637. District regional units of the state administration bodies have been formed in order to optimize the carrying out of state administration tasks, and above all the supervisory inspection

activities. Ministries conduct for their district territorial units the HR policy, establish work plans, issue directives and instructions, and, on the basis of their competencies, on their websites, they direct parties to the district regional units of state administration bodies, in areas where the language of a national minority is in official, they may conduct the proceedings both in the language and using the script of that national minority.

638. An Administrative Service is established in the administrative district, which shall essentially perform the tasks, general and common to all district regional units and provide expert and technical support to the head of the administrative district. Jobs within the scope of the Professional Services of the administrative district can be grouped into: legal, financial, registry, professional and technical support to the head of the administrative district and others.

639. Although there are no obstacles or restrictions to the use of oral or written applications in minority languages by the speakers of minority languages, most of the administrative districts have stated in their contributions to the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that so far there have been no cases in the professional service of the administrative district of an oral or written address in minority languages to the Head of the District, national inspection services, or provincial secretariats. All employees of the professional services of the administrative districts, as far as they are in contact with the parties, respect the rights of national minorities and always serve every party, regardless of their nationality or the language in which the party has addressed them. Should the party address them orally or in writing in a minority language, the professional service would meet him, enable him to exercise his right, and to the extent possible, to obtain a response in the minority language.

640. In order to ensure that speakers of national minority languages can file written applications, complaints and petitions, the South Bačka Administrative District has reached an agreement with the Government of Vojvodina - Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, on the engagement of their Department for translation jobs within the Sector for National Minorities - National Communities and Translations.

641. In order to carry out these operations, funds under the sub-analytic account 423111 - Translation Services have been planned under the Budget and Financial Plan of the South Bačka Administrative District for 2019 under Group 423 - Translating Services.

642. The Head of the South Bačka Administrative District, at sessions of the Collegium, attended by all heads of district units of state bodies, regularly points to the obligations arising from the Law on General Administrative Procedure, as well as from Article 10 of the European Charter.

643. In the territory of the North Bačka Administrative District, members of national minorities can submit a written application in the Hungarian language, and the District Expert Service endeavors, to the best of its ability, to respect their right and to ensure their translation.

644. The professional service of the Central Banat Administrative District can, using its own capacities, as well as in cooperation with local self-governments and their services or other local authorities, respond to individual requests of the parties and to provide for them to exercise the right to use minority languages before the administrative bodies.

645. The office of the North Banat Administrative District can receive the request in Hungarian and forward it to the competent authority to process it. In addition, a certain number of employees in the regional units of the state administration bodies in the District know Hungarian. However, no requests have been made in Hungarian since the District was established.

c. Facilitate the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Hungarian.

646. The statutes of local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use also determine the publication of local general acts in the official gazettes of local self-government units. In this sense, since it allows the local self-government units to identify minority languages that are in official use, the state approves and encourages local authorities to publish their documents in minority languages. Some local self-government units have taken the opportunity to provide in their statutes that official gazettes publishing local documents are also published in minority languages that are in official use. A total of 9 local self-government units (Ada, Bačka Topola, Bečej, Kanjiža, Mali Iđoš, Senta, Srbobran, Subotica and Čoka) also publish an official newsletter in Hungarian, which means that the statutes and all general acts of these local self-government units are also available in the Hungarian language.

647. The availability of official documents of local self-government units in minority languages is also made available on official websites, as some of the local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use have websites in minority languages. There are 9 local self-government units that have websites in the Hungarian language (Ada, Bačka Topola, Bečej, Kanjiža, Mali Iđoš, Pančevo, Senta, Subotica and Čoka), while two local self-government units (Kovin and Temerin) have part of the content on their websites in Hungarian language as well.

648. Official documents of local self-government units are available to speakers of minority languages through various printed publications, bulletins, or newsletters published by local self-government units.

649. At the competition that the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities publishes for the allocation of

budget funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, who officially use languages and scripts of national minorities, among other things, are allocated and for the production of official newsletters, multilingual forms and other public publications.

650. Information on the amount of funding allocated at these competitions for the development of official gazettes and the printing of multilingual public publications, which contributes to improving the availability of official documents in minority languages, is contained in the table below.

2016	2017	2018
505,000.00	2,656,900.00	2,333,000.00

h. Encourage the local branches of the national authorities to draft documents in Hungarian.

651. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System, which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

i. Make possible for users of Hungarian to submit oral or written applications in Hungarian to the regional or local authorities.

652. As stated in the previous reports on the application of the Charter, parties have the right to address the local and regional authorities orally or in writing in their language, and this right is exercised in practice.

653. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities has conducted an online survey in 2016 and it collected data from the bodies of local self-government units and provincial bodies and organizations, inter alia, about the oral and written communication of these bodies with the citizens.

654. Based on the data collected, the total number of employees in the bodies of local self-government is 5,594, and in the bodies of AP of Vojvodina it is 1,180. Of this number, 609 (8.99%) are members of the Hungarian national minority, 613 (9.05%) have stated that

Hungarian language was their mother tongue, and 813 indicated that they knew Hungarian. In 2016, a total of 20,941 administrative cases were conducted in Hungarian language; in the same period 38,437 certificates and other documents were issued in Hungarian language, and 31 legal remedies were filed against the first instance decisions in the administrative proceedings conducted in the Hungarian language.

655. Provincial authorities and organizations allow the speakers of minority languages that are in official use to submit oral and written communications in these languages. Employees who communicate with parties and know the language of the national minority in official use, if necessary, assist other officials in charge of other areas, if they do not know the required language. In addition, if necessary, a certified translator or court interpreter is hired. The percentage of verbal and written addresses to provincial authorities in minority languages ranges from 1 to 40%, and forms and other written documents in minority languages that are in official use are provided in some bodies.

656. During 2016, five administrative cases were brought before the provincial authorities and two certificates were issued in the Hungarian language.

657. The area of professional development of persons employed in provincial administrative bodies also includes the development of language competences, as training program - Languages of national minorities. The aim of the program is to train the participants to use national minority languages, and the program itself includes understanding, oral communication and written communication in the minority language. The target group to which the program is addressed is all officers of the provincial administrative bodies. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, in cooperation with the Office for Human Resource Management, organizes minority language courses for the employees in provincial administrative bodies.

658. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities provides oral and written translation from Serbian into Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian and Ruthenian and vice versa. The Secretariat translation services are used by all provincial authorities and organizations. All public tenders and advertisements and forms published in this Secretariat are also published in Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Ruthenian and Croatian language and script, and the Secretariat also organized terminology seminars in the reporting period regarding the use of Hungarian in the work of administration bodies and in the judiciary.

659. Local self-governments put on their notice boards also in information buildings so that parties may submit their requests and addresses in a minority language that is in official use, as well as to demand replies in that language.

660. The resources available for successful use of languages and scripts of national minorities at the local level, in addition to staffing capacities that include both civil servants and engaged translators and certified interpreters, include the availability of public publications, guides, notices and information boards in national minority languages, the publishing of official gazettes of the local self-government units in languages and scripts of the national minorities, publication of information on official websites of local self-government units in languages and scripts of national minorities, the availability of documents and forms of various submissions (requests, petitions, etc.) in the languages and scripts of national minorities, the conduct of administrative proceedings as a whole in the languages and scripts of national minorities, and the issuing of birth certificates and other registrar services provided in languages and scripts of national minorities.

661. The following table provides information on measures to help the speakers of Hungarian to take the opportunity to submit their oral or written applications in Hungarian to local self-government units in which Hungarian is in official use.

Local self-government unit	**Measures contributing to the use of the possibility of submitting an oral or written application in Hungarian to local authorities**
Ada	The Act on Systematization stipulates the knowledge of Hungarian language for 23 job positions, and a total of 50 employees know the Hungarian language. The citizens may address themselves orally and in writing in Hungarian. Although oral communication is often in the Hungarian language, in about 80% of the cases, citizens rarely ask for their documents to be issued in the Hungarian language. All the written communication with the citizens is bilingual.
Apatin	There are 4 employees in the municipal administration who speak Hungarian. A notice is placed on the bulletin boards in the local offices of Kupusina and Svolojevo in which the Hungarian language and script are in official use, that the translation to Hungarian of the placed advertisements can be obtained at the local office. The citizens mainly speak in Hungarian (70% of the citizens) and receive their answers in Hungarian because the employees of the local offices know the Hungarian language and script. Requests for issuance of certificates, bilingual forms for Register certificate (births, weddings, deaths) and various notices are available in Hungarian.
Bačka Topola	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Jobs in the Municipal Administration, Budget Inspection Service and the Office of the Protector of Citizens of Bačka Topola Municipality stipulates that a certain job position requires knowledge of one of the languages of national minorities in official use in the municipality (Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian) for 41 job positions. In the municipal administration, 46 employees speak Hungarian. Members of the Hungarian minority are informed of the possibility of effectively exercising their rights in the area of official use of language and script orally (when the party addresses the authority), through local media and through print media and bulletins. The average number of written communications in Hungarian annually is 30. The number of oral communications of citizens in the Hungarian language is between 40 and 60% of the total number of oral communications annually. The citizens also receive their answers in Hungarian. There are 24 different requests or applications available in Hungarian. During the reporting period, 42 administrative proceedings were conducted in the Hungarian language.
Bečej	The systematization act stipulates the knowledge of Hungarian language for 19 job positions, and the total number of employees who speak Hungarian is 37. Announcements on the official website of the municipality are bilingual, in Serbian and Hungarian, all adopted acts of the Municipality of Bečej are in both languages, in Serbian and

	Hungarian, all requests and forms are bilingual. The estimated number of written communications in the Hungarian language is about 5% of the total number of annual communications, while the number of oral communications in the Hungarian language is about 10% of the total number of communications. When speaking in Hungarian, citizens always receive their answer in Hungarian.
Vrbas	12 municipal administration employees speak Hungarian. Various requests, notices and other information in the Administration Department of Human Resources Management are available in Hungarian.
Vršac	Two City Administration employees are fluent in Hungarian. In Šušara, where the majority of the Hungarian minority lives, employees of the Local Office know the Hungarian language and communicate with the citizens in this language. Bilingual birth certificates are available at the local office.
Žitište	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematization of Jobs in the Municipal Administration systematizes one job for which the knowledge of the Hungarian language is a requirement. 4 civil servants speak Hungarian. The citizens may address and receive their reply in the Hungarian language.
Zrenjanin	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Jobs in the City Administration, the Attorney General's Office and the Professional Service of the Protector of Citizens of the City of Zrenjanin stipulates 2 job positions that require the knowledge of Hungarian language. A total of 19 employees speak Hungarian. Speakers of the Hungarian language are informed about the possibility of effectively exercising their rights to use the Hungarian language through info boards indicating the types of work performed, for example, by the Service Center, then through prominent notices on the right to enter a personal name in the registers and books, notices on enrollment in a special electoral roll, notices on elections, notices on the manner and conditions of exercising the right to child allowance, etc. The names of departments and sectors in the City Administration are also written in Hungarian. There is no record of oral addresses of citizens in the Hungarian language, but it is estimated that an average of about 2,000 citizens speak in Hungarian language during the year.
Kanjiža	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematization of Jobs for 48 job positions, with 51 employees, provides for the knowledge of Hungarian language. A total of 60 employees speak Hungarian. The official communication of the administration bodies and citizens takes place in both languages in official use, in Serbian and Hungarian, the website is bilingual, all announcements and information are also available in Hungarian. The average number of written communications in Hungarian annually is 25. The citizens daily speak to the municipal administration in the Hungarian language and receive their reply in the Hungarian language because every employee in the municipal administration speaks Hungarian. The estimated number of oral addresses in Hungarian is about 25,000. All requests, forms, notices, the official gazette of the municipality are available in Hungarian.
Kikinda	The Rulebook on Internal Organization and Systematization of Jobs in the City Administration, the Attorney General's Office, professional services and special organizations of the city of Kikinda systematized one job position for which the knowledge of Hungarian language was proscribed as a condition of work. The total number of employees who speak Hungarian is 11. Because a certain number of employees knows the Hungarian language, speakers of Hungarian can communicate with them in Hungarian. Also, all Service Center notifications are posted in Hungarian. Local media inform the citizens about their rights in the Hungarian language. As records of written and oral communications are not kept, it is estimated that about 10 written requests are submitted annually in Hungarian and over 700 oral addresses are in Hungarian. Excerpts from registers are available in Hungarian, polling station notices, notices related to the work of the registry office, notification of the procedure and manner of entering the personal name of a national minority member in the register, as well as labels on offices, with the names of organizational units are in Hungarian. Also, at the request of a party, marriage ceremony can be conducted in Hungarian.

Kovačica	There are 7 employees in the Municipal Administration who speak Hungarian. In the predominantly Hungarian town of Debeljaca, the citizens speak in Hungarian and receive their reply in Hungarian, as most employees speak Hungarian. According to estimates, the number of oral addresses in Hungarian language is about 800 per year.
Kovin	The Act on the Internal Organization and Systematization of Municipal Administration Jobs does not currently provide for the job of a translator for languages that are officially used in the territory of Kovin Municipality. The translation work is performed, if necessary, by professionals, by hiring out of employment, specifically by an Engagement Contract. For the time being, the municipality of Kovin fully covers the needs of the citizens and competent services. If the need arises for the permanent employment of translators, the municipality will harmonize its acts with the emerging needs, and hire professional staff for translation work into languages that are in official use. The municipality employs 5 persons who speak Hungarian. Speakers of Hungarian language, when addressing the local authorities, are orally informed that they can speak in Hungarian, and if the citizen expresses such intention, the municipality of Kovin shall hire an interpreter. In the territory of Skorenovac, where the Hungarian population is predominantly settled, the employees of the local office know the Hungarian language and the script, so that the citizens can address the civil servants in Hungarian, both orally in writing. Announcements that stand out on the info board in front of the local office are also in Serbian and Hungarian. According to estimates, of the total number of addresses, about 70% of written and about 80% of oral addresses a year are in Hungarian in Skorenovac. In the rest of the Kovin Municipality, citizens rarely speak in Hungarian. The citizens may file bilingual applications (in Serbian and Hungarian) for the issuance of the civil registry excerpt, the application for issuing a citizenship certificate, the application for entry in the civil registry of the fact of birth, marriage and death, as well as requests for issuance of a certificate for various purposes. All notifications are also bilingual.
Kula	The Act on Internal Organization and Systematization of Municipal Administration Jobs provides for one job position for which the condition is the knowledge of Hungarian language, and 6 employees know the Hungarian language. The municipality of Kula has provided a Hungarian language guide available to citizens of Hungarian nationality who want to use Hungarian in communication with municipal authorities. The wedding ceremonies are mostly conducted in Hungarian.
Mali Iđoš	The Rulebook on Organization and Systematisation of Jobs in the Municipal Administration and Professional Services of the Municipality of Mali Iđoš requires knowledge of the Hungarian language in 5 job positions. Of the 32 employees, 25 speak Hungarian. Speakers of the Hungarian language were informed about the possibilities to effectively exercise their rights to use the Hungarian language in the municipality directly by the civil servants during oral or written communications. The specific number of written communications in Hungarian is 40 per year, and of oral, 65% of the total number of communications are in Hungarian. Forms for exercising the municipality's original rights, such as a request for additional maternity protection on the territory of the municipality, a request for recognition of the right to reimbursement of travel and other expenses of elementary and secondary school students, and a request for recognition of the right to scholarships for students are available in Hungarian. Also available are the Request for reading the archives and the Request for issuance of the decision on the acquired status of an energy vulnerable buyer.
Nova Crnja	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematization of Jobs in the Municipal Administration systematizes one job for which the knowledge of the Hungarian language is a requirement. A total of 6 civil servants speak Hungarian. Speakers of the Hungarian language can addresss both orally and in writing in Hungarian. Written addresses are rare, an an average of over 1,000 citizens annually address the authority in Hungarian. Bilingual notices and forms are available (notice on the extension of child allowance, required documentation for child allowance, required documentation for parental allowance, required documentation for maternity and child care, notification of exercising the right to an energy-vulnerable and energy-protected customer, notification of the delivery of school certificates etc).

Novi Bečej	The Act on Internal Organization and Systematization of Municipal Administration Jobs provides for 3 job positions for which the knowledge of Hungarian language is a condition, and a total of 9 employees know the Hungarian language. A notice on the bulletin board informs that Hungarian speakers can exercise their rights in Hungarian. There are only a few written and oral communications in Hungarian a year, and it is ensured that the citizens receives their answer in Hungarian as well. All requests submitted to the Municipal Administration are also translated into Hungarian.
Novi Sad	By the Act on Unified Systematization of Jobs in City Administrations, Special Organizations and Services of the City of Novi Sad, there are no systematized job positions requiring the knowledge of Hungarian. The total number of employees who speak Hungarian is 24. A review of official records has revealed that in the period 2016-2018, there were no oral and written communications in Hungarian. In the event that the citizens speak in Hungarian, they may receive their answer in that language, since it is ensured that in jobs where the employees communicate with the citizens, employees who know some of the languages of national minorities in official use in the city are posted. In 2018, 957 administrative cases in a special electoral roll were conducted in Hungarian.
Pančevo	In the territory of Ivanovo and Pančevo, the cadastral municipality of Vojlovica, Hungarian language and script are in official use. When drafting the act on job classification, the jobs requiring Hungarian language skills were not specifically systematized. Employees who communicate with clients and other employees are familiar with the Hungarian language and script. In oral communication with the civil servants, speakers of the national minority language receive information on the possibility of exercising their rights in Hungarian. The citizens regularly speak in Hungarian and receive their answers from the civil servants who are fluent in Hungarian.
Plandište	A total of 5 employees know the Hungarian language. A notice in Hungarian on the bolletin board in front of the service center, as well as in the local offices, informs about the possibility for Hungarian speakers to effectively exercise their rights to use Hungarian in the municipal administration of the Plandište municipality. The citizens mostly address the civil servants in Hungarian orally. The Deputy Registrar for the Margit area, which includes, inter alia, Jermenovci, predominantly settled by Hungarians, knows the Hungarian language and thus communicates with the citizens in Hungarian. There are more than 500 such communications annually.
Senta	The number of employees who speak Hungarian is 67. About 80% of citizens address the employees orally in Hungarian, and about 20% receive written answers in Hungarian. Notices (for child allowance, change of personal name), requirements (for issue of child allowance certificate, removal and pruning of trees, obtaining the status of an energy-vulnerable buyer, issuing a ticket for large families), petitions (environment, communal order) , keeping animals), as well as certificates of receipt are available in Hungarian, During the reporting period, 15 administrative cases were conducted in Hungarian.
Sombor	The Act on the Internal Organization and Systematization of Jobs provides for knowledge of Hungarian language for 16 jobs. The total number of employees who speak Hungarian at the Sombor City Administration is 19. The notice on the bulletin board informs that the citizen has the right to address the organ and communicate with i in writing, or orally, in Hungarian. There were no written communications in Hungarian during the reporting period, and oral communications averaged more than 150 per year. Forms, requests and notifications for communication with the citizens are available in Hungarian.
Srbobran	The total number of employees who speak Hungarian is 9. There are notices on the bulletin board in Hungarian, and the bulletin that is issued once a month has parts written in Hungarian. There were no written communications in Hungarian during the reporting period, and oral communications averaged over 500 a year.
Subotica	The number of systematized job positions requiring knowledge of minority languages in official use in the city of Subotica is 82, and there are 130 employees on those job positions. The number of employees who speak the official languages of Subotica is 190.

	In the city of Subotica, the members of national minorities are informed by the media, on the City's website, on the bulletin boards everything is written in all three languages used in accordance with the City Statute. In accordance with the Statute of the City of Subotica, citizens exercise their rights and obligations equally in the Cyrillic alphabet, in the Hungarian and Croatian languages in Latin script. Starting from the queue management system at the entrance to the Subotica City Administration Service Center, citizens opt for the language in which they want the employees to address and the script in which they wish to submit their request, complaint, petition, etc. and the language in which that act is to be adopted. The acknowledgment of receipt of the submission shall be issued on the letter on which the submission was filed and recorded based on special record keeping system. All forms used by the city authorities and the city government secretariats are printed in three languages. The equal use of language and script is certainly reflected in the work of the Contact Center 024, which citizens address each day orally and in writing in all three languages and scripts, in accordance with the city statute. According to information received from the City Administration, very few proceedings were conducted in the languages of national minorities that are in official use in the City, mainly in the General Administration and Common Affairs, while in other services the proceedings were not conducted, since the citizens did not request it. All forms and other documents used to communicate with the citizens are printed in all three languages. All competitions (applications for competitions and reports on the spent funds), decisions in the field of culture, information, allocation of funds to religious communities, sports, youth sector, social humanitarian organizations, scholarships for high school students of technical professions and tertiary education student scholarships and support to the development of city's young talents are published on the city's website in all three official languages. A member of a national minority whose language is in official use has the right to use his or her language in administrative proceedings. The authorities shall receive as valid the submissions, documents and other documents submitted by the party in the administrative procedure to the authority in the language and script of the national minorities that are in official use. The translation of these submissions and other documents into Serbian is done at the expense of the organs and is attached to the file. Nevertheless, administrative cases were not conducted in national minority languages during the reporting period.
Temerin	The systematization act requires knowledge of Hungarian for one job position, while a total of 12 employees speak Hungarian. It is estimated that the number of oral addresses in Hungarian language ranges from 25 to 35 per year. The citizens receive their reply in the Hungarian. There are bilingual requirements (in Serbian and Hungarian) for registration in the registry, as well as excerpts from the registry. In addition, there are forms in Hungarian, certificates of shared household, permanent residence, submissions for Hungarian citizenship, statements of parents allowing their children to cross the border, power of attorney for vehicles, requests for one-time assistance, as well as one-off assistance for the equipment for the third child.
Titel	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematization of Jobs in the Municipal Administration of the Municipality of Titel does not prescribe knowledge of Hungarian in the job descriptions. The notice board informs the citizens of their right to address the organ and communicate, in writing or orally, in Hungarian.
Čoka	The Act on Systematization requires knowledge of Hungarian language for all job positions, so that a total of 44 employees know Hungarian. The citizens may address in writing and orally in Hungarian. It is estimated that about 100 citizens address the administration in Hungarian in writing, and about 1,500 address the administration orally annually. Requests, notifications and forms are available in Hungarian. During the reporting period, 36 administrative cases were conducted in the Hungarian language.

662. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities regularly launches competitions for the allocation of budget funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, who officially use languages and scripts of national minorities. Among other things funds are allocated for the training of employees of bodies and organizations using a national minority language, which has been identified as a language in official use, and especially in workplaces where employees are contacted by the citizens (participation in courses, seminars, etc.), as well as for the development of an e-government system for working in the conditions of multilingualism, which further strengthens the possibility of exercising the right of minority language speakers to file an oral or written application in their own language. The text of the competition with applications for the competition is printed and published in Serbian language and in Cyrillic script, followed by the Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian and Ruthenian languages and scripts.

663. Information on the amount of funds allocated for the training of employees of organs and organizations is contained in the table below.

2016	**2017**
221,064.00	1,377,000.00

664. Information on the amount of funds allocated for the development of an e-government system for multilingualism is contained in the table below.

2016	**2017**
200,000.00	232,000.00

j. Ensure the use or adoption of traditional place names in Hungarian.

665. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have provided detailed explanations of legislative solutions that have enabled the adoption and use of traditional names of towns and settlements in minority languages. Namely, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that in areas where members of national minorities constitute a significant population, traditional local names, street names, settlements and topographical marks should also be written in their minority language. The Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities encourages the use of traditional forms of names of towns and settlements in minority languages, since the law provides that in the territory of a local self-government unit where official language is in official use, the names of bodies exercising public authority, the names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms are also written in the minority language, in line with the tradition and spelling of that language. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities prescribes that the traditional names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographical names are determined by the national council of the national minority.

666. Section 5.3.7. of the First Report on the Implementation of the Charter contains information on the traditional names of cities, municipalities and settlements in Hungarian, established by the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority and published in the Official Gazette of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in 2003. Since after the first cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Charter, some local self-governments have identified new settlements in whose territories Hungarian was introduced into official use, Section 4.3.5. of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Charter provided information on the traditional names of these settlements, which was also established by the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority.

667. At the end of 2018, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government sent a letter to the Heads of the city and municipal administrations in which the minority languages and scripts are in official use, in which it was emphasized that they were obliged to adhere to all relevant regulations guaranteeing the right to official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities in their work and conduct, which also includes the provision of names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other place names on multilingual boards.

668. There are numerous examples of the use of traditional names of settlements in minority languages, from the printing of nameplates of settlements, through the names of institutions, memoranda and stamps of local self-government bodies, to the use of these names in public documents, in forms for being entered or erased from the special electoral roll of a national minority, during the election process, on tourist signage, in official gazettes, bulletins and brochures of the local self-government units, etc.

669. The following table provides available information on the practice of using traditional place names in Hungarian provided by local self-government units that that have responded to the invitation to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter.

Local self-government unit	**Use of traditional names of towns in Hungarian**
Ada	All place names are also written in Hungarian.
Apatin	In Kupusina and Svilojevo, where Hungarian is in official use, the name plates of places are written in Hungarian. Traditional names of places are also used on the building of the Joseph Atila Elementary School Kupusina and on the Kish Ferenc Primary School building in Svilojevo, the buildings of the local community center and offices in Kupusina and Svilojevo, as well as the official documents issued by these local communities.
Bač	The boards with the names of Bač, Vajska and Plavna is also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of places in Hungarian are used on the board with the names of municipal, provincial and republic authorities.
Bela Crkva	The boards with the names of Bela Crkva and Dobričevo are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in the Hungarian language are used on the boards on public institutions and state bodies, as well as on the seals of municipal bodies.

Bačka Topola	The boards with the names of Bagremovo, Bajsa, Backa Topola, Bogaroš, Gunaroš, Kavilo, Novo Orahovo, Pačir, Pobeda, Svetićevo and Stara Moravica are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in the Hungarian language are used in bilingual birth certificates as well as in the Official Gazette of the Municipality of Bačka Topola.
Bečej	All boards with the names of places in the area of Bečej are also written in Hungarian. Traditional place names in Hungarian are used in official documents whenever needed.
Vrbas	The boards with the names of Bačko Dobro Polje, Vrbas, Zmajevo, Ravno Selo, Savino Selo, Kosančić and Kucura are also written in Hungarian.
Vršac	The board with the name of Šušara is also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of places in Hungarian are written on the boards with the names of local, provincial and state authorities and public institutions in the city.
Žitište	The boards with the names of Banatski Dvor, Novi Itebei, Torda and Hetin are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in Hungarian language are written on the boards with the names of authorities, educational institutions and health centers in all the settlements of the municipality.
Zrenjanin	The boards with the names of Belo Blato, Ečka, Zrenjanin, Klek, Lazarevo, Lukino Selo, Mihajlovo and Stajićevo are in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in Hungarian language are also used on the boards with the name of the City Administration, local offices, public companies and bilingual registry books.
Kanjiža	The boards with the names of Adorjan, Velebit, Zimonic, Kanjiža, Mala Pijace, Martonos, Mali Pesak, Orom, Doline, Novo Selo, Tresnjevac, Totovo Selo and Horgos are in Hungarian. Traditional names of places in Hungarian are used in official documents of local communities.
Kikinda	The boards with the names of Kikinda, Rusko Selo, Banatska Topola and Sajan, in which Hungarian language is in official use are in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in Hungarian language are written under the names of local communities - local offices, names of schools, dispensaries, institutions, cultural and artistic societies - in villages in which Hungarian language is in official use, then on the official ID of the tax inspector, the seal of the City of Kikinda, on the boards of cultural institutions - National Museum, Historical Archives of Kikind, Cultural and Art Society "Edshego", Tax Administration - Kikinda Branch, Treasury Department - Kikinda Branch, Kikinda Health Center, Social Work Center, Municipal Pensioners' Association, Union of Disabled Workers of Vojvodina of the Kikinda Municipal Conference, Dušan Vasiljev Gymnasium, , National Employment Service - Kikinda branch, Republic Pension and Disability Insurance Fund - Kikinda branch, Republic Health Insurance Institute - the North Banat district branch, Kikinda Police Department, Post Office, Kikinda City Fire Association, Vocational Training Center, Social Welfare Services Center, Kikinda Bus Station, Provincial Sanitary Inspection Department in Kikinda, the Institute of Public Health Kikinda, Kikinda General Hospital.
Kovačica	The boards with the names of Debeljača and Kovačica and a board with the name of the Municipality of Kovačica are also written in Hungarian.
Kovin	The tables with the names of the settlements Kovin and Skorenovac are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of places in Hungarian language are used on the seal and the stamp of the municipality of Kovin, the seal and stamp of all local offices and local communities in the territory of the municipality of Kovin, as well as on the memorandum of the official documents of the local community Skorenovac.
Kula	The board with the name of Ruski Krstur is also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in the Hungarian language are written on the board on the municipal building, as well as on the board with the names of the institutions.
Mali Iđoš	The boards with the names of Mali Iđoš and Feketić are written in Hungarian.
Nova Crnja	The boards with the names of Nova Crnja and Toba are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in the Hungarian language are written on the boards of the institutions, the court, the Ministry of the Interior and office boards.
Novi Bečej	There boards with the names of places in Hungarian in all the settlements in the municipality. Traditional names of pllaces in Hungarian language are also written on the boards of institutions, public services, public enterprises and schools.
Novi Kneževac	The boards with the names of Banatsko Aranđelovo, Majdan, Novi Kneževac, Podlokanj, Siget, Srpski Krstur, Tabe, Ćala and Filić are also written in Hungarian.

Novi Sad	The boards with the names of Budisava, Kisač and Rumenka in the Hungarian language are placed in these settlements. Boards with the traditional names of the city of Novi Sad and in populated places are placed at the institutions of the Novi Sad City authorities, local self-governments, the Public Attorney's Office of the City of Novi Sad, the Protector of the Citizens of the City of Novi Sad.
Odžaci	The boards with the names of Bogojevo and Odzaci are written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in Hungarian language are used on the boards with the names of municipal, provincial and republic authorities.
Plandište	The boards with the names of Velika Greda, Jermenovci, Markovićevo, Margita, Plandište and Hajdučica are also in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements are used on the board with the names of the Municipal Assembly, local offices, institutions and schools.
Pančevo	The boards with the names of Ivanovo and the Cadastral Municipality of Vojlovica, in which the Hungarian language is in official use, are also written in Hungarian. The traditional names of these places are written in the Hungarian language and on the boards marking the institutions, as well as on the stamps of the Local Community, Local Office, School and Culture Center.
Senta	All place names are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements are used on the boards with the names of authorities, local offices, institutions and schools.
Sečanj	The boards with the names of Busenje, Jaša Tomić and Šurjan are also written in Hungarian
Sombor	The boards with the names of Bački Monoštor, Bezdan, Doroslovo, Ridžica, Svetozar Miletic, Telečka and Čonoplja are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in Hungarian language are used on the boards with the names of bodies, cultural institutions, schools and health centers.
Srbobran	All place names are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of places in Hungarian language are used on the boards with the names of the authorities, then in the notices on the bulletin boards, as well as in the municipal bulletin.
Subotica	The boards with the names of Bački Vinogradi, Bikovo, Višnjevac, Dusanovo, Kelebija, Ludos, Ljutovo, Novi Zednik, Nosa, Palić, Subotica, Tavankut, Čantavir and Šupljak are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in Hungarian language are used on the boards with the names of the organs and institutions of the city, the boards in the local communities, as well as on the tourist signposts at the entrance to the city.
Temerin	The board with the name of Temerin is also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in the Hungarian language are used on the board with the names of institutions (preschool, primary schools, secondary school, health center), public companies, Tax Administration, Cadastre, etc.
Titel	The boards with the names of Lok and Titel are in Hungarian language. Traditional names of settlements in Hungarian language are used on the boards with the names of the authorities of the municipality.
Čoka	All place names are also written in Hungarian. Traditional names of settlements in the Hungarian language are used on the boards with the names of the authorities of the municipality.

670. In the election process for members of national councils of national minorities held in November 2018, traditional forms of place names in minority languages were used in the electoral material, inter alia, on the election lists of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; statements of acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority; the approvals of the holders of the electoral list of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; the power of attorney to submit an election list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; voters' statements that they support the election list of candidates for members of the national minority council;

lists of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; decisions on the establishment of an aggregate electoral list for members of national councils of national minorities; forms for collecting electorate signatures; lists of candidates for members of the national council of the national minority for elections by electoral assembly; statements on the acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority in elections through the electoral assembly; certificates of the voting right for voting outside the polling station, etc.

671. The traditional forms of place names in minority languages are also used in request forms for erasing the name from the special electoral roll of a national minority. The above forms have been translated into the languages of national minorities that are in official use and the traditional name of the place in minority language may be used when filling in the section on the place of residence. The above information is entered in an identical manner in the special electoral roll of a national minority.

672. Within the competition for allocation of budgetary funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, in whose work the languages and scripts of national minorities are officially used, the competent provincial secretariat also allocates funds for creating multilingual boards with names of bodies and organizations, settlements, street names. etc. Information on the funds allocated in these competitions for the placement of boards with the names of bodies and organizations, settlements and street names is contained in the table below.

2016	2017	2018
2,252,200.00	5,334,100.00	7,167,000.00

k. Encourage Hungarian speakers to submit a request in Hungarian to public service providers.

673. The Law on Public Services does not contain an explicit provision on the language in which citizens can address public services to exercise their rights and obligations, but bearing in mind that public services, when deciding on the rights and obligations of citizens, organizations or users of their services and when they carry out other tasks prescribed by law, decide and work under the General Administrative Procedure Act and the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, this means that oral and written requests may also be submitted in minority languages.

674. As there is no legal obligation to specifically keep records of requests made by minority language speakers to public services, there is no aggregate information on the number of requests submitted. To illustrate the possibility of using minority languages in communication with public services, information provided by public companies founded by the Republic of Serbia, which participated in the preparation of this report, according to which there was no written address by users of services in one of the minority languages, highlighting their competence to respond to requests in minority languages. The following public companies have responded to the invitation to participate in the development of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter:

Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" doo., Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

675. Distribution System Operator EPS d.o.o. Belgrade points out that the general acts of the Operator are not conceived on a territorial, but on a functional principle, with the exception of branches - power distribution, which perform the technical part of the operations of the Operator's predominant activity, but also these units are designed to represent the connection of one functional entity with the same individual operations of that functional whole that are performed in the consumption areas of the branches. According to the above, the normative and nomotechnical determination of the concept of the general acts of the Operator is not territorial, but unique and functional, and for the above reasons no knowledge of minority languages is foreseen as a special condition for carrying out any job in the Operator. Likewise, the general acts of the Operator do not contain any negative or discriminatory norms that prevent the filing or receipt of requests in minority languages, and therefore there is a possibility that requests to the Operator may be submitted in minority languages, in accordance with the law.

676. The Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade states that it has ensured the application of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts in the areas of working units and regional work units in which official languages and scripts of national minorities are in use. No requests were made in the languages of national minorities during the reporting period, although conditions were provided for such requests to be addressed. Namely, the work units and the regional work units in their work strive to enable users to use languages that are in equal official use when providing postal and other services, which implies that the names of work units or regional units are written in the territory of certain local self-government units, among others, work units, stamps and stamps, as well as the forms used on a daily basis in the work of the post network front office and in the delivery (e.g. shipment arrival notification form, registered receipt form, letter consignments, departure telegram form, etc.).

677. PE Srbijagas points out that it is possible for clients to address the company in minority languages and to use them in this public company.

678. Local self-government units involved in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, in which the Hungarian language is in official use, state that public services and public enterprises founded by local self-government units allow speakers of Hungarian to submit their requests or other written documents in Hungarian. The exercise of this right is made possible in practice, both by the employment of minority language speakers in public services and public enterprises, and by the hiring of court interpreters or translators as needed. In the territories of local self-government in which the Hungarian language is officially used, in public companies all employees have the same rights regarding the use of both languages for official purposes, which is regulated by the acts adopted by their founder.

679. The following table provides an overview of measures that contribute to the use of the opportunity for Hungarian speakers to submit requests to public services and public enterprises in Hungarian language.

Local self-government unit	Measures contributing to the use of the oportunity to submit an oral or written application in Hungarian to public services and public companies
Ada	Requests to public companies are submitted in a language that the user uses and is more familiar with. In percentage, according to the number of employees who speak Hungarian, there is a high probability that the case will be received by a Hungarian-speaking civil servant.
Apatin	Hungarian speakers at the Apatin preschool in Kupusina and Svilojevo have the opportunity to submit their registration form in Hungarian, and communication in Hungarian is carried out through educational work in Hungarian in these places. Primary schools provide written submissions in Hungarian language and script, and communication in Hungarian is conducted in the curriculum.
Bačka Topola	Public services and public companies founded by the Municipality of Bačka Topola enable Hungarian speakers to submit their requests and other written documents in Hungarian. These are all public services founded by the Municipality of Bačka Topola: PE for Construction Land, PE Komgrad, PE Market, Cultural Center Bačka Topola, primary and secondary schools and Local Community Centers. Communication is provided to the citizens in Hungarian language both orally and in writing.
Vrbas	In the municipality of Vrbas it is possible for Hungarian speakers to submit their requests or other written documents in Hungarian at the Center for Social Work and the Health Center.
Zrenjanin	The historical archive allows the users to submit their requests or other written documents in Hungarian, and communication in Hungarian is carried out by the employees who know the Hungarian language. The Center for Social Work provides translators if the party addresses either in writing or orally in Hungarian, thereby facilitating the conduct of the proceedings in Hungarian. At the Preschool institution, the educational work is carried out in Hungarian. PE Markets and Parking Lots enables Hungarian speakers to submit their requests and other written communication. The City of Zrenjanin also states that some public services and public companies do not work with citizens (e.g. "Sports Facilities", "Nature Reserves") or in previous practice Hungarian speakers have not addressed them either in writing or orally (PE "City Housing Agency" , Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments).
Kanjiža	Employees in public services (Jozef Atila Library, CNESA Educational and Cultural Institution, Regional Creative Atelier, Information Center for Development of the Potiski Region, Regional Center for Professional Development of the Employees in Education, Center for Social Welfare Services in the Municipality of Kanjiža, Center for Social Work in Kanjiža, Kanjiža Health Center, Preschool Institution Naši biseri, Public Utility Company "Komunalac" Kanjiža, Potiski Water Supply - Tisamenti Vizmuvek doo Horgoš) offer the opportunity to Hungarian speakers to communicate in Hungarian every day.
Kovačica	In the municipality of Kovačica, in Debeljača, where the Hungarian population is predominant, the parties address the employees orally in Hungarian and receive their reply in Hungarian, since most employees (registrar, employees in public companies, the Health Center and other institutions) speak Hungarian.
Kikinda	The public utility infrastructure and services company leaves the possibility for Hungarian speakers to submit a request or other written communication in Hungarian, even though they have not received any such written request so far. Employees of PE Kikinda have employees who speak Hungarian well, and receiving any letter, request or other written communication in Hungarian would not create a problem in communication with the service users. In all services that work in direct contact with the citizens, there are employees who speak Hungarian. At Dragoljub Udički preschool educational work is carried out in Hungarian in three educational groups, while pedagogical documentation is kept in Serbian and Hungarian. The preschool institution issues bilingual certificates of completion of the preparatory preschool program to children who have attended the preparatory preschool program in the Hungarian language. Bilingual enrollment certificates (in Serbian and Hungarian) are also issued for parents who need a bilingual certificate. At the Kikinda National Museum, some of

	the employees speak Hungarian, and they can respond to some of the requests and questions in Hungarian, as well as lead the announced groups in Hungarian.
Mali Iđoš	Oral and written communication is provided in public services, institutions, public enterprise and local communities in Mali Iđoš and Fektić. (Public enterprize "Komunal Mali Iđoš", Center for Social Work for the Municipalities of Bačka Topola and Mali Iđoš - Department in Mali Iđoš, Library Mali Iđoš, Petar Pan Preschool Mali Iđoš, Health Center "Dr. Marton Šandor" Mali Iđoš, MZ Mali Iđoš, MZ Feketić).
Novi Bečej	Public Services of the Municipality of Novi Bečej (SRC "Jedinstvo" Novi Bečej, Tourist Organization Novi Bečej, Cultural Center Novi Bečej, National Library Novi Bečej and Public Enterprises PE "Komunalac" and PE "Urbanizam i putevi"), have employees who use Hungarian and communicate with Hungarian speakers in Hungarian.
Subotica	Public enterprizes and services founded by local self-governments allow the use of the Hungarian language. These are: PUC "Čistoća I zelenilo", PE "Subotica-trans", PE "Palić-Ludaš", PUC "Vodovod I kanalizacija", PUC "Stadion" PUC "Subotičke pijace market", PUC "Pogrebno", PUC "Suboticagas", Public Utility Company" Subotička toplana","Park-Palić ", d.o.o. Tourist Organization of Subotica, Zoo Palić, Subotica Pharmacy, Preschool "Naša radost", Foundation for Mental Hygiene "Exspecto", Center for Social Work of the City of Subotica, Home for Children with Disabilities "Kolevka", Theater "Deže Kostolanji", Inter-municipal Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Historical Archives, City Museum, City Library, Children's Theater, Tourist Organization of Subotica.
Temerin	Certain bilingual forms are provided as well as employees who speak Hungarian who are translating, when resolving certain issues related to the services of public utilities, as well as to work in kindergarten, nursing home, etc.
Čoka	Public services and public companies founded by local self-government units allow speakers of Hungarian to submit their requests or other written communication in Hungarian.

l. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure concerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Hungarian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is use.

680. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[43], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charterthere were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the Hungarian language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

681. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

[43] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

682. PE Post of Serbia notes that when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in that area.

683. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

684. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and who speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the Employment Contract.

685. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1 January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs shall, among other things, define jobs for which, as a special condition, knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat, or its organizational unit are located. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

Article 11 - Media
paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
paragraph 2
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

m. Encourage the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Hungarian on a regular basis.

686. The Republic of Serbia, AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units continuously encourage regular broadcasting of private radio and television programs in the Hungarian language through project co-financing. In addition, the new offer of Hungarian-language radio programs on RTV has increased, compared to 2015 and adequately replaces the previous offer of private radio stations, especially because it is available to speakers of Hungarian throughout the AP of Vojvodina.

687. The following paragraphs provide information on the complete Hungarian-language radio and television broadcasting service.

688. As public information in Hungarian is made up of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing media radio and television broadcasting services in Hungarian, basic activity of the public media services, financing media content in Hungarian language on private media and financing of the media whose indirect founder is the National the Council of the Hungarian National Minority.

689. The table below shows the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analog signal and media television broadcasting via a digital signal in Hungarian.

No.	RADIO	TELEVISION
1.	Radio-Ada DOO, Ada radio Ada	Ju eko DOO, Subotica- Ju eko TV
2.	Impres DOO, Bačka Topola-Radio Trend	Santos- komerc DOO, Zrenjanin-TV Santos
3.	Panda radio DOO, Kanjiža-Panda radio	Delta televizija DOO za zastupanje, marketing i televizijske aktivnosti, Novi Sad-TV Delta
4.	Bus DOO, Kovin-Radio bus 89,5	JP RTV opštine Kovačica, Kovačica-TV OK
5.	Ju eko DOO, Subotica- Ju eko radio	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-TV Pančevo
6.	Radio Subotica-Szabadkai radio DOO, Subotica-Radio Subotica	Novosadska TV DOO, Novi Sad-Novosadska TV
7.	RTV Inđija DOO, Inđija-Radio Inđija	Fondacija Panonija, Subotica-TV Panon
8.	JP RTV opštine Kovačica, Kovačica-Radio Kovačica	Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
9.	Informativni centar DOO, Odžaci-Radio Odžaci	Linea elektroniks DOO, Novi Sad-KTV
10.	Radio Srbobran DOO, Srbobran-Radio Srbobran 102,6	Rubin DOO, Kruševac-TV Rubin
11.	Radio fantasi DOO, Vrbas-Radio fantasi naksi 106,5	Radio Lav DOO, Vršac-TV Lav
12.	Informativni centar DOO, Bačka Topola-Radio regije	
13.	Radio Delta DOO za zastupanje, marketing i televizijske aktivnosti, Novi Sad- Delta radio	
14.	IIC Katoličke crkve Rado Marija, Novi Sad-Radio Marija Novi Sad	
15.	IIC Katoličke crkve Rado Marija, Subotica-Radio Marija Subotica	
16.	Đakovačka i Sremska biskupija, Vikarijat sremski, Petrovaradin-Radio Marija Vrdnik	
17.	IIC Katoličke crkve Rado Marija, Sombor-Radio Marija Sombor	
18.	Milanović Brodkasting kompani-Radio foks DOO,	

	Senta-Radio foks 97,9	
19.	Blu netvork media DOO, Titel-Radio Titel	
20.	Planeta DOO, Apatin-Naksi radio Apatin 105,8	
21.	Radio impuls DOO, Bačka Palanka-Radio impuls	
22.	Kula DOO, Kula – Q radio 89,2	
23.	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-Radio Pančevo	
24.	Radio aktive DOO, Bečej-Naksi aktive radio 105,4	
25.	Asterias DOO, Novi Kneževac-Radio naksi maks 106,6	
26.	Informativno preduzeće BC Info DOO, Bela Crkva-Radio Bela Crkva 92,4	
Total	26	11

690. The table below shows the media service providers providing the media service of television program broadcasting in Hungarian via the cable system.

No.	**TELEVISION**
1.	Informativni centar DOO, Bačka Topola-Express channel
2.	Novosadska TV DOO, Novi Sad-Novosadska TV
3.	RTV Panonija DOO, Novi Sad-TV Panonija
4.	Fondacija Panonija, Subotica-TV Panon
5.	Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
6.	Santos- komerc DOO, Zrenjanin-TV Santos
7.	Linea elektroniks DOO, Novi Sad-KTV
8.	Udruženje za regionalnu komunikaciju URKO, Pačir-TV Pačir
9.	Pro media Friđeš Irmenji PR, Senta-Pro media Senta
10.	Pro media Friđeš Irmenji PR, Ada-Pro media Ada
11.	Fondacija Mozaik, Novi Sad-TV Mozaik
12.	VTV Koment DOO, Subotica-TV Bečej
13.	Tisapartfest DOO-Info TV Tisapartfest
14.	VTV Koment DOO, Subotica-TV Subotica
15.	VTV Koment DOO, Subotica-TV Novi Bečej
16.	Kula DOO, Kula – Q
17.	Rubin DOO, Kruševac-TV Rubin
18.	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-TV Pančevo
19.	Udruženje Novi Kneževac i okolina, Novi Kneževac-NK Info
20.	Radio Lav DOO, Vršac-TV Lav
Total	20

691. In addition, radio and television programs in Hungarian are also broadcast daily on RTV. The supply of radio programs in the Hungarian language on RTV has increased by more than 40% compared to 2015. The program in the Hungarian language is not only the most represented program in the languages of national minorities on RTV, but it is also the most developed genre-wise in comparison with other programs in minority languages[44].

[44] Public media Service RTV– ways of meeting the legal programme obligations, Report of the Regulatory body for Electronic Media for the period 01/01 – 31/12 2018, p. 73

692. A total of 26 print media are published in Hungarian.

693. Information in Hungarian is financially supported from the republic, provincial and local budgets by co-financing projects selected on published competitions.

694. The Ministry of Culture and Information supported the projects selected at competitions, which were implemented through various types of media, thus facilitating and encouraging the use of Hungarian in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Media	Amount
2016	4	Radio	1,755,000.00
2016	6	Press	2,524,600.00
2016	2	Television	850,000.00
2016	2	Production	1,152,000.00
2017	5	Radio	2,200,000.00
2017	2	Television	1,100,000.00
2017	3	Press	1,300,000.00
2017	3	Production	1,500,000.00
2018	3	Radio	1,300,000.00
2018	1	Television	400,000.00
2018	1	Press	400,000.00
2018	4	Production	1,900,000.00

695. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Hungarian.

	HUNGARIAN	Number of projects	Total funds
2016	**Type of media**	**7**	**1,028,000.00**
	Newspapers	2	200,000.00
	Televisions	3	460,000.00
	Internet	1	168,000.00
	Productions	1	200,000.00
2017		**19**	**2,950,000.00**
	Newspapers	9	1,350,000.00
	Televisions	2	550,000.00
	Radio	4	500,000.00
	Internet	3	400,000.00
	Production	1	150,000.00
2018		**19**	**2,770,000.00**
	Newspapers	8	1,270,000.00
	Televisions	2	250,000.00
	Radio	3	300,000.00
	Internet	4	650,000.00
	Production	2	300,000.00

696. The budget of the AP of Vojvodina subsidizes newspapers of provincial importance, including newspapers in Hungarian. The table below provides information on subsidizing this type of media.

Publisher	Media	2016	2017	2018
MAĐAR SO, D.O.O. Novi Sad	"Magyar so"	76,662,000.00	79,062,500.00	80,496,000,00
	"Kepeš ifjušag"	6,785,400.00	7,085,250.00	7,128,000,00
	"Jo pajtaš"	4,644,000.00	4,878,000.00	4,872,000,00
	"Mezeškalač"	1,828,200.00	1,893,850.00	1,920,000,00
HET NAP, D.O.O. Subotica	"Het nap"	26,262,000.00	26,262,000.00	27,576,000,00
Total		**113,181,600.00**	**119,181,600.00**	**121,992,000.00**

697. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of informing the national minorities.

698. The table below shows the number of programs and projects and the amount of funding allocated per year to the Hungarian national minority.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2017	1	30,000.00
2018	9	2,234,200.00

699. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed Hungarian language information programs and projects in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Ada	-	200,000.00	230,000.00
2.	Vrbas	1,100,000.00	1,800,000.00	2,300,000.00
3.	Žitište	-	-	75,000.00
4.	Zrenjanin	1,460,160.00	1,291,680.00	1,656,720.00
5.	Kanjiža	7,300,000.00	3,610,000.00	2,810,000.00
6.	Kikinda	253,600.00	-	100,000.00
7.	Mali Iđoš	102,410.00	260,000.00	360,000.00
8.	Pančevo	-	5,146,900.00	5,000,000.00
9.	Sombor	-	100,000.00	100,000.00
10.	Srbobran	-	700,000.00	300,000.00
11.	Subotica	4,000,000.00	-	1880,000.00
12.	Temerin	200,000.00	300,000.00	200,000.00
13.	Čoka	400,000.00	350,000.00	1,535,000.00

700. In addition, the Municipality of Backa Palanka financed weekly newspapers in Slovak and Hungarian in the amount of RSD 300,000,00 in 2016, in the amount of RSD 1,000,000.00 in 2017, and in the amount of RSD 2,000,000.00 in 2018. The City of Subotica allocated RSD 7,257,000 to the media broadcasting in Hungarian, Croatian and Bunjevac.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits
paragraph 1 a, b, c, f
paragraph 2

701. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually awards, through competition, funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities.

702. The table below shows the information on the number of programs and the amount of funds allocated to institutions and organizations in the Hungarian language.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	9	1,800,000.00
2017	17	2,360,000.00
2018	20	2,938,000.00

703. Within the Competition for translating the representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In 2016-2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages.

704. The table below provides information on the number of works and the resources allocated for translations into Hungarian.

Language of translation	Hungarian			
	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**Total**
Number of works	1	6	4	11
Amount in dinars	-	240,000.00	250,000.00	490,000.00
Amount in euros	1,000	6,000	2,500	9,500

705. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities provides support to public institutions in the preservation of the cultural identity and creativity of persons belonging to national minorities and to the implementation of projects and programs that promote the culture, preservation and presentation of the cultural heritage of national minorities and whose program activities are implemented in cooperation with the national councils or institutions and organizations established by members of national minorities.

706. The Secretariat co-finances the Institute for Culture of the Hungarians of Vojvodina with the following amounts:

Beneficiary	2016	2017	2018
Institute of Cullture of Hungarians from Vojvodina	13,230,000.00	15,000,000.00	15,000,000.00

707. The activities of 12 provincial cultural institutions are financed from the funds of the provincial budget, including two institutions operating in the Hungarian language: the National Theater - Nepszinhaz, Subotica and the Publishing House "Forum" Novi Sad.

708. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities finances from its budget (within the program activity Support to the Cultural Activity of National Minorities) programs and projects of importance for the culture and art of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina through a public competition it publishes annually. Programs and projects in the field of protection of the intangible cultural heritage and artistic creation of national minorities and in the field of publishing in the languages of national minorities are co-financed.

709. The table below provides information on the number and type of co-financed projects and programs and the amount of funds paid for the Hungarian language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds	Total
2016	Publishing	6	68,568.00	2,548,568.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	36	2,480,000.00	
2017	Publishing	5	470,000.00	3,746,000.00
	Journals/Publications /			
	Other cultural events	62	3,276,000.00	
2018	Publishing	7	680,000.00	6,280,000.00
	Journals/Publications/			
	Other cultural events	64	5.600,000.00	

710. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

711. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects by associations of the Hungarian minority members and the amount of funding awarded in the Competition for Ethnic Community Organizations in the period 2016-2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	71	4,650,000.00
2017	189	14,600,000.00
2018	211	14,600,000.00

712. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of the Hungarian national minority members from 2016 to 2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Ada	839,000.00	658,000.00	1,230,000.00
2.	Apatin	286,716.00	170,000.00	366,833.05
3.	Bačka Palanka	60,000.00	50,000.00	60,000.00
4.	Bačka Topola	500,000.00	5,000,000.00	500,000.00
5.	Vršac	262,000.00	260,000.00	145,000.00
6.	Žitište	445,000.00	305,000.00	370,000.00
7.	Kanjiža	1,315,000.00	2,400,000.00	2,170,000.00
8.	Kikinda	3,660,054.27	4,555,793.43	6,170,000.00
9.	Kovačica	2,906,000.00	3,019,413.00	3,091,535.00
10.	Kovin	269,000.00	375,000.00	270,000.00
11.	Kula	1,515,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00
12.	Mali Iđoš	4,216,000.00	5,100,000.00	5,196,500.00
13.	Nova Crnja	400,000.00	514,000.00	550,000.00
14.	Pančevo	180,000.00	100,000.00	80,000.00
15.	Plandište	-	25,000.00	25,000.00
16.	Sombor	1,095,300.00	1,499,700.00	1,236,000.00
17.	Srbobran	440,000.00	1,222,500.00	1,414,400.00
18.	Sremski Karlovci	85,000.00	170,000.00	100,000.00
19.	Subotica	7,919,000.00	11,463,000.00	11,015,000.00
20.	Sečanj	-	-	100,000.00
21.	Temerin	830,000.00	815,000.00	810,000.00
22.	Titel	-	23,000.00	102,682.05
23.	Čoka	485,000.00	1,405,000.00	1,535,000.00

713. The Hungarian national minority in Serbia has strong capacities to preserve its cultural and linguistic specificities. In addition to numerous high quality magazines such as *Reality* (Létünk), *Bridge* (Hid), *Simposion* and *Krik*, there are many Hungarian-language theater plays, both professional and amateur, which are available to a wide range of users through festival programs and guest appearances. The Subotica National Theater annually announces a Contest for Contemporary Hungarian Drama Screenplay, which provides an opportunity for young writers to showcase their artistic achievement.

714. A special place in Hungarian-language publishing is occupied by the Forum Publishing House, established in 1957 in Novi Sad, which appears every year at all significant book-related events in Novi Sad, Belgrade, Szeged and Budapest; its work is financed from the public funds. The Institute is trying to reach every region of Vojvodina, and it has brought books and

magazines to the remote areas of Vojvodina, where there are members of Hungarian nationality, and there are no bookstores with a project called "Knjigobus".

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

n. Foster access in other languages to works produced in Hungarian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

715. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces an open call for co-financing the cultural activities of national minorities, and support for translations, dubbing and subtitling of translations of works produced in national minority languages is cited as one of the priorities of the competition. So far, relatively few users have applied for projects of this type, and the reasons for this may differ. Projects are often planned and implemented without a broader perception of the importance of translating the content, in the context of accessibility and audience development. That is why networking of different cultural actors from different territories, when planning and implementing the program, is another important competition priority that can contribute to a greater use of minority languages.

716. Compared to the previous reporting period, there is an increase in the number of subtitling or translation projects, as well as those that correspond with the broader community, i.e. not targeting members of only one national minority; it cannot be said that a standard has been established but that these are sporadic examples of good practice. In the last three years, the Ministry has supported the issuing of 22 publications, for which 12 different national minorities have applied. Some of them are translations, while the others are original works, sometimes resulting from scientific and research work.

717. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities attaches great importance to the protection of the linguistic identity of national minorities, inter alia, through the co-financing of projects of translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling of works produced in national minority languages, which were selected at a competition.

o. Foster access in Hungarian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

718. The Republic of Serbia fosters the access to content in languages of national minorities originating in other languages by providing assistance or developing translation, synchronization, post-synchronization and subtitling of the translation. The Ministry of Culture and Information, through public calls for proposals, co-finances selected projects to the extent in which that there are interested applicants. However, both the realistic production and the artistic value of the resulting work must be taken into account for the presence of a particular type of project.

719. By conducting a competition for the translation of representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, the Ministry of Culture and Information subsidizes foreign publishers for translation into the language of their native country. Within the Competition for translating representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, which actually subsidizes foreign publishers, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In the period from 2016 to 2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages, and EUR 108,300, USD 2,000 and RSD 1,612,000.00 were allocated for these purposes.

720. When it comes to audiovisual production (film industry), it is well known that it belongs to the creative industries and is therefore market oriented. The Ministry, in this very fact, sees a potential reason for the absence of more translations into minority languages, because it is not profitable to make translations into languages that will not bring market value, even if the government subsidizes this activity. An example of this is the translations of films supported by the Ministry, mainly made for the purpose of appearing at festivals or other events in the countries of origin (the Film Center of Serbia allocates funds for translation of films if distributors show interest).

p. In territories oth± than those in which Hungarian is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activitie and facilities using Hungaria.

721. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities through competition, which encourage cultural activities and content in the languages of national minorities and territories which they are not the ones in which these languages are traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

722. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

723. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

724. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called *Cities in Focus*, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42 from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

q) Encourage regular activities promoting Hungarian in the framework of existing agreements on transfrontier co-operation at national level.

725. An Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Hungary in the fields of science, culture, youth and sport was signed in 2006 and it is in force.

726. In 2018, the Program of Cooperation in the Field of Education, Science and Culture was signed between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Hungary for the period from 2018 to 2020, and co-operation in granting scholarships, exchange of students and professors, textbooks and supporting teachers is carried out under this program. In November 2018, a bilateral meeting on the implementation of this cooperation program was organized for the delegations of the two countries.

727. In order to enhance the cooperation in the field of education, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development sent through diplomatic channels a call for cooperation to the addresses of line institutions in native countries whose national minorities receive their entire education in Serbia in their mother tongue. The invitation was also sent to the Hungarian Ministry of Education, and the National Council of the Hungarian National Minority submitted its proposals of topics for this bilateral agreement.

728. The two countries also cooperate at sessions of the Serbian-Hungarian Intergovernmental Mixed Commission for Minorities established under the Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Hungary on the protection of the rights of the Hungarian national minority living in Serbia-Montenegro and of the Serbian national minority living in the Republic of Hungary. This Committee met in 2016, when the two parties have submitted their reports on the implemented measures and have agreed on recommendations to be implemented

in the coming period. In 2019, a new president of the Serbian part of the Intergovernmental Mixed Commission with Hungary was appointed, representatives of the Serbian delegation in this body were appointed, and a meeting was held at the co-president level to intensify preparations for the next session of the Intergovernmental Mixed Commission.

729. In the field of culture, successful cooperation is achieved by the National Theater of Belgrade and the National Theater of Budapest, which had two performances as part of the event "Week of Hungarian Culture in Serbia", organized in 2018.

730. In 2017, the Serbian Film Center co-financed the co-production of the film *Snevani snegovi*.

731. Within the INTERREG - IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Program Hungary-Serbia, the Serbian Cultural Center "Kolo" was built in the Morahalom Spa, near the Hungarian-Serbian border. The value of the project is EUR 3.7 million, provided from the European funds, and it is implemented with the aim of developing a comprehensive cultural and tourism strategy for the entire Hungarian-Serbian border region, and the construction of a Hungarian cultural center in Palić is also planned. The main objective of the project is to comprehensively strengthen the cross-border relations between the two peoples. Seventy events are planned to be held in 2019, with the participation of communities on both sides of the border.

732. Successful co-operation between the two countries is also achieved at the local level, since a large number of local self-government units have signed co-operation agreements with municipalities or counties in Hungary. The cooperation takes place in the field of preserving the Hungarian tradition and language, in the fields of culture, sports, education and economy.

733. The following table provides available information on local level co-operation, obtained from local self-government units that responded to the invitation to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Charter Implementation Report.

Local self-government unit	The city with which the cooperation is established	Field of cooperation
Ada	Makó, Budakalász, Újbuda, 11th quarter – Budapest, Nemesnádudvar and Inárcs (Hungary)	Cooperation in the field of culture and education; exchange of students, establishing rewards for the successes achieved in fostering tradition and customs. Cross-border cooperation through the IPA project has also been established with the City of Mórahal.
Apatin	Kiškerek (Hungary)	
Bačka Topola	Senteš, Kiškunmajša, Lipotvaroš (Hungary) and Djerdjosentmikloš (Romania)	Cooperation in the fields of culture, sports and the arts.
Bečej		Cooperation in the field of culture. The Hungary-Serbia IPA cross-border program, entitled “Development of a cross-border nautical tourist destination in the lower part of

		the Tisza River" is also being implemented. Three cities are participating in the project: Congrad and Alge from Hungary and Bečej from Serbia.
Vršac	Helvecija (Hungary)	Cooperation in the field of culture. Cross-border cooperation projects with the Morahal Municipality were also implemented.
Žitište	Tisalpar, Balašća, Bihartorda, Senteš i Hosuhetenj (Hungary)	Cooperation in the field of culture and sports. A project in the field of education is being implemented with the place of Balasca.
Zrenjanin	Đula and Bekeščaba (Hungary)	Cooperation and strategic partnership agreements.
Kanjiža	Kiškunhalaš, Tata, Felšežolca, Nađkanjiža, Ferencvaroš, Budaerš (Hungary), Sveti Đorđe (Romania) and Kraljovski Hlmec (Slovakia)	Cooperation on the preservation of the Hungarian cultural heritage and the preservation and use of the Hungarian language. Ferencvaros and Felszeolca award each year a one-time scholarship to the best students who have attended primary school in Hungarian. Every year, the town of Tata organizes a competition in the Hungarian language and language culture for elementary school students attended by students from Kanjiža.
Kikinda	Apatfalva, Čanadapac (Hungary) and Apaca (Romania)	Every year, the cultural event "GUZAJOŠ - GUZSAJOS" takes place, bringing together the representatives of four places in Serbia, Hungary and Romania, promoting the culture, folklore and tradition of the Hungarian people. This cultural event is organized in a different country every year.
Kovačica	Hodmezovašarhelj (Hungary)	The cooperation takes place through the exchange of cultural ensembles. Cooperation with municipalities from Hungary is also achieved through EU projects.
Kovin	Rackeve, Lovra, Kunstentmikloš (Hungary) and Sfangu Georgije (Romania)	Cooperation in the field of education and culture; joint appearance at national and international cultural and artistic festivals, participation in competitions that encourage the development of multiculturalism.
Kula	Kaloč (Hungary)	Cooperation in the field of education and culture.
Mali Iđoš	Gadoroš, Bekešsentandraš, Ruža and Kočer (Hungary)	
Nova Crnja	Bakorčenje, Nađsenaš, Tisasiget i Čitar (Hungary)	Preservation of the Hungarian tradition and culture, cooperation in the framework of international and national projects and joint participation in events and celebrations of holidays.
Novi Bečej	Mezetur (Hungary)	
Sombor	Baja (Hungary)	Successful cooperation with high schools from Hungary (III Béla Gimnázium, Baja and Kinizsi Pál szakközépiskola és gimnázium, Abony) through participation in projects and competitions "Open mind knows no borders", Erasmus +; "We want to be better; Határtalan and the City Science Festival "Fizi Bizi" Sombor.

Srbobran	Orosháza, Jánoshalma and Tázlár (Hungary)	
Subotica	Segedin, Erd and Kiškunhalaš (Hungary)	Students from Subotica participate in competitions in language skills, recitation, spelling and fine speech organized in Hungary. In order to participate in various projects of the European Union, the city of Subotica also cooperates with Halash, Tompa, Kelebi, Morahal, etc. Cooperation is also reflected in joint appearances at various events, nurturing traditions and sharing experiences.
Temerin	Budapest, Janošhalm, Morahalm, Jasapati and Đerasonjaf (Hungary)	Collaboration in the fields of culture, education and sport. Through the IPA project with Janoshalm and Morahalm, part of the Hungarian National Minority House in Temerin was completed.

4.1.5. ROMANI LANGUAGE

Article 8 - Education
paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

University and higher education

734. At the High School of Vocational Studies for Educators in Vršac, classes are taught in Romani.

	2016/2017	**2017/2018**	**2018/2019**
Enrolled in the first year	10	10	9
Total number of students	30	25	28

735. The Romani language teaching at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade was opened in the academic year 2015/16. At the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, within the study program "Language, Literature, Culture", which was created by the structural integration of teaching of individual languages, literature and cultures, librarianship and IT, general linguistics and general literature and theory of literature, students have the opportunity to study 35 languages, among which is the Romani language. Since the introduction of the Romani language, 15 students have taken this elective course in the aforementioned study program.

736. The Committee of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts for the Study of the Lives and Customs of Roma organized an international scientific conference "Preservation, protection and perspectives of the Romani language in Serbia" in 2016. Statements were submitted by 18 participants at the event. In addition to the overview of the existing experiences in teaching Romani language in Serbia, the presentations at the conference also gave an overview of the experiences from the practice of education in Romani language in Hungary, Slovenia and Montenegro. This topic was also discussed by eminent experts from Austria and France. An important position at the conference was dedicated to the Romani language in the media and to

the possibilities of its official use in Serbia. From the aforementioned scientific conference, a collection of papers *Preservation, Protection and Perspectives of the Romani Language in Serbia*, edited by the Academy member Tibor Varadi and Biljana Sikimić, PhD was published, in 2018.

737. A lecture "Documenting Roma Children's Speech", delivered by Mirjana Mirić, PhD, in the panel of this Committee in April 2018.

738. The Committee published the collection of papers on the *Roma of Serbia in the 21st Century*, with several papers dealing with the problems of minority languages: prof. Marcel Kurtiade, PhD, *Birth and Destiny of the Idea on Standardization of Written Romani Language in the USSR, SFRY and Serbia*; Prof. Biljana Sikimić, PhD, *Language and Tradition of Knjaževac Roma* and Baja Lukin Saitović, PhD, *Successful implementation of affirmative action in Roma education.*

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Make available preschool education in Romani.

739. Considering the legal requirements for the introduction of preschool education in minority language (consent of 50% of parents / legal representatives), education and training institutions at all educational levels conduct parental surveys when enrolling children in the first year of educational work. By completing the survey, the parent declares the desired language of the educational work. The institution is obliged, if the conditions prescribed by law are fulfilled, to provide educational work in the language of the national minority.

740. Since no legal requirements for conducting educational work completely in Romani or bilingually were fulfilled, that is, no institution requesting the introduction of educational work completely in Romani or bilingually was submitted to the Ministry and the competent school administrations, it is not carried out in the Romani language. In addition, it is necessary to map the needs of the Romani language community for the introduction of full Romani/ bilingual minority education. These will be the prerequisites for initiating or supporting the initiative to introduce educational work in the Romani language or bilingual education.

741. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development initiated that the Higher School of Vocational Studies for educators "Mihajlo Palov" from Vršac, issues to the students who have received the title of vocational educator (or vocational educator of preschool children), and who have attended part of the teaching in Romani language, a Certificate of Proficiency in Romani. This has improved the teaching staff who can carry out educational work in the Romani language, i.e. who can teach the elective subject/program Romani language with elements of national culture.

b. In primary, secondary, technical and vocational education, make available the teaching of Romani as an integral part of the curriculum.

742. A model of education in the Serbian language is implemented in primary schools in Serbia, with elective subject/program *Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture*. The study of the Romani language with elements of national culture was organized in 42 local self-government units in 72 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	42	72	61	2,264
2017/2018	43	75	69	2,252
2018/2019	42	72	69	2,860

743. In order to improve the professional staff for the implementation of the elective subject/program *Romani language with elements of national culture*, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, in cooperation with the Lifelong Learning and Evaluation Center at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade and the National Council of the Roma National Minority organized a one-month course for the first 23 Romani teachers. The training was continued through cooperation on the project with the National Council of the Roma National Minority and the organization "Roma Education Center". In the school year 2016/17, in the framework of the Lifelong Learning and Evaluation Center at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, 54 new students received certificates for teaching *Romani language with the elements of national culture*. So far, a total of 77 teachers have been certified for completing this elective subject/program, most of whom are engaged in primary schools. In the coming period, the competent ministry will continue to improve the professional competences of the future Romani language teachers.

744. In secondary schools in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, education in Romani was not organized, or the teaching of the subject Romani language with elements of national culture. Due to the fact that an insufficient number of Roma children attend secondary school, and given the importance of education for improving the material status and social status of the Roma population as a whole, the state implements in the field of education a large number of measures, including the affirmative enrollment program for the members of the Roma national community into high schools. By implementing these measures in the school year 2018/19, 2,220 Roma students were enrolled in secondary schools.

745. The implementation of affirmative action measures should contribute to a further increase in the number of Roma minority students in secondary education, which as a result may have a greater interest in students for learning the Romani language in secondary schools. Adopting the curriculum for the subject "Romani language with elements of national culture" for secondary education, to be proposed by the National Council of the Roma National Minority, with the

provision of professional staff for the teaching, would fulfill the requirements for introducing the Romani language into the educational process at the secondary level.

746. In order to promote education in minority languages, within the framework of the Council of Europe and European Union project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia,* a brochure was prepared on the possibilities of education in the languages of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia, which was also translated into the Romani language. In the coming period, the project team is preparing promotional activities and the distribution of the brochures to parents.

d. Favour and encourage the offering of Romani as a subject of adult and continuing education.

747. Parents' surveys on elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture* are conducted each school year, through the Uniform Survey Sheet, which is distributed to all primary schools through school administrations. Interested students in Adult Elementary Education schools are also interviewed by this survey sheet on attendance of the elective course/program Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture. In the previous school years, there wasn't a sufficient number of students interested in learning Romani with elements of national culture. If the legal requirements are met and at least 15 students apply to learn Romani with elements of national culture, the institution will be obliged to form a group and organize the teaching of this subject.

748. Since secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools for adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

e. Within the territory in which Romani is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Romani, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

749. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle and Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local

identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

750. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society*, *History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

751. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

752. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

753. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

754. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the second year gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

Article 9 - Judicial powers
paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d
paragraph 2 a, b, c
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

f. Take measures to encourage Romani speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

755. The previous reports on the application of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Romani.

756. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Romani speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

757. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

758. According to available data, at the beginning of 2019, the courts of the Republic of Serbia employed 10 members of the Roma national minority, two Roma judges and one lay judge. During the reporting period, two criminal proceedings were conducted in the Romani language, in the Basic Court in Jagodina and in the First Basic Court in Belgrade.

g. Inform Romani speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

759. Under the provisions of the law governing the criminal and civil proceedings of a party, witnesses and other persons participating in the proceedings are entitled to use their language and script during the proceedings, which is in accordance with Article 199 of the Constitution. If, however, the proceedings are not conducted in their language, they will be informed of their right to translation. These persons may declare that they know the language in which the proceedings are conducted and waive their right to translation. Failure to do so will provide them with a translation of what they or others present, as well as translation of documents and other written evidence. Translation is performed by the translator. The Minister responsible for justice issues the decision to appoint permanent court translators and translation costs are paid from the budget.

h. Make available in Romani the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Romani.

760. As the Romani language is not in official use, no legal texts have been translated into this language during the reporting period.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services

paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2 b, c, d, g
paragraph 3 c
paragraph 4 c
paragraph 5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

c. Initiate the introduction of Romani into local official use so as to enable the application of the Charter.

761. During the reporting period, Romani language and script were not officially used in any local self-government unit.

762. Amendments to the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts of 2018 stipulate that in places in local self-government units, the territory of which is determined in accordance with the law governing the territorial organization of the Republic of Serbia, in which the percentage of members of a particular national minority in the total the number of inhabitants in the territory of a populated area reaches 15% according to the results of the last census, names of bodies exercising public authority, names of local self-government units, populated places, squares and streets and other toponyms shall also be printed in the language of that national minority, according to its tradition and spelling, even if the language of that national minority is not officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit.

763. Following the above amendments to the law, the municipalities of Bač and Mionica have defined in their statutes at the beginning of 2019 that Romani language and script were in official use in some settlements on their territory. The Statute of the Municipality of Bač stipulates that in the settlement of Vajska the names of bodies exercising public authority, the name of the Municipality, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms shall also be written in the language and script of the Roma national minority. The Statute of the Municipality of Mionica stipulates that on the territory of settlements Nanomir and Tolić, in which members of the Roma national minority constitute significant population, they are entitled under the Constitution to use their language and script and that in these areas traditional local names, street names, settlements and topographic marks will also be written in their language.

764. In this regard, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has sent a letter to the Heads of city and municipal administrations, to, having regard to the legal obligations in reference to the official use of languages and scripts of national minorities, comply in their work with all the relevant regulations, which guarantee the rights to the official use of language and script of national minorities.

i. Encourage the local branches of the national authorities to draft documents in Romani.

765. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System, which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

j. Ensure that users of Romani may submit oral or written applications in Romani to local branches of the national authorities and to the regional or local authorities.

766. Regulations of the Republic of Serbia, as has been repeatedly emphasized, make it possible to file petitions orally or in writing in minority languages at all levels of government, including local branches of national authorities, as well as regional and local authorities.

767. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, administrative districts in the Republic of Serbia have been formed to perform public administration tasks

outside the seats of the state administration bodies and reflect the dispersion of state affairs. For easier carrying out tasks within the scope and outside their seats, the ministries or provincial secretariats establish for a certain territory their detached units - district territorial units. The cluster of all district regional units in a certain territory is an administrative district - a regional center of state administration.

768. In the administrative district, public administration bodies may, at their discretion, perform one or more of the following public administration tasks: to resolve administrative matters in the first instance, to supervise the work of holders of public authority, and to conduct the supervisory inspections.

769. District regional units of the state administration bodies have been formed in order to optimize the carrying out of state administration tasks, and above all the supervisory inspection activities. Ministries conduct for their district territorial units the HR policy, establish work plans, issue directives and instructions, and, on the basis of their competencies, on their websites, they direct parties to the district regional units of state administration bodies, in areas where the language of a national minority is in official, they may conduct the proceedings both in the language and using the script of that national minority.

770. An Administrative Service is established in the administrative district, which shall essentially perform the tasks, general and common to all district regional units and provide expert and technical support to the head of the administrative district. Jobs within the scope of the Professional Services of the administrative district can be grouped into: legal, financial, registry, professional and technical support to the head of the administrative district and others.

771. Although there are no obstacles or restrictions to the use of oral or written applications in minority languages by the speakers of minority languages, most of the administrative districts have stated in their contributions to the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that so far there have been no cases in the professional service of the administrative district of an oral or written address in minority languages to the Head of the District, national inspection services, or provincial secretariats. All employees of the professional services of the administrative districts, as far as they are in contact with the parties, respect the rights of national minorities and always serve every party, regardless of their nationality or the language in which the party has addressed them. Should the party address them orally or in writing in a minority language, the professional service would meet him, enable him to exercise his right, and to the extent possible, to obtain a response in the minority language.

772. According to the available data, no written or oral petitions in the Romani language were submitted to the regional authorities (AP of Vojvodina authorities) or any local self-government unit in the Republic of Serbia during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter.

k. Foster the publication by local and regional authorities of their official documents also in Romani.

773. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the publication of official documents in minority languages depends on the introduction of a minority language in official use. Since the Statute of the AP of Vojvodina does not establish that the Romani language is in official use in the bodies of the AP of Vojvodina, as it is not in official use in any unit of local self-government, official documents have not been published in the Romani language.

l. Encourage Romani speakers to use this language in communication with public service providers.

774. The Law on Public Services does not contain an explicit provision on the language in which citizens can address public services to exercise their rights and obligations, but bearing in mind that public services, when deciding on the rights and obligations of citizens, organizations or users of their services and when they carry out other tasks prescribed by law, decide and work under the General Administrative Procedure Act and the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, this means that oral and written requests may also be submitted in minority languages.

775. As there is no legal obligation to specifically keep records of requests made by minority language speakers to public services, there is no aggregate information on the number of requests submitted. To illustrate the possibility of using minority languages in communication with public services, information provided by public companies founded by the Republic of Serbia, which participated in the preparation of this report, according to which there was no written address by users of services in one of the minority languages, highlighting their competence to respond to requests in minority languages. The following public companies have responded to the invitation to participate in the development of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter: Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" doo., Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

776. Distribution System Operator EPS d.o.o. Belgrade points out that the general acts of the Operator are not conceived on a territorial, but on a functional principle, with the exception of branches - power distribution, which perform the technical part of the operations of the Operator's predominant activity, but also these units are designed to represent the connection of one functional entity with the same individual operations of that functional whole that are performed in the consumption areas of the branches. According to the above, the normative and nomotechnical determination of the concept of the general acts of the Operator is not territorial, but unique and functional, and for the above reasons no knowledge of minority languages is foreseen as a special condition for carrying out any job in the Operator. Likewise, the general acts of the Operator do not contain any negative or discriminatory norms that prevent the filing

or receipt of requests in minority languages, and therefore there is a possibility that requests to the Operator may be submitted in minority languages, in accordance with the law.

777. The Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade states that it has ensured the application of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts in the areas of working units and regional work units in which official languages and scripts of national minorities are in use. No requests were made in the languages of national minorities during the reporting period, although conditions were provided for such requests to be addressed. Namely, the work units and the regional work units in their work strive to enable users to use languages that are in equal official use when providing postal and other services, which implies that the names of work units or regional units are written in the territory of certain local self-government units, among others, work units, stamps and stamps, as well as the forms used on a daily basis in the work of the post network front office and in the delivery (e.g. shipment arrival notification form, registered receipt form, letter consignments, departure telegram form, etc.).

778. PE Srbijagas points out that it is possible for clients to address the company in minority languages and to use them in this public company.

m. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure concerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Romani to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

779. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[45], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charterthere were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the Romani language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

780. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

781. PE Post of Serbia notes that when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work

[45] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in that area.

782. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

783. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and who speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the Employment Contract.

784. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1 January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs shall, among other things, define jobs for which, as a special condition, knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat, or its organizational unit are located. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

Article 11 –Media

став 1 a (iii), б (ii), ц (ii), д, е (i), ф (ii)
став 2
став 3

785. As public information in Romani is made up of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing radio and television broadcasting media services in Romani, basic activities of public media services and financing media content in Romani language on private media.

786. The table below shows the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analog signal and media television broadcasting via a digital signal in Romani.

No.	Radio	Television
1.	Bus DOO, Kovin-Radio Bus, 89,5	Asocijacija udruženja i nevladinih organizacija RTV Nišava, Niš TV Nišava
2.	Informativni centar DOO, Odžaci, Radio Odžaci	Delta televizija DOO za zastupanje, marketing i televizijske aktivnosti, Novi Sad-TV Delta
3.	Radio Srbobran DOO, Srbobran-Radio Srbobran 102,6	Štampa, radio i film DOO, Bor-TV Bor
4.	UG Romski centar za demokratiju, Valjevo-Radio točak	RTV Šabac DOO, Šabac-TV Šabac
5.	Informativno preduzeće BC info DOO, Bela Crkva-Radio Bela Crkva 92,4	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-TV Pančevo
6.	Asocijacija udruženja i nevladinih organizacija RTV Nišava, Niš-Radio Niš	JP Preševo, Preševo-TV Preševo
7.	UG Help, Mladenovac Radio Help OP TOP 106,4	Kanal 9 DOOO, Novi Sad-K9
8.	Razvojni centar Rom, Obrenovac-Radio ROM	RTV Kruševac DOO, Kruševac-TV Kruševac
9.	RTV Inđija DOO, Inđija-Radio Inđija	Televizija Požega DOO, Požega-TV Požega
10.	Kopernikus RTV Jagodina DOO, Jagodina-Radio Jagodina	RTV Trstenik DOO, Trstenik-TV Trstenik
11.	RTV Kruševac DOO, Kruševac-Radio Kruševac	Studio Mag DOO, Obrenovac-TV Mag
12.	Radio Barajevo DOO, Barajevo-Radio 24 105,9	TV Banat DOO, Vršac-TV Banat
13.	Radio Delta DOO za zastupanje, marketing i televizijske aktivnosti, Novi Sad-Delta radio	Televizija Leskovac AD, Leskovac- TV Leskovac
14.	Studio Džoker DOO Čačak- Džoker naksi radio 95,6	Fondacija Panonija, Subotica-TV Panon
15.	Surdulička RTV DOO, Surdulica-Gold radio	
16.	Udruženje Roma Novi Sad, Novi Sad-Radio romano king	
17.	Zoran Nikolić PR Agencija Studio 101, Zaječar-Tempo naksi radio 97,5 i 95,3	
18.	RTV Bujanovac DOO, Bujanovac-Radio Bujanovac	
19.	Mig ekstra DOO, Svilajnac-Mig radio	
20.	Blu netvork media DOO, Titel-Radio Titel	
21.	Centar za trening i edukaciju, Žabalj-Naš radio 107,8	
22.	Planeta DOO, Apatin-Naksi radio Apatin 105,8	
Total	22	14

787. The table below lists the media service providers providing the media service of television broadcasting of programs in Romani via the cable system.

No.	TELEVISION
1.	Štampa, radio i film DOO, Bor-TV Bor
2.	Kanal 9 DOOO, Novi Sad-K9
3.	RTV Kruševac DOO, Kruševac-TV Kruševac
4.	Televizija Požega DOO, Požega-TV Požega
5.	Euro MB Plus DOO, Vranje-Puls
6.	Pomoravski glasnik DOO, Niš-RTP
7.	Studio Mag DOO, Obrenovac-TV Mag
8.	Informativni pres centar opštine Vladičin Han- TV Han
9.	MOD Vranje-TV fokus
10.	TV Banat DOO, Vršac-TV Banat

11.	Televizija Leskovac AD, Leskovac- TV Leskovac
12.	Fondacija Panonija, Subotica-TV Panon
Total	12

788. Programs in the Romani language are regularly broadcast within the core activity of public service media.

789. A periodical newspaper in Romani language, the Roma Decade in AP of Vojvodina are published by the Office for Roma Inclusion and the children's magazine Chirikljori (Birdie), published by the Romano Nevipe Publishing Company. In addition, Nova naša reč from Leskovac publishes articles in the Romani language.

790. Information in Romani is financially supported from the republic, provincial and local budgets by co-financing projects selected at competitions.

791. The Ministry of Culture and Information has supported projects selected at competitions that are implemented through various types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Romani in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Media	Amount
2016	6	Radio	3,000,000.00
2016	3	Television	1,850,000.00
2016	3	Printed	1,200,000.00
2016	3	Internet	1,200,000.00
2016	4	Production	2,770,000.00
2017	8	Radio	3,950,000.00
2017	5	Television	2,500,000.00
2017	2	Printed	1,000,000.00
2017	3	Internet	1,350,000.00
2017	3	Production	1,350,000.00
2018	7	Radio	3,300,000.00
2018	5	Television	1,600,000.00
2018	3	Printed	1,500,000.00
2018	2	Internet	800,000.00
2018	5	Production	3,600,000.00

792. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Romani.

	ROMANI	Number of projects	Total amount
2016	**Type of media**	**1**	**100,000.00**
	Production	1	100,000.00
2017		**4**	**400,000.00**
	Television	2	200,000.00
	Production	2	200,000.00

2018		**6**	**640,000.00**
	Radio	1	100,000.00
	Internet	1	100,000.00
	Production	4	440,000.00

793. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information for national minorities.

794. The table below shows the number of programs and projects and the amount of funding allocated per year to the Roma national minority.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2017	5	320,000.00
2018	19	4,335,000.00

795. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that co-financed programs and projects in the field of information in the Romani language from 2016 to 2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Leskovac	-	-	430,000.00
2.	Niš	900,000.00	400,000.00	300,000.00

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

n. Encourage and facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly newspaper in Romani.

796. Establishing and publishing weekly newspapers in the Romani language requires greater involvement of the National Council of the Roma National Minority or other organizations and associations that gather members of the Roma national minority, who did not have sufficient initiative during this reporting period to create the preconditions for printing weekly newspapers in the Romani language. It is important to emphasize that, on the basis of the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, funds for the work of national councils, including the National Council of Roma National Minorities, are provided in the budgets of all levels of government (republic, provincial and local). These funds, which are autonomously available to national councils, can be used to finance the costs of regular activities of national councils, which include, inter alia, financing or co-financing programs and projects in the fields of education, culture, information and official use of languages and scripts, as well as financing the work of institutions, foundations and companies founded or co-founded by a national council or whose founding rights have been partly or fully delegated to the national councils and that conduct their activities in culture, education, information and official use of language and script. In addition,

the competent state bodies at all levels of government co-finance minority language newspapers to the extent in which there are requests for them.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits

paragraph 1 a, b, c, f
paragraph 2

797. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually grants through competitions, funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities.

798. The table below shows information on the number of programs and the amount of funding allocated to institutions and organizations in the Romani language.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	6	1,200,000.00
2017	10	2,010,000.00
2018	11	1,346,000.00

799. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities finances from its budget (within the program activity Support to the Cultural Activity of National Minorities) programs and projects of importance for the culture and art of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina through a public competition it publishes annually. Programs and projects in the field of protection of the intangible cultural heritage and artistic creation of national minorities and in the field of publishing in the languages of national minorities are co-financed.

800. The table below provides information on the number and type of co-financed projects and programs and the amount of disbursements for the Romani language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds	Total
2016	Publishing			100,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	3	100,000.00	
2017	Publishing	2	190,000.00	320,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	1	130,000.00	
2018	Publishing	4	290,000.00	770,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	6	480,000.00	

801. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk

creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

802. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects of the Roma minority associations and the amount of funding awarded in the Competition for Ethnic Community Organizations in 2016-2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	13	550,000.00
2017	27	1,730,000.00
2018	32	1,730,000.00

803. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of the Roma national minority in 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Bačka Palanka	80,000.00	110,000.00	150,000.00
2.	Beočin	150,000.00	139,999.00	80,000.00
3.	Bujanovac	680,000.00	700,000.00	1.260,000.00
4	Leskovac	6,297,879.00	5,297,281.00	11.237,192.00
5.	Niš	-	55,000.00	3.635,000.00
5.	Pećinci	2,224,000.00	2,350,000.00	2.375,000.00
6.	Surdulica	1,350,000.00	950,000.00	1.050,000.00

804. The complexity of the Roma issue in various spheres of life, as well as in culture, has led that the projects of the Roma minority supported in the reporting period are diverse and related to different areas of creativity. There is a trend of increase of Roma topics in the programs of cultural institutions (cultural centers and libraries), which contributes to a greater visibility of the Roma culture, but also to sensitization and accessibility to a larger audience. If we look at the map of supported projects, we can see that the nurturing of Roma culture is present in a wide area throughout the country.

805. In the past period, several important projects have been implemented in order to preserve the Romani language and culture, including the Research of the Language and Folklore of Roma in Knjaževac (a multi-year project), the "National and International Olympiad of the Romani Language" and the exhibition "Romani Language - treasury for education and cultural diversity". Two festivals are especially important for the promotion of the Roma culture: the Festival of Roma Culture and Activism - FRKA, implemented by the Roma Cultural Center from Belgrade

and "Friends of Šaban" - an introductory free program of the Nišville Jazz Festival, organized by the Nišville Foundation from Niš. The first was created as a festival of Roma music and culture, featuring eminent Roma and non-Roma artists, while the second was already a festival of significant respect, which devoted part of its program to prominent Roma artist and Roma music production.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

o. Foster access in other languages to works produced in Romani by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

806. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces an open call for co-financing the cultural activities of national minorities, and support for translations, dubbing and subtitling of translations of works produced in national minority languages is cited as one of the priorities of the competition. So far, relatively few users have applied for projects of this type, and the reasons for this may differ. Projects are often planned and implemented without a broader perception of the importance of translating the content, in the context of accessibility and audience development. That is why networking of different cultural actors from different territories, when planning and implementing the program, is another important competition priority that can contribute to a greater use of minority languages.

807. Compared to the previous reporting period, there is an increase in the number of subtitling or translation projects, as well as those that correspond with the broader community, i.e. not targeting members of only one national minority; it cannot be said that a standard has been established but that these are sporadic examples of good practice. In the last three years, the Ministry has supported the issuing of 22 publications, for which 12 different national minorities have applied. Some of them are translations, while the others are original works, sometimes resulting from scientific and research work.

808. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities attaches great importance to the protection of the linguistic identity of national minorities, inter alia, through the co-financing of projects of translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling of works produced in national minority languages, which were selected at a competition.

p. In territories other than those in which Romani is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and faciliti~s using Romani.

809. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities through competition, which encourage cultural activities and content in the languages of national minorities and territories which they are not the ones in which these

languages are traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

810. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

811. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

812. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called *Cities in Focus*, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42 from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development.

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

q. Encourage regular activities promoting Romani in the framework of existing agreements on transfrontier co-operation at national and local levels.

813. Bearing in mind that Roma do not have their native country, the Republic of Serbia has not signed the agreements in the field of inter-state cooperation on promoting the Romani language, but the Roma have contacts with their compatriots from other countries, primarily neighboring countries, as well as at the level of local self-governments from neighboring countries. Cooperation is in the form of exchanging cultural and artistic societies, organizing joint events and exchanging professional staff.

814. As part of the project "Novi Sad 2021 - European Capital of Culture", cooperation has been established with the city of Plovdiv from Bulgaria, which is the European Capital of Culture for 2019. The connection of the two cities aims, among other things, at broader inclusion of the Roma population in cultural processes of these cities.

815. The Republic of Serbia supports and encourages the initiatives of the National Council of the Roma National Minority, in accordance with their powers, to contribute to the signing of cross-border agreements in the field of education and culture with the countries where their compatriots live.

4.1.6. ROMANIAN LANGUAGE

Article 8 - Education
paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

University and higher education

816. At the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, basic academic studies are taught Romanian language, literature, culture.

Study profile	2016	2017	2018	Total number of students in all years of studies, academic year 2018/2019
Romanian language, literature, culture	16	8	5	59

817. At the Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Belgrade, in basic academic studies, the Romanian language, literature and culture are taught in Romanian.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	3	3	3
Total number of students	7	7	7

818. At the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, basic academic studies, Romanian language and literature are taught in Romanian.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	5	7	5
Total number of students	28	27	25

819. At the High School of Vocational Studies for Educators in Vršac, classes are taught in Romanian.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	10	4	5
Total number of students	29	19	16

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Make available preschool education in Romanian.

820. Preschool education in Romanian is conducted in eight local self-government units in eight preschools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	8	4	11	82
2017/2018	8	8	13	132
2018/2019	8	8	13	132

821. Bilingual educational work in Serbian and Romanian was organized in two local self-government units in two preschools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	4	4	4	66
2017/2018	2	2	3	16
2018/2019	2	2	3	16

d. Extend primary and secondary education and make available teaching in/of Romanian in technical and vocational education in Eastern Serbia.

822. In the Republic of Serbia, classes in Romanian were organized in primary and secondary schools. The following paragraphs present primary and secondary education in Romanian.

823. All classes in Romanian are taught in nine local self-government units in 16 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	9	18	99	854
2017/2018	9	17	96	825
2018/2019	9	16	91	787

824. The Romanian language course with elements of national culture is organized in 16 local self-government units in 30 primary schools.

School year	Number of local	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students

	self-government units			
2016/2017	18	28	28	699
2017/2018	17	22	29	643
2018/2019	16	30	31	694

825. Of this number, in the territory of eastern Serbia, Romanian with elements of national culture is taught in 12 primary schools (20 classes) in five local self-government units (Bor, Boljevac, Zaječar, Kladovo, Majdanpek). In the school year 2016/2017 in Požarevac, 26 students in one elementary school and two classes studied Romanian language with the elements of national culture. Over the next two years, there were no students enrolled and in school year 2019/2020, 16 pupils were enrolled in one elementary school and two classes in Požarevac.

Secondary Education

Gymnasiums

826. The complete curriculum in Romanian is taught in one local self-government unit in one high school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	4	82
2017/2018	1	1	4	84
2018/2019	1	1	4	64

827. The study of the Romanian language with elements of national culture is organized in the territory of eastern Serbia in a grammar school in Bor.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	2	2	3	41
2017/2018	1	1	1	21
2018/2019	1	1	1	3

Technical and specialist education

828. The complete curriculum in Romanian language is organized in one local self-government unit in a four-year technical school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	4	107
2017/2018	1	1	4	81
2018/2019	1	1	4	70

829. The studying of the subject Romanian language with elements of national culture in the academic year 2016/2017 was organized in technical vocational schools in Boljevac, Bor, Zaječar, Kladovo, Majdanpek and Novi Sad, and in the school year 2017/2018 in Boljevac, Bor, Zaječar, Kladovo and Majdanpek. In the school year 2018/2019 it was organized in the territory of eastern Serbia in two vocational technical schools in Boljevac and Bor.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	6	9	9	162
2017/2018	5	7	7	131
2018/2019	2	2	2	31

e. Encourage the offering of Romanian as a subject of adult and continuing education.

830. Parents' surveys on elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture* are conducted each school year, through the Uniform Survey Sheet, which is distributed to all primary schools through school administrations. Interested students in Adult Elementary Education schools are also interviewed by this survey sheet on attendance of the elective course/program Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture. In the previous school years, there wasn’t a sufficient number of students interested in learning Romanian with elements of national culture. If the legal requirements are met and at least 15 students apply to learn Romanian with elements of national culture, the institution will be obliged to form a group and organize the teaching of this subject.

831. Since secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools for adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

f. Within the territory in which Romanian is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Romanian, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

832. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle and Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local

identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

833. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society, History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

834. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

835. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

836. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

837. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the second year gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

Article 9 - Judicial powers

paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d
paragraph 2 a, b, c
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

g. Take measures to encourage Romanian speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

838. The previous reports on the application of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Romanian.

839. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Romanian speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

840. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

841. According to the available data, at the beginning of 2019, 18 members of the Romanian national minority who spoke Romanian were employed in the courts of the Republic of Serbia, as well as three judges who were trained to conduct the proceedings in Romanian. During the reporting period, two civil proceedings were conducted in Romanian, in the First Basic Court in Belgrade.

h. Inform Romanian speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

842. In addition to the above rules, the Rules of Procedure also contain additional rules of relevance for the wider use of minority languages in judicial proceedings. Namely, if the court proceedings are not conducted in the language of a national minority, and in the court, besides the Serbian language, the language of the national minority is also officially used, written documents shall be submitted in his language to the member of the national minority at their request. Translation of submissions and documents submitted to the court in the languages of national minorities is carried out by a translator. The minutes and decisions in the first instance proceedings relating to the proceedings shall be drafted, as authentic texts, in the Serbian language and in the established language of the proceedings. If necessary, they shall be translated into another language of the national minority, if required by a member of the national minority as a participant in proceedings not conducted in his language. Minutes and decisions in legal remedies proceedings shall be made in the Serbian language. The court of first instance shall translate the decisions taken by legal remedies into the established language of the proceedings and, if necessary, into the second language of national minorities, as well as submit them in a text credibly translated to the appropriate language (to the members of national minorities as participants in the proceedings). If written in the language of a national minority and sent to a court where the language is not in official use, a translation into Serbian shall be enclosed.

843. The full application of the above rules ensures that speakers of minority languages are informed at each stage of the proceedings of their right to use their language before a court and to decide to exercise their rights.

i. Make available in Romanian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to its users.

844. In order to increase the availability of the most important regulations pertaining to the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the amendments to the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities of 2018 stipulate that the ministry responsible for exercising the rights of national minorities provides the translation and publishes the collections of consolidated texts of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia, whose subject matter of regulation is, in whole or in most part, the exercise of rights of national minorities.

845. The Ministry is obliged to make these laws available in electronic format, on its website and on the eGovernment Portal, as well as to agree to send to the national councils of national minorities a certain number of collections of consolidated texts of these laws. Exceptionally, the national council of a national minority may submit a proposal to the line ministry, on the grounds that it is of particular importance for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the national minority, for the line ministry to translate and publish a collection of consolidated texts of certain laws within its legal scope containing provisions pertaining to the exercise of rights and freedoms of national minorities, that is, to the social relations that are of particular importance to national minorities. When deciding on a proposal of a national council, particular consideration shall be given to the availability of the planned budgetary funds, as well as to whether

amendments to these laws or an adoption of a new law is planned in the next one year that would replace the law proposed for translation or publishing.

846. Translating regulations into minority languages will help harmonize the professional legal terminology in minority languages and further affirm their use in proceedings before the state authorities.

847. As a number of laws governing the rights and status of persons belonging to national minorities have been amended in 2018, those laws, as well as the accompanying by-laws, have been translated into languages of national minorities that are in official use. These are the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the Decree on the Procedure for Allocating Funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities, and the Rulebook on the Method of Entering and Keeping the Register of National Councils, which are also available in Romanian.

848. In addition, during the election cycle for the election of the members of the national councils of national minorities in November 2018, the following documents were translated into Romanian: the Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament; Election Day Schedule for the Direct Election Procedure for National Minority Council Members, announced for November 4, 2018; Rules on the Work of Voting Committees for Electing the Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Instruction for direct elections for members of the national councils of national minorities; Election list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority; Statement of acceptance of candidacy for membership of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority; Consent of the holder of the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority; Authorization to submit an electoral list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority; Voter Statement to Support the Election List of Candidates for Members of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority; List of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Romanian National Minority; ballot paper.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services
paragraph 1.a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2 b, c, d, g
paragraph 3 c
paragraph 4 c
paragraph 5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

b. Take organisational measures to ensure that Romanian speakers can submit oral or written applications in this language to local branches of the national authorities and encourage Romanian speakers to make use of this possibility in practice.

849. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, administrative districts in the Republic of Serbia have been formed to perform public administration tasks outside the seats of the state administration bodies and reflect the dispersion of state affairs. For easier carrying out tasks within the scope and outside their seats, the ministries or provincial secretariats establish for a certain territory their detached units - district territorial units. The cluster of all district regional units in a certain territory is an administrative district - a regional center of state administration.

850. In the administrative district, public administration bodies may, at their discretion, perform one or more of the following public administration tasks: to resolve administrative matters in the first instance, to supervise the work of holders of public authority, and to conduct the supervisory inspections.

851. District regional units of the state administration bodies have been formed in order to optimize the carrying out of state administration tasks, and above all the supervisory inspection activities. Ministries conduct for their district territorial units the HR policy, establish work plans, issue directives and instructions, and, on the basis of their competencies, on their websites, they direct parties to the district regional units of state administration bodies, in areas where the language of a national minority is in official, they may conduct the proceedings both in the language and using the script of that national minority.

852. An Administrative Service is established in the administrative district, which shall essentially perform the tasks, general and common to all district regional units and provide expert and technical support to the head of the administrative district. Jobs within the scope of the Professional Services of the administrative district can be grouped into: legal, financial, registry, professional and technical support to the head of the administrative district and others.

853. Although there are no obstacles or restrictions to the use of oral or written applications in minority languages by the speakers of minority languages, most of the administrative districts have stated in their contributions to the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that so far there have been no cases in the professional service of the administrative district of an oral or written address in minority languages to the Head of the District, national inspection services, or provincial secretariats. All employees of the professional services of the administrative districts, as far as they are in contact with the parties, respect the rights of national minorities and always serve every party, regardless of their nationality or the language in which the party has addressed them. Should the party address them orally or in writing in a minority language, the professional service would meet him, enable him to exercise his right, and to the extent possible, to obtain a response in the minority language.

854. The professional service of the Central Banat Administrative District is able, using its own capacities, as well as in cooperation with local self-governments and their services or other local authorities, to respond to individual requests of the parties and to enable them to exercise their right to use minority languages before the administrative bodies.

c. Facilitate the use or adoption of place names in Romanian.

855. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have provided detailed explanations of legislative solutions that have enabled the adoption and use of traditional names of towns and settlements in minority languages. Namely, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that in areas where members of national minorities constitute a significant population, traditional local names, street names, settlements and topographical marks should also be written in their minority language. The Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities encourages the use of traditional forms of names of towns and settlements in minority languages, since the law provides that in the territory of a local self-government unit where official language is in official use, the names of bodies exercising public authority, the names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms are also written in the minority language, in line with the tradition and spelling of that language. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities prescribes that the traditional names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographical names are determined by the national council of the national minority.

856. Section 5.3.7. of the first report on the implementation of the Charter, as well as section 4.3.5. of the second report on the implementation of the Charter contains information on the traditional names of cities, municipalities and settlements in the Romanian language established by the National Council of the Romanian National Minority and published in the Official Gazette of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

857. At the end of 2018, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government sent a letter to the heads of the city and municipal administrations that officially used the languages and scripts of national minorities, in which it was emphasized that they were obliged to adhere to all relevant regulations guaranteeing the right to official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities in their work and conduct, which also includes the provision of names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other place names on multilingual boards.

858. There are numerous examples of the use of traditional names of settlements in minority languages, from the printing of nameplates of settlements, through the names of institutions, memoranda and stamps of local self-government bodies, to the use of these names in public documents, in forms for being entered or erased from the special electoral roll of a national

minority, during the election process, on tourist signage, in official gazettes, bulletins and brochures of the local self-government units, etc.

859. The following table provides the available information on the practice of using traditional names of places in Romanian provided by local self-government units that responded to the invitation to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Charter Implementation Report.

Local self-government unit	Use of traditional place names in Romanian
Alibunar	Boards with the names of Alibunar, Vladimirovac, Lokve, Nikolinci and Seleuš are also written in Romanian. Traditional names of settlements in Romanian are used on the boards of the municipal and republic authorities and on the seal of the Alibunar municipality.
Bela Crkva	Boards with names of Bela Crkva and Grebenac are also written in Romanian. Traditional names of pllaces in Romanian are used on the boards with the names of municipal and republic authorities and the seal of the municipality of Bela Crkva.
Vršac	Boards with the names of Vojvodinci, Jablanka, Kuštilj, Malo Središte, Markovac, Mali Žam, Mesić, Ritiševo, Sočica and Straža are also written in Romanian. The traditional names of the settlements in Romanian are written on the boards with the names of local, provincial and state bodies and public institutions in the town.
Žitište	Board with the name of Torak is also written in Romanian. Traditional names of places in the Romanian language are used on the boards with the names of authorities, educational institutions and health centers in all the places of the municipality.
Zrenjanin	The names of the settlements Ečka, Zrenjanin, Jankov Most and Klek are also written in Romanian. Traditional names of places in Romanian are used on the boards with the name of the City Administration, local offices, public companies and bilingual excerpts from regtry books.
Kovačica	Boards with the names of the places Kovačica and Uzdin are also written in Romanian. Traditional names of settlements in Romanian are used on the seal and stamp of the municipality, the board with the name of the municipality of Kovačica, as well as on the boards of the Local Office and Institutions in Uzdin.
Kovin	Boards with the names of Deliblato and Kovin are also written in Romanian. Traditional names of places in the Romanian language are used on the seal and stamp of the municipality of Kovin, the seal and stamp of all local offices and local communities, as well as on the boards of municipal bodies and institutions.
Pančevo	The boards of Banatsko Novo Selo is also written in Romanian. The traditional name of Banatsko Novo Selo is written in Romanian on the boards of the institutions and the Public Utility Company, as well as on the stamps of the Local Community, Local Office, School and Cultural Center.
Plandište	Boards with the names of Barice, Velika Greda, Jermenovci, Margita, Plandište and Hajdučica are also written in Romanian Traditional names of places in the Romanian language are used on the boards with the names of municipal authorities, municipal assembly, local offices, institutions and schools.
Sečanj	The nameplate of Sutjeska is also written in Romanian. The traditional names of the settlements in Romanian are written on the boards with the names of the municipal authorities, as well as on the premises of the local office, primary school and health center in the said settlement.

860. In the election process for members of national councils of national minorities held in November 2018, traditional forms of place names in minority languages were used in the electoral material, inter alia, on the election lists of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; statements of acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national

council of a national minority; the approvals of the holders of the electoral list of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; the power of attorney to submit an election list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; voters' statements that they support the election list of candidates for members of the national minority council; lists of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; decisions on the establishment of an aggregate electoral list for members of national councils of national minorities; forms for collecting electorate signatures; lists of candidates for members of the national council of the national minority for elections by electoral assembly; statements on the acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority in elections through the electoral assembly; certificates of the voting right for voting outside the polling station, etc.

861. The traditional forms of place names in minority languages are also used in request forms for erasing the name from the special electoral roll of a national minority. The above forms have been translated into the languages of national minorities that are in official use and the traditional name of the place in minority language may be used when filling in the section on the place of residence. The above information is entered in an identical manner in the special electoral roll of a national minority.

862. Within the competition for allocation of budgetary funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, in whose work the languages and scripts of national minorities are officially used, the competent provincial secretariat also allocates funds for creating multilingual boards with names of bodies and organizations, settlements, street names. etc. Information on the funds allocated in these competitions for the placement of boards with the names of bodies and organizations, settlements and street names is contained in the table below.

2016	2017	2018
2,252,200.00	5,334,100.00	7,167,000.00

j. Encourage the local branches of the national authorities to draft documents in Romanian.

863. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System, which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction

of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

k. Ensure that users of Romanian may submit oral or written applications in Romanian to the local authorities.

864. As stated in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, parties have the right to address local authorities verbally or in writing in their own language, and in practice, this right is exercised. Local self-government authorities place on their notice boards and buildings that parties may submit their requests and addresses in the minority language that is in official use, and request to receive their response in that language.

865. In 2016, the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities -National Communities conducted an online survey and collected data from the bodies of local self-government units and provincial bodies and organizations, including, inter alia, oral and written communication of these bodies with citizens.

866. Based on the data collected, the total number of employees in the bodies of local self-government is 5,594 persons, and in the bodies of AP of Vojvodina it is 1,180 persons. Of these, 79 (1.17%) were members of the Romanian national minority, 72 (1.06%) indicated that Romanian language was their mother tongue, and 65 indicated that they knew the Romanian language. During 2016, a total of 45 administrative cases were conducted in Romanian, and during the same period 45 certificates or other documents were issued in Romanian.

867. Available resources for successful use of languages and scripts of national minorities at the local level, in addition to staffing capacities that include both officials and translators and certified interpreters, include the availability of public publications, guides, notices and information boards in national minority languages, existence of official gazettes of local self-government units in languages and scripts of national minorities, publication of information on official websites of the local self-government units in languages and scripts of national minorities, the availability of documents and forms of various submissions (requests, petitions, etc.) in the languages and scripts of national minorities, the conduct of complete administrative proceedings in the languages and scripts of the national minorities, and the issuing of birth certificates and other registrar services provided in languages and scripts of national minorities.

868. The table below provides information on measures to help speakers of Romanian use the opportunity to file an oral or written application in Romanian in local self-government units in which Romanian is in official use.

Local self-government unit	**Measures contributing to the use of the opportunity to submit an oral or written application in Romanian to local authorities**

Alibunar	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematization of Jobs in job descriptions does not prescribe the knowledge of Romanian. In the Municipal Administration, 20 employees speak Romanian. The citizens may address the authority in Romanian and receive a reply in Romanian. Speakers of minority languages were informed of the opportunity to address the authority orally and in writing in their own language on bulletin boards and in the Alibunar Municipality Bulletin.
Bela Crkva	One Romanian speaker is employed by the municipal administration. Speakers of minority languages were informed of the opportunity to speak orally and in writing in their own language on bulletin boards and in the local media.
Vršac	The Act on Systematization provides for the knowledge of Romanian language for 4 job positions. A total of 10 employees of the City Administration are fluent in Romanian. In populated areas with a large majority of Romanian minority members, local office staff know the Romanian language and communicate with the citizens in this language. Some forms and information leaflets are available in Romanian.
Žitište	By the Rulebook on Organization and Systematization of Jobs in the Municipal Administration, one position was systematized for which the knowledge of Romanian language is a requirement. A total of 4 civil servants speak Romanian. The parties can also address the authority and receive a reply in Romanian, which they are informed on bulletin boards located in the municipality and in all twelve local communities, and the civil servants who are in direct contact with citizens also inform them of this possibility.
Zrenjanin	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematization of Jobs in the City Administration, the Attorney General's Office and the Professional Service of the Protector of Citizens of the City of Zrenjanin prescribes 2 posts that require the knowledge of Romanian language. A total of 9 employees speak Romanian. Speakers of the Romanian language are informed about the possibility to effectively exercise their rights to use the Romanian language on info boards indicating the types of work performed, for example, by the Service Center, then by notices on the right to enter a personal name in registers and citizen registers, notices on enrollment in a special electoral roll, notices on elections, notices on the manner and conditions of exercising the right to child allowance, etc. Also, the names of the departments and sectors in the City Administration are written in Romanian. There are no records of oral communication of citizens in Romanian, but it is estimated that an average of 1,500 citizens communicate orally in Romanian during the year.
Kovačica	6 employees speak Romanian language in the municipal administration. In Uzdin where the Romanian population is predominant, the citizens orally communicate in Romanian and receive their reply in Romanian as all the employees speak Romanian. The estimated number of oral addresses in Romanian is about 200 addresses per year. Individual forms and notices for the citizens are available in Romanian.
Kovin	The act on the internal organization and systematization of municipal administration jobs does not currently provide for the post of translator for languages that are officially in use in the territory of the Kovin municipality. The translation work is performed, if necessary, by professionals, by hiring out of employment, specifically by the Engagement Contract. For the time being, the municipality of Kovin fully covers the needs of the citizens and of the competent services. If the need arises for the permanent employment of translators, the municipality will harmonize its acts with the needs, and hire professionals for translating into languages that are in official use. The municipality employs one person who speaks Romanian. Romanian speakers, when addressing the local authorities, are orally informed that they can communicate in Romanian, and if the citizen expresses such intention, the municipality of Kovin shall hire a translator. In the territory of Deliblato, the local office employee knows Romanian language and script, so that the citizens can address the administration both in writing and orally in Romanian. Notices on the info board in front of the local office are also in Serbian and Romanian. The parties may file bilingual applications (in Serbian and Romanian) for the issuance of citizenship certificates, birth, marriage and death certificates, as well as for various purposes. All notifications are also bilingual.

Pančevo	Romanian language and script are officially used in Banatsko Novo Selo. When drafting the act on job classification, the posts that require knowledge of the Romanian language were not specifically systematized. Employees who communicate with citizens, as well as other employees, know Romanian. In oral communication with employees, speakers of national minority languages receive information on the possibilities of exercising their rights in Romanian as well. The citizens regularly address the authority in Romanian and receive answers from employees who are fluent in Romanian.
Plandište	A total of 4 employees know Romanian. A notice in Romanian about the possibility for speakers of Romanian to effectively exercise their rights to use the Romanian language and to address the authority orally and in writing in this language is placed on the bulleting board in front of the Service Center, as well as in the local offices. Citizens rarely address the authority in Romanian, mostly orally. Bilingual excerpts from registrars and various information for citizens are provided in Romanian.
Sečanj	A total of 2 employees know Romanian. In oral communication with employees, speakers of national minority languages receive information on the possibilities of exercising their rights also in Romanian. Bilingual excerpts from registrars and various information for citizens are provided in Romanian.

869. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities regularly launches competitions for the allocation of budget funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, who officially use languages and scripts of national minorities.

870. Funds are also allocated, inter alia, for the training of employees of bodies and organizations using the national minority language, which has been identified as a language in official use, and in particular in workplaces where the employees are contacted by citizens (participation in courses, seminars etc.), as well as for the development of an e-government system for working in multilingualism, further enhancing the possibility of exercising the right of speakers of minority languages to file an oral or written application in their own language. The text of the competition with applications for the competition is printed and published in the Serbian language and in the Cyrillic script, followed by the Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian and Ruthenian languages and scripts.

871. The information on the amount of funds allocated to train the employees of organs and organizations is contained in the table below.

2016	**2017**
221,064.00	1,377,000.00

872. Information on the amount of funds allocated for the development of an e-government system for multilingualism is contained in the table below.

2016	**2017**
200,000.00	232,000.00

l. Make available in Romanian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to its users.

873. The Statute of the AP of Vojvodina stipulates that in the bodies and organizations of the AP of Vojvodina Serbian language and the Cyrillic script, Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian and Ruthenian languages and their scripts are in official use.

874. The Statute of the AP of Vojvodina, the Provincial Assembly Decisions and the General Acts of the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina, as well as the Provincial decrees and decisions of the Provincial Government, are published in the Official Gazette of the AP of Vojvodina. These acts are published in all languages which are officially used in the work of the bodies of AP of Vojvodina, including the Romanian language.

875. In addition, the website of the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina and the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - Nnational Communities, including official documents on these sites, have been translated and made available in all languages that are officially used in the work of the provincial authorities, and further translation and updating of the websites of other provincial administrative bodies is ongoing.

876. The statutes of local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use also determine the publication of local general acts in the official gazettes of local self-government units. In this sense, since it allows the local self-government units to identify minority languages that are in official use, the state approves and encourages local authorities to publish their documents in minority languages.

877. The availability of official documents of local self-government units in minority languages is also made available on official websites, as some of the local self-government units have websites on the minority language. The city of Pančevo has a website in Romanian.

878. Official documents of local self-government units are available to speakers of minority languages through various printed publications, bulletins, or newsletters published by the local self-government units.

879. In the competition that the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities announces for the allocation of budget funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, who officially use languages and scripts of national minorities, among other things, are allocated and for the production of official newsletters, multilingual forms and other public publications. Information on the amount of funding allocated at these competitions for the development of official gazettes and the printing of multilingual public publications, which contributes to improving the availability of official documents in minority languages, is contained in the table below.

2016	2017	2018
505,000.00	2,656,900.00	2,333,000.00

m. Encourage Romanian speakers to submit a request in Romanian to public service providers.

880. The Law on Public Services does not contain an explicit provision on the language in which citizens can address public services to exercise their rights and obligations, but bearing in mind that public services, when deciding on the rights and obligations of citizens, organizations or users of their services and when they carry out other tasks prescribed by law, decide and work under the General Administrative Procedure Act and the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, this means that oral and written requests may also be submitted in minority languages.

881. As there is no legal obligation to specifically keep records of requests made by minority language speakers to public services, there is no aggregate information on the number of requests submitted. To illustrate the possibility of using minority languages in communication with public services, information provided by public companies founded by the Republic of Serbia, which participated in the preparation of this report, according to which there was no written address by users of services in one of the minority languages, highlighting their competence to respond to requests in minority languages. The following public companies have responded to the invitation to participate in the development of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter: Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" doo., Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

882. Distribution System Operator EPS d.o.o. Belgrade points out that the general acts of the Operator are not conceived on a territorial, but on a functional principle, with the exception of branches - power distribution, which perform the technical part of the operations of the Operator's predominant activity, but also these units are designed to represent the connection of one functional entity with the same individual operations of that functional whole that are performed in the consumption areas of the branches. According to the above, the normative and nomotechnical determination of the concept of the general acts of the Operator is not territorial, but unique and functional, and for the above reasons no knowledge of minority languages is foreseen as a special condition for carrying out any job in the Operator. Likewise, the general acts of the Operator do not contain any negative or discriminatory norms that prevent the filing or receipt of requests in minority languages, and therefore there is a possibility that requests to the Operator may be submitted in minority languages, in accordance with the law.

883. The Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade states that it has ensured the application of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts in the areas of working units and regional work units in which official languages and scripts of national minorities are in use.

884. No requests were made in the languages of national minorities during the reporting period, although conditions were provided for such requests to be addressed. Namely, the work units and the regional work units in their work strive to enable users to use languages that are in

equal official use when providing postal and other services, which implies that the names of work units or regional units are written in the territory of certain local self-government units, among others, work units, stamps and stamps, as well as the forms used on a daily basis in the work of the post network front office and in the delivery (e.g. shipment arrival notification form, registered receipt form, letter consignments, departure telegram form, etc.).

885. PE Srbijagas points out that it is possible for clients to address the company in minority languages and to use them in this public company.

886. Local self-government units involved in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, in which the Romanian language is in official use, state that public services and public enterprises founded by local self-government units allow speakers of Romanian to submit their requests or other written documents in Romanian. The exercise of this right is made possible in practice, both by the employment of minority language speakers in public services and public enterprises, and by the hiring of court interpreters or translators as needed. In the territories of local self-government in which the Romanian language is officially used, in public companies all employees have the same rights regarding the use of both languages for official purposes, which is regulated by the acts adopted by their founder.

887. For example, the City of Zrenjanin states that, if the citizen addresses himself either in writing or orally in Romanian, the Social Welfare Center provides translators and thus facilitates the procedure in Romanian. The Historical Archive notes that so far there has been no addressing of citizens in Romanian language, but they would also hire a translator if the need arises. PE “Pijace i parkinzi” allow Romanian speakers to submit their requests and other written communication in this language. Some public services and public utilities in the city do not work with citizens (eg "Sportski objekti" and "Rezervati prirode") or so far Romanian speakers have not addressed them either in writing or orally (PE "Gradska stambena agencija" and the Institute for the protection of cultural monuments) in Romanian. The City of Pancevo points out that the Public Utility Company provides for daily oral communication of employees in Romanian with speakers of this language.

n. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure concerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Romanian to be appointed in the territory in which that language.

888. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[46], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charterthere were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the

[46] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

Romanian language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

889. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

890. PE Post of Serbia notes that when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in that area.

891. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

892. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and who speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the Employment Contract.

893. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1 January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs shall, among other things, define jobs for which, as a special condition, knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat, or its organizational unit are located. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

o. Draw the attention of local authorities to the right to use family names in Romanian in conformijy with the spelling and script of that language, and if needed, provide them with technical support to ensure the effective use of this right.

894. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have detailed the legislative framework for exercising the right of persons belonging to national minorities to enter their personal name according to their language and spelling. The right to enter a personal name in the minority language and spelling in the registers does not depend on the official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities, it is provided in the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia.

895. The provision of Article 17 of the Law on Civil Registers[47] stipulates that the personal name of a child, parents, spouse and deceased is entered in the Serbian language, in Cyrillic script, and the persons belonging to national minorities have the right to enter their personal name in accordance with the language and spelling of the language of the national minority members, which does not exclude a parallel entry of a personal name in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script as well.

896. In the past period, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has provided to all the bodies performing the entrusted activities of keeping the registry books an Instruction on the method of entering the personal name of persons belonging to a national minority in the registers in order to harmonize the practice of work and application of the regulations on the registry. The instruction directs the manner of work related to the registration of the personal name of a member of a national minority, regardless of the place of entry of a particular fact in the registers and irrespective of whether that information is entered during the basic registration in the registry or during subsequent registration. Also, along with the aforementioned instruction, an example of the Notice on the procedure and manner of entering the personal name of a national minority member in the registers was distributed for placing on the bulletin boards of all the registered areas of the cities/municipalities for which the registers are kept.

897. An Administrative Inspectorate has been set up in the Ministry; among other things, it supervises the work and activities of territorial autonomy bodies and local self-government units. The Administrative Inspectorate verifies whether these bodies comply with the regulations governing, among other things, the official use of languages and scripts and the registry.

898. The Administrative Inspectorate carries out inspection supervision in accordance with the annual work program proposed by the Chief Administrative Inspector and approved by the Government. In the course of the implementation of the Work Program, the Administrative Inspectorate performed a total of 4,341 inspections and has acted upon 4,607 petitions from

[47] Official Gazette of RS, no. 20/2009, 145/2014 and 47/2018

citizens and legal entities and has notified the petitioners of the outcome of the proceedings in the period 2016-2018.

899. A total of 7,056 measures have been proposed to the inspection bodies in the Minutes of the supervisory inspection, to remedy the identified irregularities, irregularities and deficiencies. Of the total number of the proposed measures, 23 measures were concerning the right a national minority member to enter their personal name in the register in the language and script of the national minority in accordance with the Law on Civil Registers and the Instruction on Keeping Registers and Registry Forms. The measures proscribed included the local self-government units, which provided by their Statute that, in addition to the Serbian language and script, the official language was Romanian (Alibunar, Bela Crkva, Vršac, Zrenjanin and Sečanj).

900. The practice of registering a personal name in the Romanian language in civil registers can in practice be exemplified by the examples obtained from the civil services, which are contained in the table below.

Local self-government unit	**Number of entries of personal names in Romanian**		
	2016.	**2017.**	**2018.**
Alibunar	1	1	1
Vršac	2	7	8
Žitiste	13	22	3
Zrenjanin	43	55	71
Kovačica	2	1	4
Kikinda	-	-	1
Subotica	7	-	2

901. In addition, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable the civil register forms to be printed bilingually in local self-government units where the Statuteestablish that minority languages are in official use. Item 137 of the Instruction on keeping the registers and registers forms[48] stipulates that in the units of local self-government where the Statutes establish that the language of a national minority is in official use, the civil register forms are printed as bilingual, in Serbian, in Cyrillic script and in the language and script of that national minority whose language is in official use.

902. The table below provides information on civil register forms issued on bilingual, Serbian-Romanian forms.

Local self-government unit	**Number of excerpts issued on bilingual, Serbian-Romanian forms**		
	2016.	**2017.**	**2018.**
Alibunar	1	-	-
Vršac	27	13	70
Žitiste	13	-	-

[48] Official Gazette of RS, no.93/2018

Kovačica	12	14	10

Article 11 - Media
paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
paragraph 2
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

p. Encourage the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Romanian on a regular basis.

903. The Republic of Serbia, AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units, through project co-financing, continuously encourage the regular broadcasting of private radio and television programs in Romanian. In addition, the new offer of Romanian-language radio programs on RTV has increased, compared to 2015, and it adequately replaces the previous offer of private radio stations, especially since it is available to speakers of Romanian throughout the territory of AP of Vojvodina.

904. The following paragraphs provide information on the complete Romanian-language radio and television broadcasting service.

905. As public information in Romanian is made up of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing media radio and television broadcasting services in Romanian, basic activity of the public media, financing media content in Romanian language on private media and financing of the media whose indirect founder is National the Council of the Romanian National Minority.

906. The table below shows the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analog signal and media television broadcasting via a digital signal in Romanian.

No.	Radio	Television
1.	Bus DOO, Kovin-Radio bus 89,5	TV Banat DOO, Vršac-TV Banat
2.	RTV Inđija DOO, Inđija-Radio Inđija	Rumunsko udruženje Viktoria, Vršac-TV Viktoria
3.	JP RTV opštine Kovačica, Kovačica-Radio Kovačica	JP RTV opštine Kovačica, Kovačica- TV OK
4.	Informativno preduzeće BC Info DOO, Bela Crkva-Radio Bela Crkva 92,4	Štampa, radio i film DOO, Bor-TV Bor
5.	Daneli DOO, Alibunar-Radio Far	Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
6.	Radio impuls DOO, Bačka Palanka-Radio impuls	Linea elektroniks DOO, Novi Sad-KTV
7.	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-Radio Pančevo	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-TV Pančevo
8.		Radio Lav DOO, Vršac-TV Lav
Total	7	8

907. The table below shows the media service providers providing the media service of television broadcasting in Romanian via the cable system.

No.	TELEVISION
1.	Radio Lav DOO, Vršac-TV Lav
2.	Štampa, radio i film DOO, Bor-TV Bor
3.	Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
4.	Linea elektroniks DOO, Novi Sad-KTV
5.	Pomoravski glasnik DOO, Niš-RTP
6.	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-TV Pančevo
7.	TV Banat DOO, Vršac-TV Banat
Total	**7**

908. The offer of radio programs in Romanian language on RTV has increased by more than 40% compared to 2015. The program in Romanian language has achieved a share of 9.54% of the total broadcast time of the program on the Second channel of RTV in 2018. The most common types of content in the genre structure of the Romanian language program are: information, music and culture-art programs.[49]

909. A total of 14 print media of different issue frequency are published in Romanian.

910. Information in Romanian is financially supported from the republic, provincial and local budgets by co-financing projects selected at published competitions.

911. The Ministry of Culture and Information supported projects selected at competitions that are implemented through various types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Romanian in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Media	Amount
2016.	1	Radio	400,000.00
2016.	2	Television	1,000,000.00
2016.	1	Production	400,000.00
2017.	1	Radio	400,000.00
2017.	1	Television	500,000.00
2017.	2	Print	500,000.00
2018.	1	Radio	518,000.00
2018.	1	Television	600,000.00

912. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Romanian.

	ROMANIAN	Number of projects	Total funds
2016.	**Media Type**	**2**	**232,000.00**
	Newspapers	1	132,000.00
	Radio	1	100,000.00

[49] Public media Service RTV– ways of meeting the legal programme obligations, Report of the Regulatory body for Electronic Media for the period 01/01 – 31/12 2018, p. 80

2017.		**3**	**730,000.00**
	Television	2	550,000.00
	Production	1	180,000.00
2018.		**2**	**280,000.00**
	Newspapers	1	100,000.00
	Television	1	180,000.00

913. The budget of the AP of Vojvodina subsidizes newspapers of provincial importance, including newspapers in Romanian. The table below provides information on subsidizing this type of media.

Publisher	Media	2016.	2017.	2018.
NIU *Libertatea*, Pančevo	"Libertatea"-rumunski jezik	28,674,000.00	28,674,000.00	30,108,000.00
	"Tinereta"	2,412,000.00	2,412,000.00	2,532,000.00
	"Bukurija kopilor"	2,412,000.00	2,412,000.00	2,532,000.00
Total		33,498,000.00	33,498,000.00	35,172,000.00

914. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information for national minorities.

915. The table below shows the number of programs and projects and the amount of funding allocated per year to the Romanian national minority.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2017	2	75,000.00
2018	1	900,000.00

916. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of information in the Romanian language from 2016 to 2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Alibunar	100,00.00	203,000.00	435,000.00
2.	Vršac	1,291,667.00	150,000.00	-
3.	Žitište	-	-	75,000.00
4.	Zrenjanin	336,960.00	308,880.00	365,040.00
5.	Kovačica	10,875,000.00	13,000,000.00	5,500,000.00
6.	Pančevo	5,500,000.00	5,346,900.00	5,000,000.00
7.	Sečanj	70,000.00	160,000.00	190,000.00

q. Encourage the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Romanian.

917. The Ministry of Culture and Information, the Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units, continuously encourage the production of audio and audiovisual content in Romanian through project co-financing. The distribution of audiovisual content in Romanian is also possible via the cable system.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits
paragraph 1 a, b, c, f
paragraph 2

918. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually awards funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities, selected in competitions.

919. The table below shows information on the number of programs and the amount of funding allocated to institutions and organizations in Romanian.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	3	600,000.00
2017	6	860,000.00
2018	5	600,000.00

920. Within the Competition for translating the representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In 2016-2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages.

921. The table below provides information on the number of works and the resources allocated for translations into Romanian.

Language of translation	Romanian			
	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**Total**
Number of works	-	2	1	3
Amount in dinars	-	-	-	-
Amount in euros		2,000	1,000	3,000

922. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities supports public institutions in the preservation of the cultural identity and creativity of persons belonging to national minorities and the implementation of projects and programs promoting the culture, preservation and presentation of the cultural heritage of national minorities and whose program activities are implemented in cooperation with national councils or institutions and organizations established by members of national minorities.

923. The Secretariat co-finances the Institute for Culture of Vojvodina Romanians with the following amounts:

Beneficiary	2016	2017	2018
Institute for Culture of Vojvodina Romanians	8,300,000.00	9,400,000.00	9,400,000.00

924. The same secretariat co-finances the work of cultural institutions and other cultural entities not financed from the budget of AP of Vojvodina, which go beyond local significance with their programs and more permanently satisfy the cultural needs of the citizens in AP of Vojvodina. Among the institutions funded in this way is the Doina Cultural Center Cultural Institution, Uzdin.

Institution	2016	2017	2018
Doina Culture Center	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00

925. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities finances from its budget (within the program activity Support to the Cultural Activity of National Minorities) programs and projects of importance for the culture and art of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina through a public competition it publishes annually. Programs and projects in the field of protection of the intangible cultural heritage and artistic creation of national minorities and in the field of publishing in the languages of national minorities are co-financed.

926. The table below provides information on the number and type of co-financed projects and programs and the amount of funding paid for the Romanian language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds	Total
2016	Publishing	2	480,000.00	860,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	8	380,000.00	
2017	Publishing	4	290,000.00	704,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	14	414,000.00	
2018	Publishing	8	450,000.00	1,694,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	26	1,244,000.00	

927. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old

crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

928. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects by associations of members of the Romanian minority and the amount of funding awarded in the Competition for Ethnic Community Organizations in 2016-2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	24	710,000.00
2017	25	2,200,000.00
2018	32	2,200,000.00

929. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of members of the Romanian national minority in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Alibunar	150,000.00	50,000.00	280,000.00
2.	Vršac	922,000.00	817,500.00	56,000.00
3.	Žitište	150,000.00	500,000.00	50,000.00
4.	Kovačica	3,231,000.00	2,914,996.00	4,170,774.00
5.	Kovin	-	-	20,000.00
6.	Pančevo	-	190,000.00	100,000.00
7.	Plandište	-	125,000.00	125,000.00

930. In addition to two magazines in Romanian, ALMANAH LIBERTATEA and *Lumina*, Romanians in Serbia keep their linguistic particularity with traditional and new songs in Romanian language and by performing theater plays. In addition to the Sterija National Theater in Vršac, whose work is financed from public funds, there is a rich amateur theater production in Romanian language. The relevant ministry has traditionally supported the Youth Music Song Festival, the Grand Festival of Roman Folklore and Roman Theater Days, which have been organized for half a century.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

r. Foster access in other languages to works produced in Romanian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

931. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces an open call for co-financing the cultural activities of national minorities, and support for translations, dubbing and

subtitling of translations of works produced in national minority languages is cited as one of the priorities of the competition. So far, relatively few users have applied for projects of this type, and the reasons for this may differ. Projects are often planned and implemented without a broader perception of the importance of translating the content, in the context of accessibility and audience development. That is why networking of different cultural actors from different territories, when planning and implementing the program, is another important competition priority that can contribute to a greater use of minority languages.

932. Compared to the previous reporting period, there is an increase in the number of subtitling or translation projects, as well as those that correspond with the broader community, i.e. not targeting members of only one national minority; it cannot be said that a standard has been established but that these are sporadic examples of good practice. In the last three years, the Ministry has supported the issuing of 22 publications, for which 12 different national minorities have applied. Some of them are translations, while the others are original works, sometimes resulting from scientific and research work.

933. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities attaches great importance to the protection of the linguistic identity of national minorities, inter alia, through the co-financing of projects of translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling of works produced in national minority languages, which were selected at a competition.

s. Foster access in Romanian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

934. The Republic of Serbia fosters the access to content in languages of national minorities originating in other languages by providing assistance or developing translation, synchronization, post-synchronization and subtitling of the translation. The Ministry of Culture and Information, through public calls for proposals, co-finances selected projects to the extent in which that there are interested applicants. However, both the realistic production and the artistic value of the resulting work must be taken into account for the presence of a particular type of project.

935. By conducting a competition for the translation of representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, the Ministry of Culture and Information subsidizes foreign publishers for translation into the language of their native country. Within the Competition for translating representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, which actually subsidizes foreign publishers, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In the period from 2016 to 2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages, and EUR 108,300, USD 2,000 and RSD 1,612,000.00 were allocated for these purposes.

936. When it comes to audiovisual production (film industry), it is well known that it belongs to the creative industries and is therefore market oriented. The Ministry, in this very fact, sees a potential reason for the absence of more translations into minority languages, because it is not profitable to make translations into languages that will not bring market value, even if the government subsidizes this activity. An example of this is the translations of films supported by the Ministry, mainly made for the purpose of appearing at festivals or other events in the countries of origin (the Film Center of Serbia allocates funds for translation of films if distributors show interest).

t. In territories other than those in which Romanian is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Romanian.

937. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities through competition, which encourage cultural activities and content in the languages of national minorities and territories which they are not the ones in which these languages are traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

938. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

939. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

940. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called *Cities in Focus*, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42 from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development.

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

i. Encourage regular activities promoting Romanian in the framework of existing agreements on transfrontier co-operation at national and local levels.

941. A new Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of Romania is prepared in the fields of education, science, culture, media, youth and sports, the signing of which will abolish the 1956. Agreement.

942. The cooperation in the field of education has various forms. The two sides exchange lecturers, i.e. professors of Serbian/Romanian. In the Republic of Serbia, two Romanian language lecturers at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade and one lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Novi Sad were hired. There is one Serbian language lecturer at the Faculty of Philology in Bucharest and the Faculty of Philology, History and Theology of the Western University of Timisoara, each.

943. Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development has published a call for granting scholarships to foreign nationals, based on international agreements and programs of cooperation in the field of education, for the academic year 2017/2018, for 20 months of professional development and for 8 one-semester scholarships for students of Serbian languages of the University of Timisoara at the Universities of Belgrade and Novi Sad. In the academic year 2017/18, three Romanian candidates were studying at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. Based on inter-university cooperation, the two sides exchange students of Serbian or Romanian language for summer courses. Serbian language courses are held at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad and at the Faculty of Philology in Bucharest and Constance in Romania. In 2016, 9 Serbian students have attended a Romanian summer course.

944. In 2009, the University of Belgrade and the University of Bucharest have signed a cooperation agreement. The agreement envisages improving cooperation in teaching and research, as well as intensifying contacts between the two universities. The Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Novi Sad also has significant cooperation with universities in Romania, such as: Western University of Timisoara (Erasmus+ and bilateral cooperation); Constanca Technical University (bilateral cooperation); Faculty of Technical and Social Sciences Tirgu-Mures (bilateral cooperation).

945. In the field of culture, in addition to the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation from 1956, a Cultural and Educational Cooperation Program was signed in 1998, which is applicable until the new one is signed.

946. At the congress of the European Network of Experts in the field of cultural management - ENCATC (European Network for Education in the field of cultural management and cultural policies) in 2018 in Bucharest, the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development from Serbia became the Network member, and on that occasion an agreement was signed on cooperation between the Institute and the National Institute for Cultural Research and Training of Romania.

947. The agreement between the two institutions aims to further the integration of theoretical and practical research in the field of culture and to promote the development of bilateral and multilateral cultural cooperation. The collaboration will take place through various projects and programs and the exchange of publications, reports and other academic information. It is planned for the joint work of the institutions to initiate the establishment of an international communication and service platform for enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the field of culture, as well as the exchange of examples of best practices in the field of public policies and strategies in the field of culture, as well as coherent systemic regulations.

948. The Matica Srpska Library has a long-standing extensive exchange with 17 libraries, institutions and associations in Romania, which includes both the exchange of books and periodicals. The most important partner of the Matica Srpska Library is the National Library of Bucharest. They exchange approximately 60 books and 20 periodicals a year. The Romanian Academy of Sciences (branches of various institutes at the Academy), as well as the library, museum and University of Timisoara, writers associations, etc are significant long-term partners. The library supplies books to the Slavic Center and the Serbian language editorial office at the University of Timisoara, as well as to the Serbian reading room and the Dositej Obradović gymnasium library in Timisoara.

949. The Archive of Yugoslavia has continued cooperation with the National Archive of Romania in Bucharest in the exchange of information and publications. The agreement on cooperation of the two archives was signed in 1996.

950. Theaters in the Republic of Serbia have a long-standing continuous cooperation with their peers from Romania, both in direct exchange of programs and in participation in festivals and related events. Theaters in Romania cooperate with the National Theater "Toša Jovanović" from Zrenjanin, the National Theater "Sterija" from Vršac, the National Theater Kikinda, the National Theater in Subotica, the National Theater in Sombor, the Serbian National Theater from Novi Sad and the National Theater from Šabac.

951. Regarding co-operation with Romania in the field of cinema and other audiovisual arts, it involves co-financing projects through public competitions of the Film Center of Serbia and the screening of Romanian films in Serbia.

952. The book *Romanian Travelers in Serbia*, published by the Center for Banat Studies in collaboration with the Pančevo Historical Archive, was produced in collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute in Bucharest, which supported the research work on this book.

953. As part of the implementation of the European Capital of Culture 2021 project, the city of Novi Sad, has intensively cooperated with Romanian candidate cities (Timisoara and Bucharest) in the process of applying for the European Capital of Culture title for 2021; the cooperation continues intensively on the implementation of several projects.

954. The table below provides available information on local level co-operation, obtained from local self-government units that have responded to the invitation to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Charter Implementation Report.

Local self-government unit	The place with which the cooperation is established	Area of cooperation
Alibunar	Županija Karaš – Severin, towns of Rešica, Oršova and Valiug	
Bela Crkva		Projects in the field of culture, sports and communal infrastructure were realized with the towns of Gihilad, Svinite and Oravica through IPA cross-border cooperation projects.
Vršac	Gradinari, Oravica and Rakasdija	Cooperation in the field of culture. Cross-border cooperation projects in the field of culture, development of small and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure were also done with Rešica, Timisoara, Det and Lugož.
Žitište	Sakalaz and Turda	Several cultural projects have been implemented through IPA cross-border cooperation programs. The project has equipped cultural centers in all twelve local communities and financed ten different events in Serbia and Romania.
Zrenjanin	Arad, Rešica and Temišvar	Cooperation in the field of culture and tourism.
Kovačica	Karan Sebeš and San Đorđiom de Padure	Cooperation in the field of culture. The municipality participates in joint cross-border cooperation projects with Romanian cities.
Kovin	Nova Moldava and Rekaš	Collaboration takes place in the fields of education, culture, sports and economy. Joint performances at national and international cultural and art festivals, sports competitions and competitions that encourage the development of multiculturalism.
Majdanpek		Cooperation with local authorities

		in Romania in the field of culture.
Pančevo	Sinandrej	Cooperation in the fields of art, culture, media, sports, science, education and other fields of common interest.
Sečanj	Fenj	The project "Sport for tolerance" - sports games of elementary students from the Sečanj municipality and Fenj municipality has been implemented.

4.1.7. RUTHENIAN LANGUAGE

Article 8 - Education
paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

Preschool education

955. Preschool education in Ruthenian is conducted in three local self-government units in three preschools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	2	2	3	51
2017/2018	3	3	4	62
2018/2019	3	3	4	61

Primary Education

956. Entire education in Ruthenian language is carried out in three local self-government units in three primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	3	3	32	477
2017/2018	3	3	30	443
2018/2019	3	3	29	412

957. The study of the subject Ruthenian language with elements of national culture was organized in eight local self-government units in 21 elementary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	8	24	13	328
2017/2018	8	22	14	326
2018/2019	8	21	16	356

958. According to the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that in comparison with the previous reporting period, the volume of regular teching in Ruthenian has remained the same, only the number of students has decreased. The Ruthenian language with elements of national culture as a selective subject is offered in the same number of schools as in the previous period. After the reform of the education system that has started since the school year 2018/2019 and the amendments to the legislation relevant for this area, the National Councils are responsible for proposing curricula for their language and supplements for subjects of national importance (fine arts and music culture and history). According to the expected dynamics, the National Council has submitted curricula for the first, second, fifth and sixth grades of primary school by the end of the observed period.

959. The National Council also points out that, by 2017, the system established through the cooperation of the national councils, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Textbook Institute was functioning relatively satisfactorily and the textbooks in Ruthenian language were accessible to students. Subsequently, problems arose that resulted in students attending Ruthenian classes without the required textbooks for almost the entire school year.

960. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, in order to obtain the missing textbooks in the languages of national minorities that complete the entire teaching in their mother tongue, signed in 2016 memorandums and accompanying annexes on cooperation in printing of missing textbooks in the language and script of a national minority with the Institute for Textbooks and 8 national councils of national minorities (Albanian, Bosniak, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Slovak and Croatian national minorities). These memorandums envisage printing of 184 textbooks. For the Ruthenian language, the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority suggested printing 6 textbook titles. All textbook titles planned by Memorandum are printed. Considering the ongoing reform of teaching and learning programs, which are a prerequisite for the preparation of textbooks, it is important to emphasize that the Ministry, in cooperation with national councils of national minorities, is making additional efforts to develop new teaching and learning programs for reformed classes, with the aim that the teaching in minority languages is accompanied by teaching in Serbian. Reform of instruction in the languages of national minorities follows the reform of teaching in the Serbian language. All national minorities councils receive the same instruction from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development on the procedure for obtaining textbooks, with a specific affirmative approach when it comes to textbooks in national minority languages with a focus on primary education, which is compulsory.

Secondary Education

Gymnasiums

961. Teaching completely in Ruthenian is delivered in one local self-government unit in one high school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	4	60
2017/2018	1	1	4	57
2018/2019	1	1	4	60

University and higher education

962. At the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, in basic academic studies, Ruthenian language and literature are taught in Ruthenian language.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	1	1	2
Total number of students	11	6	6

963. In connection with the languages of national minorities, the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad has carried out a research project *Contemporary Situation in Ruthenian Studies: Language, Literature and Culture*.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

b. Make available technical and vocational education in Ruthenian as an integral part of the curriculum.

964. Bearing in mind the statutory requirement for the introduction of teaching on a minority language into the secondary education system, at least 15 students enrolled in the first grade are needed; institutions conduct parental surveys when enrolling students in high school. By completing the survey, the parent declares their preferred language of teaching. The institution is obliged, if the conditions prescribed by law are fulfilled, to provide instruction in the language of the national minority

965. According to the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, there is currently insufficient interest among students enrolling in secondary schools to form a technical or specialist education class in Ruthenian.

c. Favour and encourage the offering of Ruthenian as a subject of adult and continuing education.

966. Parents' surveys on elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture* are conducted each school year, through the Uniform Survey Sheet, which is

distributed to all primary schools through school administrations. Interested students in Adult Elementary Education schools are also interviewed by this survey sheet on attendance of the elective course/program Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture. In the previous school years, there wasn't a sufficient number of students interested in learning Ruthenian with elements of national culture. If the legal requirements are met and at least 15 students apply to learn Ruthenian with elements of national culture, the institution will be obliged to form a group and organize the teaching of this subject..

967. Since secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools for adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

968. According to the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that among the speakers of the Ruthenian language there is a negligible percentage of persons who have not completed primary education, and there is no need for this type of adult education.

d. Within the territory in which Ruthenian is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Ruthenian, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

969. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle and Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

970. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society*, *History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

971. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

972. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

973. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

974. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the second year gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

Article 9 - Judicial powers
paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d
paragraph 2 a, b, c
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

e. Take measures to encourage Ruthenian speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

975. The previous reports on the application of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire

judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Ruthenian.

976. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Ruthenian speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

977. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

978. According to available data, at the beginning of 2019, seven members of the Ruthenian national minority were employed in the courts of the Republic of Serbia, four of whom spoke Ruthenian language, one lay judge and two judges who spoke Ruthenian and were trained to conduct the proceedings in Ruthenian. During the reporting period, in the Basic Court in Novi Sad, in which the Ruthenian language is officially used, 21 proceedings were conducted in the languages of national minorities, of which 10 were in civil matters, 1 was a criminal case and 10 were contentious procedure.

979. According to the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the use of the Ruthenian language in the courts is at the same level as in the previous period - there are few applicants for the use of the Ruthenian language in proceedings, an inadequate number of employees who speak Ruthenian language, in most cases, it is still considered by the courts that a request to use a minority language is actually a way to delay the length of the proceedings.

980. The Ruthenian National Council received a petition from a Vrbas party to which the Basic Court in that place rejected a motion to institute civil proceedings in the Ruthenian

language on 28 June 2016, stating that the motion was made in order to abuse the procedural rights. Following the intervention of the National Council, the court nevertheless accepted the request and the proceedings continued with the involvement of a court interpreter for the Ruthenian language.

f. Inform Ruthenian speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

981. In addition to the above rules, the Rules of Procedure also contain additional rules of relevance for the wider use of minority languages in judicial proceedings. Namely, if the court proceedings are not conducted in the language of a national minority, and in the court, besides the Serbian language, the language of the national minority is also officially used, written documents shall be submitted in his language to the member of the national minority at their request. Translation of submissions and documents submitted to the court in the languages of national minorities is carried out by a translator. The minutes and decisions in the first instance proceedings relating to the proceedings shall be drafted, as authentic texts, in the Serbian language and in the established language of the proceedings. If necessary, they shall be translated into another language of the national minority, if required by a member of the national minority as a participant in proceedings not conducted in his language. Minutes and decisions in legal remedies proceedings shall be made in the Serbian language. The court of first instance shall translate the decisions taken by legal remedies into the established language of the proceedings and, if necessary, into the second language of national minorities, as well as submit them in a text credibly translated to the appropriate language (to the members of national minorities as participants in the proceedings). If written in the language of a national minority and sent to a court where the language is not in official use, a translation into Serbian shall be enclosed.

982. The full application of the above rules ensures that speakers of minority languages are informed at each stage of the proceedings of their right to use their language before a court and to decide to exercise their rights.

g. Make available in Ruthenian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to its users.

983. In order to increase the availability of the most important regulations pertaining to the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the amendments to the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities of 2018 stipulate that the ministry responsible for exercising the rights of national minorities provides the translation and publishes the collections of consolidated texts of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia, whose subject matter of regulation is, in whole or in most part, the exercise of rights of national minorities.

984. The Ministry is obliged to make these laws available in electronic format, on its website and on the eGovernment Portal, as well as to agree to send to the national councils of national minorities a certain number of collections of consolidated texts of these laws. Exceptionally, the

national council of a national minority may submit a proposal to the line ministry, on the grounds that it is of particular importance for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the national minority, for the line ministry to translate and publish a collection of consolidated texts of certain laws within its legal scope containing provisions pertaining to the exercise of rights and freedoms of national minorities, that is, to the social relations that are of particular importance to national minorities. When deciding on a proposal of a national council, particular consideration shall be given to the availability of the planned budgetary funds, as well as to whether amendments to these laws or an adoption of a new law is planned in the next one year that would replace the law proposed for translation or publishing.

985. Translating regulations into minority languages will help harmonize the professional legal terminology in minority languages and further affirm their use in proceedings before the state authorities.

986. As a number of laws governing the rights and status of persons belonging to national minorities have been amended in 2018, those laws, as well as the accompanying by-laws, have been translated into languages of national minorities that are in official use. These are the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the Decree on the Procedure for Allocating Funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities, and the Rulebook on the Method of Entering and Keeping the Register of National Councils, which are also available in Ruthenian.

987. In addition, during the election cycle for the election of the members of the national councils of national minorities in November 2018, the following documents were translated into Ruthenian: the Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament; Election Day Schedule for the Direct Election Procedure for National Minority Council Members, announced for November 4, 2018; Rules on the Work of Voting Committees for Electing the Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Instruction for direct elections for members of the national councils of national minorities; Election list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority; Statement of acceptance of candidacy for membership of the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority; Consent of the holder of the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority; Authorization to submit an electoral list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority; Voter Statement to Support the Election List of Candidates for Members of the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority; List of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority; ballot paper.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services
paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2 b, c, d, g

paragraph 3 c
paragraph 4 c
paragraph 5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Take organisational measures to ensure that Ruthenian speakers may submit oral or written applications in this language to local branches of the national authorities and encourage Ruthenian speakers to make use of this possibility in practice.

988. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, administrative districts in the Republic of Serbia have been formed to perform public administration tasks outside the seats of the state administration bodies and reflect the dispersion of state affairs. For easier carrying out tasks within the scope and outside their seats, the ministries or provincial secretariats establish for a certain territory their detached units - district territorial units. The cluster of all district regional units in a certain territory is an administrative district - a regional center of state administration.

989. In the administrative district, public administration bodies may, at their discretion, perform one or more of the following public administration tasks: to resolve administrative matters in the first instance, to supervise the work of holders of public authority, and to conduct the supervisory inspections.

990. District regional units of the state administration bodies have been formed in order to optimize the carrying out of state administration tasks, and above all the supervisory inspection activities. Ministries conduct for their district territorial units the HR policy, establish work plans, issue directives and instructions, and, on the basis of their competencies, on their websites, they direct parties to the district regional units of state administration bodies, in areas where the language of a national minority is in official, they may conduct the proceedings both in the language and using the script of that national minority.

991. An Administrative Service is established in the administrative district, which shall essentially perform the tasks, general and common to all district regional units and provide expert and technical support to the head of the administrative district. Jobs within the scope of the Professional Services of the administrative district can be grouped into: legal, financial, registry, professional and technical support to the head of the administrative district and others.

992. Although there are no obstacles or restrictions to the use of oral or written applications in minority languages by the speakers of minority languages, most of the administrative districts have stated in their contributions to the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that so far there have been no cases in the professional service of the administrative district of an oral or written address in minority languages to the Head of the District, national

inspection services, or provincial secretariats. All employees of the professional services of the administrative districts, as far as they are in contact with the parties, respect the rights of national minorities and always serve every party, regardless of their nationality or the language in which the party has addressed them. Should the party address them orally or in writing in a minority language, the professional service would meet him, enable him to exercise his right, and to the extent possible, to obtain a response in the minority language.

993. In order to ensure that speakers of national minority languages can file written applications, complaints and petitions with the Government of Vojvodina - Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, the South Bačka Administrative District has reached an agreement on the engagement of their Department for translation in the Sector for National Minorities - National Communities and Translation.

994. In order to carry out these operations, funds under sub-analytic account 423111 - Translation Services are planned within the Budget and Financial Plan of the South Bačka Administrative District for 2019, under Group 423 - Contracted Services.

995. The Head of the South Bačka Administrative District, at the sessions of the Collegium, attended by all the heads of district regional units of state bodies, regularly points out the obligations arising from the Law on General Administrative Procedure, as well as Article 10 of the European Charter.

996. In the territory of the North Bačka Administrative District, members of national minorities are allowed to file a written application in Ruthenian, and the District Expert Service is making every effort to respect their rights and to ensure the translation.

997. All employees of the Professional Service of the Srem District, in accordance with the positive legislation, respect the rights of national minorities and always meet the requests of the citizens. Should a citizen make a submission, request or any other address in the Ruthenian language, the District Service will respect the party's right and allow the translation of the submitted communication as well as the response in this language.

h. Encourage the local branches of the national authorities to draft documents in Ruthenian.

998. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System,

which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

i. Ensure that users of Ruthenian may submit oral or written applications in Ruthenian to the local authorities.

999. As stated in the previous reports on the application of the Charter, parties have the right to address the local and regional authorities orally or in writing in their language, and this right is exercised in practice. Local self-government authorities place on their notice boards and buildings that parties may submit their requests and addresses in the minority language that is in official use, and request to receive their response in that language

1000. In 2016, the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities -National Communities conducted an online survey and collected data from the bodies of local self-government units and provincial bodies and organizations, including, inter alia, oral and written communication of these bodies with citizens.

1001. Based on the data collected, the total number of employees in the bodies of local self-government is 5,594 persons, and in the bodies of AP of Vojvodina 1,180 persons. Of these, 40 (0.59%) are members of the Ruthenian minority, 29 (0.43%) indicated that Ruthenian language was their mother tongue, and 40 indicated that they knew the Ruthenian language.

1002. Available resources for successful use of languages and scripts of national minorities at the local level, in addition to staffing capacities that include both officials and translators and certified interpreters, include the availability of public publications, guides, notices and information boards in national minority languages, existence of official gazettes of local self-government units in languages and scripts of national minorities, publication of information on official websites of the local self-government units in languages and scripts of national minorities, the availability of documents and forms of various submissions (requests, petitions, etc.) in the languages and scripts of national minorities, the conduct of complete administrative proceedings in the languages and scripts of the national minorities, and the issuing of birth certificates and other registrar services provided in languages and scripts of national minorities.

1003. The table below provides information on measures to help speakers of the Ruthenian language use the opportunity to file an oral or written application in Ruthenian language in local self-government units in which the Ruthenian language is in official use

Local self-government	**Measures contributing to the use of oral or written application in Ruthenian to the local authorities**

unit	
Bačka Topola	In the Municipal Administration, one employee knows the Ruthenian language. Members of the Ruthenian minority were informed of the possibility to effectively exercise their rights in the area of official use of language and script orally (when the party addresses the authority), by the local media and through print media and bulletins. Speakers of the Ruthenian language do not address the local authorities in the Ruthenian language, although they can. In the case of a written address by a citizen in Ruthenian language, the citizen would receive a response in Ruthenian language, by providing a translator by the municipality, in accordance with the law. Bilingual birth certificates in the Ruthenian language are available to the citizens.
Vrbas	In the municipal administration, 15 employees know the Ruthenian language. Ruthenian language speakers were informed by notice on the bulletin boards of the possibility of submitting oral or written submissions in Ruthenian language. Certain requests, notices and bulletins are available in Ruthenian language; they are also published on the municipality's website. Although oral or written application in Ruthenian language is enabled and municipal administration staff are familiar with Ruthenian language, Ruthenian speakers do not address these bodies in Ruthenian.
Žabalj	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Jobs in the Municipal Administration, the Municipal Assembly and the Municipal Attorney's Office of the Municipality of Žabalj describes one job position as requiring knowledge of the Ruthenian language. In the municipal administration, three employees know the Ruthenian language. Ruthenian language speakers are informed by notice on the bulletin boards of the possibility of submitting oral or written submissions in Ruthenian language. Election notices are published in Ruthenian, and bilingual birth certificates are available. The parties may submit their requests in Ruthenian and receive a reply in this language.
Kula	Act of systematization proscribes the knowledge of Ruthenian language for one lob position, and the total number of employees who know Ruthenian is 6. The citizens can contact and receive a reply in Ruthenian language, and they are informed by bulletin boards and by employees of the municipal administration. The municipality of Kula has provided a Ruthenian language translator available to Ruthenian citizens who wish to use Ruthenian language in communication with municipal authorities. Speakers of the Ruthenian language rarely address the municipal authorities in their own language. The wedding ceremonies are mostly conducted in Ruthenian.
Novi Sad	By the Act on Unified Systematization of Jobs in City Administrations, Special Organizations and Services of the City of Novi Sad, there are no systematized jobs requiring the knowledge of Ruthenian. One employee knows the Ruthenian language. A review of official records has revealed that in the period 2016-2018 there were no oral or written communications in Ruthenian. In the event that the citizens address in the authority in Ruthenian, they may receive an answer in that language, since it is ensured that in places where employees communicate with the citizens, there are employees who know some of the languages of national minorities in official use. In 2018, 200 administrative cases in a special electoral roll were conducted in Ruthenian.
Šid	The total number of employees who know Ruthenian is 4. Ruthenian language speakers are informed by notice on the bulletin boards of the possibility of the possibility of submitting oral or written submissions in Ruthenian. A number of forms, templates and notices are available in Ruthenian. Although oral or written application in Ruthenian language is enabled, speakers of Ruthenian language do not address the municipal authorities in Ruthenian.

1004. The National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority states that in local self-governments there are generally either no Ruthenian-speaking employees in workplaces who are in daily contact with the citizens, or there are not enough of them, so that the application of this article is difficult.

1005. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities regularly launches competitions for the allocation of budget funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina,who officially use languages and scripts of national minorities. Funds are also allocated, inter alia, for the training of employees of bodies and organizations using the national minority language, which has been identified as a language in official use, and in particular in workplaces where the employees are contacted by citizens (participation in courses, seminars etc.), as well as for the development of an e-government system for working in multilingualism, further enhancing the possibility of exercising the right of speakers of minority languages to file an oral or written application in their own language. The text of the competition with applications for the competition is printed and published in the Serbian language and in the Cyrillic script, followed by the Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian and Ruthenian languages and scripts.

1006. Information on the amount of funds allocated for the training of employees of organs and organizations is contained in the table below.

2016	**2017**
221,064.00	1,377,000.00

1007. Information on the amount of funds allocated for the development of a multilingual e-government system is contained in the table below.

2016	**2017**
200,000.00	232,000.00

j. Facilitate the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Ruthenian.

1008. The statute of the AP of Vojvodina stipulates that Serbian language and the Cyrillic script, Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian and Ruthenian languages and their scripts are in official use in the bodies and organizations of the AP of Vojvodina.

1009. The Statute of the AP of Vojvodina, the Provincial Assembly Decisions and the general acts of the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina, as well as the Provincial decrees and decisions of the Provincial Government are published in the Official Gazette of the AP of Vojvodina. These acts are published in all the languages that are officially in use in the work of the bodies of AP of Vojvodina, including the Ruthenian language.

1010. In addition, the website of the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina and the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - national communities, including official documents on these sites, have been translated and made available in all languages that are officially used in the work of the provincial authorities. and further translation and updating of the websites of other provincial administrative bodies is ongoing.

1011. The statutes of local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use also determine the publication of local general acts in the official gazettes of local self-government units. In this sense, since it allows the local self-government units to identify minority languages that are in official use, the state approves and encourages local authorities to publish their documents in minority languages.

1012. Official documents of local self-government units are available to speakers of minority languages through various printed publications, bulletins, or newsletters published by the local self-government units.

1013. In the competition that the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities announces for the allocation of budget funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, who officially use languages and scripts of national minorities, among other things, are allocated and for the production of official newsletters, multilingual forms and other public publications. Information on the amount of funding allocated at these competitions for the development of official gazettes and the printing of multilingual public publications, which contributes to improving the availability of official documents in minority languages, is contained in the table below.

2016	**2017**	**2018**
505.000,00	2.656.900,00	2.333.000,00

k. Encourage Ruthenian speakers to submit their requests in Ruthenian to public service providers.

1014. The Law on Public Services does not contain an explicit provision on the language in which citizens can address public services to exercise their rights and obligations, but bearing in mind that public services, when deciding on the rights and obligations of citizens, organizations or users of their services and when they carry out other tasks prescribed by law, decide and work under the General Administrative Procedure Act and the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, this means that oral and written requests may also be submitted in minority languages.

1015. As there is no legal obligation to specifically keep records of requests made by minority language speakers to public services, there is no aggregate information on the number of requests submitted. To illustrate the possibility of using minority languages in communication with public services, information provided by public companies founded by the Republic of Serbia, which participated in the preparation of this report, according to which there was no written address by users of services in one of the minority languages, highlighting their competence to respond to requests in minority languages. The following public companies have responded to the invitation to participate in the development of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter:

Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" doo., Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

1016. Distribution System Operator EPS d.o.o. Belgrade points out that the general acts of the Operator are not conceived on a territorial, but on a functional principle, with the exception of branches - power distribution, which perform the technical part of the operations of the Operator's predominant activity, but also these units are designed to represent the connection of one functional entity with the same individual operations of that functional whole that are performed in the consumption areas of the branches. According to the above, the normative and nomotechnical determination of the concept of the general acts of the Operator is not territorial, but unique and functional, and for the above reasons no knowledge of minority languages is foreseen as a special condition for carrying out any job in the Operator. Likewise, the general acts of the Operator do not contain any negative or discriminatory norms that prevent the filing or receipt of requests in minority languages, and therefore there is a possibility that requests to the Operator may be submitted in minority languages, in accordance with the law.

1017. The Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade states that it has ensured the application of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts in the areas of working units and regional work units in which official languages and scripts of national minorities are in use. No requests were made in the languages of national minorities during the reporting period, although conditions were provided for such requests to be addressed. Namely, the work units and the regional work units in their work strive to enable users to use languages that are in equal official use when providing postal and other services, which implies that the names of work units or regional units are written in the territory of certain local self-government units, among others, work units, stamps and stamps, as well as the forms used on a daily basis in the work of the post network front office and in the delivery (e.g. shipment arrival notification form, registered receipt form, letter consignments, departure telegram form, etc.).

1018. PE Srbijagas points out that it is possible for clients to address the company in minority languages and to use them in this public company.

1019. Local self-government units involved in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, in which the Ruthenian language is in official use, state that public services and public enterprises founded by local self-government units allow speakers of Ruthenian to submit their requests or other written documents in Ruthenian. The exercise of this right is made possible in practice, both by the employment of minority language speakers in public services and public enterprises, and by the hiring of court interpreters or translators as needed. In the territories of local self-government in which the Ruthenian language is officially used, in public companies all employees have the same rights regarding the use of both languages for official purposes, which is regulated by the acts adopted by their founder.

l. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure concerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Ruthenian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

1020. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[50], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charterthere were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the Ruthenian language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

1021. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

1022. PE Post of Serbia notes that when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in that area.

1023. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

1024. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and who speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the Employment Contract.

1025. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1 January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization

[50] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad

and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs shall, among other things, define jobs for which, as a special condition, knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat, or its organizational unit are located. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

m. Facilitate the use of place names in Ruthenian.

1026. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have provided detailed explanations of legislative solutions that have enabled the adoption and use of traditional names of towns and settlements in minority languages. Namely, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that in areas where members of national minorities constitute a significant population, traditional local names, street names, settlements and topographical marks should also be written in their minority language. The Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities encourages the use of traditional forms of names of towns and settlements in minority languages, since the law provides that in the territory of a local self-government unit where official language is in official use, the names of bodies exercising public authority, the names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms are also written in the minority language, in line with the tradition and spelling of that language. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities prescribes that the traditional names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographical names are determined by the national council of the national minority.

1027. Section 5.3.7. of the first report on the implementation of the Charter, contains information on the traditional names of cities, municipalities and settlements in the Ruthenian language. As the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority did not establish the traditional names of the towns and settlements in that language within the stipulated time, the Executive Council of Vojvodina, in accordance with the Decision on closer regulation of certain issues pertaining to the official use of languages and scripts of national minorities in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, made the Decision on establishing the traditional names of municipalities and settlements in the Ruthenian language, published in the Official Gazette of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in 2006.

1028. At the end of 2016, the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority has issued a Decision on determining the traditional names of municipalities and settlements in the Ruthenian language, which was published in the Official Gazette of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

in 2016. The table below provides information on the traditional names of settlements in Ruthenian which were determined by the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority.

No.	Name of the municipality in Serbian	Name of the place in Serbian	Name of the municipality in Ruthenian	Name of the place in Ruthenian
1.	Bačka Topola	Bačka Topola	Бачка Тополя	Бачка Тополя
	Bačka Topola	Bagremovo	Бачка Тополя	Баґремово
	Bačka Topola	Bajša	Бачка Тополя	Байша
	Bačka Topola	Bački Sokolac	Бачка Тополя	Бачки Соколац
	Bačka Topola	Bogaroš	Бачка Тополя	Боґарош
	Bačka Topola	Gornja Rogatica	Бачка Тополя	Горня Роґатица
	Bačka Topola	Gunaroš	Бачка Тополя	Ґунарош
	Bačka Topola	Zobnatica	Бачка Тополя	Зобнатица
	Bačka Topola	Karađorđevo	Бачка Тополя	Карадьордєво
	Bačka Topola	Kavilo	Бачка Тополя	Кавило
	Bačka Topola	Krivaja	Бачка Тополя	Кривая
	Bačka Topola	Mali Beograd	Бачка Тополя	Мали Беоґрад
	Bačka Topola	Mićunovo	Бачка Тополя	Мичуново
	Bačka Topola	Novo Orahovo	Бачка Тополя	Нове Орахово
	Bačka Topola	Njegoševo	Бачка Тополя	Нєґошево
	Bačka Topola	Obornjača	Бачка Тополя	Оборняча
	Bačka Topola	Tomislavci	Бачка Тополя	Томиславци
	Bačka Topola	Panonija	Бачка Тополя	Панония
	Bačka Topola	Pačir	Бачка Тополя	Пачир
	Bačka Topola	Pobeda	Бачка Тополя	Побида
	Bačka Topola	Svetićevo	Бачка Тополя	Светичево
	Bačka Topola	Srednji Salaš	Бачка Тополя	Штреднї Салаш
	Bačka Topola	Stara Moravica	Бачка Тополя	Стара Моравица
2.	Vrbas	Vrbas	Вербас	Вербас
	Vrbas	Bačko Dobro Polje	Вербас	Бачке Добре Польо
	Vrbas	Zmajevo	Вербас	Змаєво
	Vrbas	Kosančić	Вербас	Косанчич
	Vrbas	Kucura	Вербас	Коцур
	Vrbas	Ravno Selo	Вербас	Равне Село
	Vrbas	Savino Selo	Вербас	Савине Село
3.	Žabalj	Žabalj	Жабель	Жабель
	Žabalj	Čurug	Жабель	Чуроґ
	Žabalj	Đurđevo	Жабель	Дюрдьов
	Žabalj	Gospođinci	Жабель	Ґосподїнци
4.	Kula	Kula	Кула	Кула
	Kula	Kruščić	Кула	Крущич
	Kula	Lipar	Кула	Липар
	Kula	Nova Crvenka	Кула	Нова Червинка
	Kula	Ruski Krstur	Кула	Руски Керестур
	Kula	Sivac	Кула	Сивец
	Kula	Crvenka	Кула	Червинка
5.	Novi Sad	Novi Sad	Нови Сад	Нови Сад
	Novi Sad	Futog	Нови Сад	Футоґ

	Novi Sad	Veternik	Нови Сад	Ветерник
	Novi Sad	Begeč	Нови Сад	Беґеч
	Novi Sad	Kisač	Нови Сад	Кисач
	Novi Sad	Rumenka	Нови Сад	Руменка
	Novi Sad	Stepanovićevo	Нови Сад	Степановичево
	Novi Sad	Kać	Нови Сад	Кач
	Novi Sad	Čenej	Нови Сад	Ченей
	Novi Sad	Budisava	Нови Сад	Будисава
	Novi Sad	Kovilj	Нови Сад	Ковиль
	Novi Sad	Petrovaradin	Нови Сад	Петроварадин
	Novi Sad	Sremska Kamenica	Нови Сад	Сримска Каменїца
	Novi Sad	Bukovac	Нови Сад	Буковец
	Novi Sad	Ledinci	Нови Сад	Лединци
	Novi Sad	Stari Ledinci	Нови Сад	Стари Лединци
6.	Šid	Šid	Шид	Шид
	Šid	Adaševci	Шид	Адашевци
	Šid	Bačinci	Шид	Бачинци
	Šid	Batrovci	Шид	Батровци
	Šid	Berkasovo	Шид	Беркасово
	Šid	Bikić Do	Шид	Бикич
	Šid	Bingula	Шид	Бинґула
	Šid	Vašica	Шид	Вашица
	Šid	Višnjićevo	Шид	Вишнїчево
	Šid	Gibarac	Шид	Ґибарац
	Šid	Erdevik	Шид	Ердевик
	Šid	Ilinci	Шид	Илинци
	Šid	Jamena	Шид	Ямена
	Šid	Kukujevci	Шид	Куковци
	Šid	Ljuba	Шид	Люба
	Šid	Molovin	Шид	Моловин
	Šid	Morović	Шид	Морович
	Šid	Privina Glava	Шид	Привина Глава
	Šid	Sot	Шид	Сот

1029. At the end of 2018, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government sent a letter to the heads of city and municipal administrations in which the languages and the scripts of national minorities were officially used, which emphasized that they were obliged to adhere in their work and conduct to all relevant regulations guaranteeing the right to the official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities, which also includes the provision of names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other place names on multilingual boards.

1030. There are numerous examples of the use of traditional names of settlements in minority languages, from the printing of nameplates of settlements, through the names of institutions, memoranda and seals of local self-government bodies, to the use of these names in public documents, in application forms or deletion from the special electoral roll of a national minority,

during the election process, on tourist signage, in official gazettes, informants and brochures of local self-government units, etc.

1031. The following table provides available information on the practice of using traditional names of settlements in the Ruthenian language provided by local self-government units that have responded to the invitation to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter.

Local self-government unit	Use of traditional place names in Ruthenian
Bačka Topola	Tables with the names of Bačka Topola and Novo Orahovo are also written in Ruthenian. Traditional names of places in the Ruthenian language are used in bilingual excerpts from registry books as well as on the nameplates of municipal bodies and organizational units.
Vrbas	Table with the name of Kucura is written in Ruthenian also. Traditional names of places in the Ruthenian language are used on the boards with the name of organs and organizational units, institutions and seals of the organs, institutions and public enterprises.
Žabalj	Tables with the names of Gospođinci, Đurđevo and Žabalj are written in Ruthenian also. The traditional names of places in the Ruthenian language are used on the boards with the names of municipal bodies, organizational units and institutions, as well as their seals.
Kula	The table with the name of Ruski Krstur is also written in Ruthenian. Traditional names of places in Ruthenian language are used on the boards with the names of municipal bodies, organizational units and their seals, as well as on the boards with the names of institutions.
Novi Sad	Tables with the names of the places in the Ruthenian language were placed in Budisava, Kisač and Rumenka. Signboards with the traditional names of the city of Novi Sad and in populated places are highlighted at the institutions of the Novi Sad city authorities, local self-governments, the Public Attorney's Office of the City of Novi Sad, the Protector of the Citizens of the City of Novi Sad.
Šid	Tables with the names Bačinci and Bikić Do are also written in Ruthenian. Traditional names of places in the Ruthenian language are used on the board with the name of the organs, information boards, seals of the organs and bilingual excerpts from the registry books.

1032. The spelling of the names of settlements in the Ruthenian language has not been applied everywhere, and the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority periodically informs local self-governments of the shortcomings observed, and they correct them within a relatively short period of time. At the end of 2016, the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority has adopted a Decision establishing the traditional names of municipalities and settlements in the Ruthenian language and forwarded it to all local self-governments in which the Ruthenian language is in official use.

1033. In the election process for members of national councils of national minorities held in November 2018, traditional forms of place names in minority languages were used in the electoral material, inter alia, on the election lists of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; statements of acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority; the approvals of the holders of the electoral list of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; the power of attorney to submit an election

list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; voters' statements that they support the election list of candidates for members of the national minority council; lists of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; decisions on the establishment of an aggregate electoral list for members of national councils of national minorities; forms for collecting electorate signatures; lists of candidates for members of the national council of the national minority for elections by electoral assembly; statements on the acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority in elections through the electoral assembly; certificates of the voting right for voting outside the polling station, etc.

1034. The traditional forms of place names in minority languages are also used in request forms for erasing the name from the special electoral roll of a national minority. The above forms have been translated into the languages of national minorities that are in official use and the traditional name of the place in minority language may be used when filling in the section on the place of residence. The above information is entered in an identical manner in the special electoral roll of a national minority.

1035. Within the competition for allocation of budgetary funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, in whose work the languages and scripts of national minorities are officially used, the competent provincial secretariat also allocates funds for creating multilingual boards with names of bodies and organizations, settlements, street names etc. Information on the funds allocated in these competitions for the placement of boards with the names of bodies and organizations, settlements and street names is contained in the table below.

2016	2017	2018
2,252,200.00	5,334,100.00	7,167,000.00

n. Draw the attention of local authorities to the right to use family names in Ruthenian in conformity with the spelling and script of that language, and if needed, provide them with technical support to ensure the effective use of this right.

1036. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have detailed the legislative framework for exercising the right of persons belonging to national minorities to enter their personal name according to their language and spelling. The right to enter a personal name in the minority language and spelling in the registers does not depend on the official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities, it is provided in the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia.

1037. The provision of Article 17 of the Law on Civil Registers[51] stipulates that the personal name of a child, parents, spouse and deceased is entered in the Serbian language, in Cyrillic script, and the persons belonging to national minorities have the right to enter their personal

[51] Official Gazette of RS, no. 20/2009, 145/2014 and 47/2018

name in accordance with the language and spelling of the language of the national minority members, which does not exclude a parallel entry of a personal name in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script as well.

1038. In the past period, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has provided to all the bodies performing the entrusted activities of keeping the registry books an Instruction on the method of entering the personal name of persons belonging to a national minority in the registers in order to harmonize the practice of work and application of the regulations on the registry. The instruction directs the manner of work related to the registration of the personal name of a member of a national minority, regardless of the place of entry of a particular fact in the registers and irrespective of whether that information is entered during the basic registration in the registry or during subsequent registration. Also, along with the aforementioned instruction, an example of the Notice on the procedure and manner of entering the personal name of a national minority member in the registers was distributed for placing on the bulletin boards of all the registered areas of the cities/municipalities for which the registers are kept.

1039. An Administrative Inspectorate has been set up in the Ministry; among other things, it supervises the work and activities of territorial autonomy bodies and local self-government units. The Administrative Inspectorate verifies whether these bodies comply with the regulations governing, among other things, the official use of languages and scripts and the registry.

1040. The Administrative Inspectorate carries out inspection supervision in accordance with the annual work program proposed by the Chief Administrative Inspector and approved by the Government. In the course of the implementation of the Work Program, the Administrative Inspectorate performed a total of 4,341 inspections and has acted upon 4,607 petitions from citizens and legal entities and has notified the petitioners of the outcome of the proceedings in the period 2016-2018.

1041. A total of 7,056 measures have been proposed to the inspection bodies in the Minutes of the supervisory inspection, to remedy the identified irregularities, irregularities and deficiencies. Of the total number of the proposed measures, 23 measures were concerning the right a national minority member to enter their personal name in the register in the language and script of the national minority in accordance with the Law on Civil Registers and the Instruction on Keeping Registers and Registry Forms. The measures proscribed included the local self-government units, which provided by their Statute that, in addition to the Serbian language and script, the official language was Ruthenian (Bačka Topola, Vrbas, Žabalj and Novi Sad).

1042. According to the available data the right to enter a personal name in Ruthenian into the registers was used in the Registry Office of Stara Pazova Municipality during the reporting period.

Local self-government unit	**Number of entries of personal names in Ruthenian**		
	2016.	**2017.**	**2018.**

Stara Pazova	-	-	1

1043. Also, in the period 2016 - 2018, in Novi Sad, the parties exercised the possibility of exercising the right to enter their first name in their mother tongue (Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian, Roma and other languages) but kept a summary record. In 2016, there were a total of 184 enrollments, in 2017, 118 enrollments, while in 2018, there were a total of 172 enrollments.

1044. In addition, as outlined in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the regulations of the Republic of Serbia enable the civil register forms to be printed bilingually in local self-government units where the Statute establishes that minority language is in official use. Item 137 of the Instruction on keeping the registers and registers forms[52] stipulates that in the units of local self-government where the Statute establishes that the language of a national minority is in official use, the civil register forms are printed as bilingual, in Serbian, in Cyrillic script and in the language and script of that national minority whose language is in official use.

1045. In local self-governments where the Ruthenian language is in official use, it is noted that, although bilingual excerpts from registry books certificates on Serbian-Ruthenian forms were available to the citizens, during the reporting period there were no requests for them, except in the municipality of Vrbas.

Local self-government unit	Number of excerpts issued on bilingual, Serbian-Ruthenian forms		
	2016	2017	2018
Vrbas	-	1	-

Article 11 - Media

paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
paragraph 2
paragraph 3

1046. As public information in Ruthenian is made up of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing media radio and television broadcasting services in Ruthenian, basic activity of the public media services, financing media content in Ruthenian language on private media and financing of the media whose indirect founder is National the Council of the Ruthenian National Minority.

1047. The table below shows the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analog signal and media television broadcasting via a digital signal in Ruthenian.

No.	Radio	Television
1.	Impres DOO, Bačka Topola-Radi Trend	Sremska televizija DOO, Šid-Sremska TV
2.	Kopernikus RTV Šid DOO, Šid-Radi Šid	Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9

[52] Official Gazette of RS, no. 93/2018

3.	Radio fantasi DOO, Vrbas-Radio fantasi naksi 106,5	
4.	IIC Katoličke crkve Rado Marija, Novi Sad-Radio Marija Novi Sad	
5.	IIC Katoličke crkve Rado Marija, Subotica-Radio Marija Subotica	
6.	Đakovačka i Sremska biskupija, Vikarijat Sremski, Petrovaradin-Radio Marija Vrdnik	
7.	IIC Katoličke crkve Rado Marija, Sombor-Radio Marija Sombor	
8.	Informativni centar DOO, Bačka Topola-Radio regije	
9.	Centar za trening i edukaciju Žabalj-Naš radio 107,8	
10.	Radio Bačka DOO, Bač-Radio Bačka 99,1	
11.	Kula DOO, Kula-Q Radio 89,2	
Total	11	2

1048. The table below lists media service providers providing media service of television broadcasting of programs in Ruthenian via the cable system.

No.	**TELEVISION**
1.	Informativni centar DOO, Bačka Topola-Express channel
2.	RTV Panonija DOO, Novi Sad-TV Panonija
3.	Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
4.	Sremska televizija DOO, Šid-Sremska TV
5.	Kula DOO, Kula-Q Radio
6.	Kopernikus kabl netvork DOO, Niš-KCN Sever
Total	6

1049. According to the data of RTV, in the reporting period, there was a noticeable increase in the Ruthenian language programs on RTV Second Program compared to 2015. The Ruthenian-language television program is represented by 8.37% of the total broadcast program of RTV 2 in 2018. The program is dominated by informative content (73.61%). In addition to the news program, the national and cultural identity of Vojvodina Ruthenians on RTV 2 is nurtured in documentary, children's and music programs[53].

1050. A total of 5 periodicals are published in Ruthenian.

1051. Informing in Ruthenian is financially supported from the republic, provincial and local budgets by co-financing of the projects selected in competitions.

1052. The Ministry of Culture and Information supported projects selected in competitions that were implemented through various types of media, thus facilitating and encouraging the use of Ruthenian in the media.

Year	**Number of projects**	**Media**	**Amount**

[53] Public media Service RTV– ways of meeting the legal programme obligations, Report of the Regulatory body for Electronic Media for the period 01/01 – 31/12 2018, p. 85

2016.	2	Print	830,000.00
2017.	1	Radio	400,000.00
2017.	1	Print	450,000.00
2018.	1	Radio	450,000.00

1053. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Ruthenian.

	RUTHENIAN	Number of projects	Total funds
2016.	**Type of media**	**1**	**100,000.00**
	Radio	1	100,000.00
2017.		**2**	**200,000.00**
	Newspapers	1	100,000.00
	Production	1	100,000.00
2018.		**4**	**500,000.00**
	Television	2	200,000.00
	Radio	1	150,000.00
	Production	1	150,000.00

1054. The budget of AP of Vojvodina subsidizes newspapers of provincial importance, including newspapers in Ruthenian. The table below provides information on subsidizing this type of media.

Publisher	Media	2016.	2017.	2018.
NPI Ruske slovo, Novi Sad	"Ruske slovo"- Ruthenian language	26,262,000.00	26,262,000.00	27,576,000.00
	"Zahratka"	2,412,000.00	2,412,000.00	2,532,000.00
	"Mak"	2,412,000.00	2,412,000.00	2,532,000.00
Total		**31,086,000.00**	**31,086,000.00**	**32,640,000.00**

1055. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of information for national minorities.

1056. The table below shows the number of programs and projects and the amount of funding allocated per year to the Ruthenian national minority.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2017	1	50,000.00
2018	1	300,000.00

1057. From 2016 to 2018, the municipality of Vrbas has financed programs and projects of multilingual media and of media content in Ruthenian, Hungarian and Ukrainian. For 2016, it allocated RSD 100,000.00, for 2017, RSD 300,000.00, and for 2018, RSD 300,000.00.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

o. Encourage the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Ruthenian.

1058. The Republic of Serbia, AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units continuously encourage the production and distribution of audio and audio-visual content in Ruthenian language through project co-financing. In addition to the children's show *Нарисуй ми приповедку - Draw me a story*, the entire program in Ruthenian language on RTV is produced by RTV.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits
paragraph 1 a, b, c, f
paragraph 2

1059. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually awards, through competition, funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities.

1060. The table below shows information on the number of programs and the amount of funding allocated to institutions and organizations in Ruthenian.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	2	500,000.00
2017	4	510,000.00
2018	5	740,000.00

1061. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities supports public institutions in the preservation of the cultural identity and creativity of persons belonging to national minorities and the implementation of projects and programs promoting the culture, preservation and presentation of the cultural heritage of national minorities and whose program activities are implemented in cooperation with national councils or institutions and organizations established by the members of national minorities.

1062. The Secretariat co-finances the Institute for Culture of the Vojvodina Ruthenians with the following amounts:

Beneficiary	2016	2017	2018
Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Ruthenians	5,830,000.00	6,600,000.00	6,600,000.00

1063. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities finances from its budget (within the program activity Support to the Cultural Activity of National Minorities) programs and projects of importance for the culture and art of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina through a public competition it publishes annually. Programs and projects in the field of protection of the intangible cultural heritage and artistic

creation of national minorities and in the field of publishing in the languages of national minorities are co-financed.

1064. The table below provides information on the number and type of co-financed projects and programs and the amount of funds paid for the Ruthenian language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds	Total
2016	Publishing	1	300,000.00	660,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	6	360,000.00	
2017	Publishing	4	270,000.00	735,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	17	465,000.00	
2018	Publishing	11	620,000.00	1,385,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	19	765,000.00	

1065. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

1066. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects of associations of the Ruthenian minority members and the amount of funds awarded in the call for proposals for grants to organizations of ethnic communities in the period 2016 - 2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	7	350,000.00
2017	9	1,110,000.00
2018	19	1,110,000.00

1067. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of the Ruthenian minority members in the period 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Bačka Topola	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
2.	Žabalj	550,000.00	910,000.00	780,000.00
3.	Kula	220,000.00	100,000.00	120,000.00
4.	Šid	350,000.00	-	-

1068. According to the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, translation of works from Ruthenian and to Ruthenian, dubbing and subtitling are not very represented in the field of culture, primarily because of the high costs of each of these procedures, so mostly literary works are translated.

1069. The nurturing of national culture and artistic creativity has a long tradition with Ruthenians and cultural and art societies operate in all places where Ruthenians live. The well-known International Festival of the Red Rose, then the Petar Riznič Đađa Drama Memorial, as well as the Kosteljnik Autumn cultural event are organized in Ruski Krstur for over 50 years.

1070. The cultural manifestation of Kosteljnik Autumn is held in Ruski Krstur, Kula, Novi Sad, Đurđev and Kucura. In addition to presenting the authors and the latest editions of "Ruske slovo", or literary-music programs, there are also reciting meetings. For all high school students, educators and other interested persons, lectures are organized to cover topics dedicated to Ruthenian language education and topics dedicated to Dr. Havriel Kosteljnik, the first significant Ruthenian writer and linguist from the territory of present-day Vojvodina.

1071. The Ruthenians in Serbia publish the Journal of Literature, Culture and Art, *Шветлосц* and the almanac *Русински календар*, and aiming to strengthen their capacity in the field of language preservation, a translation workshop was also carried out in 2018. Ruthenian theatrical work is also well known; it is presented in the framework of the mentioned Petar Riznič Đađa Drama Memorial.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

p. Foster access in other languages to works produced in Ruthenian by aiding and developing tranf lation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

1072. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces an open call for co-financing the cultural activities of national minorities, and support for translations, dubbing and subtitling of translations of works produced in national minority languages is cited as one of the priorities of the competition. So far, relatively few users have applied for projects of this type, and the reasons for this may differ. Projects are often planned and implemented without a broader perception of the importance of translating the content, in the context of accessibility and audience development. That is why networking of different cultural actors from different territories, when planning and implementing the program, is another important competition priority that can contribute to a greater use of minority languages.

1073. Compared to the previous reporting period, there is an increase in the number of subtitling or translation projects, as well as those that correspond with the broader community, i.e. not targeting members of only one national minority; it cannot be said that a standard has been established but that these are sporadic examples of good practice. In the last three years, the Ministry has supported the issuing of 22 publications, for which 12 different national minorities have applied. Some of them are translations, while the others are original works, sometimes resulting from scientific and research work.

1074. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities attaches great importance to the protection of the linguistic identity of minority languages, inter alia, by co-financing projects of translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling of works created in the languages of national minorities, from budgetary resources distributed through competition.

q. Foster access in Ruthenian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

1075. The Republic of Serbia fosters the access to content in languages of national minorities originating in other languages by providing assistance or developing translation, synchronization, post-synchronization and subtitling of the translation. The Ministry of Culture and Information, through public calls for proposals, co-finances selected projects to the extent in which that there are interested applicants. However, both the realistic production and the artistic value of the resulting work must be taken into account for the presence of a particular type of project.

1076. By conducting a competition for the translation of representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, the Ministry of Culture and Information subsidizes foreign publishers for translation into the language of their native country. Within the Competition for translating representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, which actually subsidizes foreign publishers, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In the period from 2016 to 2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages, and EUR 108,300, USD 2,000 and RSD 1,612,000.00 were allocated for these purposes.

1077. When it comes to audiovisual production (film industry), it is well known that it belongs to the creative industries and is therefore market oriented. The Ministry, in this very fact, sees a potential reason for the absence of more translations into minority languages, because it is not profitable to make translations into languages that will not bring market value, even if the government subsidizes this activity. An example of this is the translations of films supported by the Ministry, mainly made for the purpose of appearing at festivals or other events in the countries of origin (the Film Center of Serbia allocates funds for translation of films if distributors show interest).

r. In territories other than those in which Rut enian is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Ruthenian.

1078. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities through competition, which encourage cultural activities and content in the languages of national minorities and territories which they are not the ones in which these languages are traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

1079. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

1080. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

1081. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called *Cities in Focus*, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42 from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development.

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

s. Encourage regular activities promoting Ruthenian in the framework of existing agreements on transfrontier co-operation at national and local levels.

1082. Ruthenians have no native country and so far the Republic of Serbia did not conclude any agreements with other countries on cross-border cooperation on promoting the Ruthenian language, but, at the initiative of the National Council of the Ruthenian National Minority, cooperation agreements have been concluded in the past period between the bodies of AP of Vojvodina and the regional authorities of Ukraine (2013) and Slovakia (2014). The existing signed agreements are of unlimited duration and are still in force.

1083. At the local level, there are agreements in the field of exchange of participants at educational, cultural and sporting events. Municipalities with significant national minorities financially support projects that promote contacts of this kind.

1084. For over 50 years in Ruski Krstur, the Ruthenians have been hosting the famous International Festival of the Culture of the Red Rose, then the Petar Riznič Đađa Drama Memorial, as well as the cultural manifestation of Kosteljnik Autumn, attended by their compatriots from other countries.

1085. The Society for Ruthenian Language, Literature and Culture states in its contribution to the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter that its work is carried out through professional bodies and sections in Serbia, but also in cooperation with the members of the Society from Croatia, Canada and other countries, and the honorary members - Ruthenian and Slavic scholars from home and from abroad. The Society organizes scientific and expert meetings with the participation of Ruthenian scholars from the Serbia and the region, and has a rich publishing activity, within which a collection of papers by the *Studia Ruthenica* on topics related to the Ruthenian language is published.

4.1.8. SLOVAK LANGUAGE

Article 8 - Education
paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

Preschool education

1086. Preschool education in the Slovak language takes place in 11 local self-government units in eight preschools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	9	7	22	346
2017/2018	9	7	21	336
2018/2019	11	8	40	300

1087. Bilingual educational work in Serbian and Slovak is organized in two local self-government units in two preschools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	1	1	1	16
2017/2018	3	2	3	45
2018/2019	2	2	2	20

Primary Education

1088. The entire teaching in Slovak language is provided in 12 local self-government units in 17 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	12	17	162	2,875
2017/2018	12	17	166	2,804
2018/2019	12	17	163	2,728

1089. The Slovak language course with elements of national culture is organized in 11 local self-government units in 35 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes
2016/2017	11	38	590
2017/2018	11	31	621
2018/2019	11	35	692

Secondary Education

Gymnasiums

1090. The entire teaching in Slovak language is carried out in two local self-government units in two secondary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	2	2	14	343
2017/2018	2	2	13	318
2018/2019	2	2	12	296

1091. The subject Slovak language with elements of national culture is taught in three local self-government units in three secondary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	4	3	8	25

2017/2018	4	4	11	46
2018/2019	3	3	6	20

Technical and specialist education

1092. The entire teaching in Slovak language is conducted in one local self-government unit in a four-year technical school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	2	55
2017/2018	1	1	4	97
2018/2019	1	1	4	115

1093. From the school year 2017/2018, the entire Slovak language class was organized in a three-year technical school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2017/2018	1	1	1	14
2018/2019	1	1	2	31

1094. The subject Slovak language with elements of national culture is taught in three local self-government units in two technical schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes
2016/2017	3	3	52
2017/2018	3	3	14
2018/2019	3	3	17

1095. The National Council of the Slovak National Minority stated in its contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that the study of the Slovak language with elements of national culture was organized in four units of local self-government: Bačka Palanka, Kovačica, Novi Sad and Stara Pazova.

University and higher education

1096. At the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, basic academic studies of Slovak language, literature, culture are taught.

Study profile	2016	2017	2018	Total number of students in all years of studies, academic year 2018/2019

Slovak language, literature, culture	16	7	7	48

1097. At the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, basic academic studies, Slovak language and literature is taught in Slovak.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	6	6	4
Total number of students	19	21	20

1098. Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad implements basic academic studies in Serbian Philology: Serbian Language in contact with Slovak and Hungarian Philology.

1099. The Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad has conducted a research project in connection with the languages of national minorities on: Interdisciplinary approach to contemporary processes in Slovak language, literature and education in the context of Slovak-Serbian relations in Vojvodina.

1100. At the High School of Vocational Studies for the Education of Educators in Novi Sad, the course is taught in Slovak.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Enrolled in the first year	2	2	1
Total number of students	8	7	7

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

c. Favour and encourage the offering of Slovak as a subject of adult and continuing education.

1101. Parents' surveys on elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture* are conducted each school year, through the Uniform Survey Sheet, which is distributed to all primary schools through school administrations. Interested students in Adult Elementary Education schools are also interviewed by this survey sheet on attendance of the elective course/program Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture. In the previous school years, there wasn't a sufficient number of students interested in learning Slovak with elements of national culture. If the legal requirements are met and at least 15 students apply to learn Slovak with elements of national culture, the institution will be obliged to form a group and organize the teaching of this subject.

1102. Since secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools for adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

d. Within the territory in which Slovak is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Slovak, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

1103. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle and Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

1104. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society*, *History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

1105. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

1106. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

1107. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to

improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

1108. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the second year gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

Article 9 - Judicial powers
paragraph 1. a (ii), a (iii), б (ii), ц (ii), д
paragraph 2. а, б, ц
paragraph 3.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

e. Take measures to encourage Slovak speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

1109. The previous reports on the application of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Slovak.

1110. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Slovak speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

1111. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

1112. According to available data, in early 2019, 14 members of the Slovak national minority were employed in the courts of the Republic of Serbia, while 22 employees spoke the Slovak language, as well as one lay judge and two judges belonging to the Slovak minority. During the reporting period, in the Basic Court in Stara Pazova, one civil proceeding was conducted in Slovak. In addition, in the Basic Court in Novi Sad, in which the Slovak language is in official use, 21 proceedings were conducted in the languages of national minorities, of which 10 were in civil matters, 1 was in criminal matter and 10 were in non-contentious matter.

f. Inform Slovak speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

1113. In addition to the above rules, the Rules of Procedure also contain additional rules of relevance for the wider use of minority languages in judicial proceedings. Namely, if the court proceedings are not conducted in the language of a national minority, and in the court, besides the Serbian language, the language of the national minority is also officially used, written documents shall be submitted in his language to the member of the national minority at their request. Translation of submissions and documents submitted to the court in the languages of national minorities is carried out by a translator. The minutes and decisions in the first instance proceedings relating to the proceedings shall be drafted, as authentic texts, in the Serbian language and in the established language of the proceedings. If necessary, they shall be translated into another language of the national minority, if required by a member of the national minority as a participant in proceedings not conducted in his language. Minutes and decisions in legal remedies proceedings shall be made in the Serbian language. The court of first instance shall translate the decisions taken by legal remedies into the established language of the proceedings and, if necessary, into the second language of national minorities, as well as submit them in a text credibly translated to the appropriate language (to the members of national minorities as participants in the proceedings). If written in the language of a national minority and sent to a court where the language is not in official use, a translation into Serbian shall be enclosed.

1114. The full application of the above rules ensures that speakers of minority languages are informed at each stage of the proceedings of their right to use their language before a court and to decide to exercise their rights.

g. Make available in Slovak the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to its users.

1115. In order to increase the availability of the most important regulations pertaining to the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the amendments to the Law on

the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities of 2018 stipulate that the ministry responsible for exercising the rights of national minorities provides the translation and publishes the collections of consolidated texts of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia, whose subject matter of regulation is, in whole or in most part, the exercise of rights of national minorities.

1116. The Ministry is obliged to make these laws available in electronic format, on its website and on the eGovernment Portal, as well as to agree to send to the national councils of national minorities a certain number of collections of consolidated texts of these laws. Exceptionally, the national council of a national minority may submit a proposal to the line ministry, on the grounds that it is of particular importance for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the national minority, for the line ministry to translate and publish a collection of consolidated texts of certain laws within its legal scope containing provisions pertaining to the exercise of rights and freedoms of national minorities, that is, to the social relations that are of particular importance to national minorities. When deciding on a proposal of a national council, particular consideration shall be given to the availability of the planned budgetary funds, as well as to whether amendments to these laws or an adoption of a new law is planned in the next one year that would replace the law proposed for translation or publishing.

1117. Translating regulations into minority languages will help harmonize the professional legal terminology in minority languages and further affirm their use in proceedings before the state authorities.

1118. As a number of laws governing the rights and status of persons belonging to national minorities have been amended in 2018, those laws, as well as the accompanying by-laws, have been translated into languages of national minorities that are in official use. These are the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the Decree on the Procedure for Allocating Funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities, and the Rulebook on the Method of Entering and Keeping the Register of National Councils, which are also available in Slovak.

1119. In addition, during the election cycle for the election of the members of the national councils of national minorities in November 2018, the following documents were translated into Slovak: the Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament; Election Day Schedule for the Direct Election Procedure for National Minority Council Members, announced for November 4, 2018; Rules on the Work of Voting Committees for Electing the Members of National Councils of National Minorities; Instruction for direct elections for members of the national councils of national minorities; Election list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority; Statement of acceptance of candidacy for membership of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority; Consent of the holder of the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority; Authorization to

submit an electoral list of candidates for members of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority; Voter Statement to Support the Election List of Candidates for Members of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority; List of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for membership of the National Council of the Slovak National Minority; ballot paper.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services
paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2 b, c, d, g
paragraph 3 c
paragraph 4 c
paragraph 5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Take organisational measures to ensure that Slovak speakers can submit oral or written applications in this language to local branches of the national authorities and encourage Slovak speakers to make use of this possibility in practice.

1120. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, administrative districts in the Republic of Serbia have been formed to perform public administration tasks outside the seats of the state administration bodies and reflect the dispersion of state affairs. For easier carrying out tasks within the scope and outside their seats, the ministries or provincial secretariats establish for a certain territory their detached units - district territorial units. The cluster of all district regional units in a certain territory is an administrative district - a regional center of state administration.

1121. In the administrative district, public administration bodies may, at their discretion, perform one or more of the following public administration tasks: to resolve administrative matters in the first instance, to supervise the work of holders of public authority, and to conduct the supervisory inspections.

1122. District regional units of the state administration bodies have been formed in order to optimize the carrying out of state administration tasks, and above all the supervisory inspection activities. Ministries conduct for their district territorial units the HR policy, establish work plans, issue directives and instructions, and, on the basis of their competencies, on their websites, they direct parties to the district regional units of state administration bodies, in areas where the language of a national minority is in official, they may conduct the proceedings both in the language and using the script of that national minority.

1123. An Administrative Service is established in the administrative district, which shall essentially perform the tasks, general and common to all district regional units and provide

expert and technical support to the head of the administrative district. Jobs within the scope of the Professional Services of the administrative district can be grouped into: legal, financial, registry, professional and technical support to the head of the administrative district and others.

1124. Although there are no obstacles or restrictions to the use of oral or written applications in minority languages by the speakers of minority languages, most of the administrative districts have stated in their contributions to the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that so far there have been no cases in the professional service of the administrative district of an oral or written address in minority languages to the Head of the District, national inspection services, or provincial secretariats. All employees of the professional services of the administrative districts, as far as they are in contact with the parties, respect the rights of national minorities and always serve every party, regardless of their nationality or the language in which the party has addressed them. Should the party address them orally or in writing in a minority language, the professional service would meet him, enable him to exercise his right, and to the extent possible, to obtain a response in the minority language.

1125. In order to ensure that speakers of national minority languages can file written applications, complaints and petitions with the Government of Vojvodina - Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - national communities, the South Backa District has reached an agreement on the engagement of their Translation Department within the Sector for National Minorities - National Communities and Translation Jobs.

1126. In order to carry out these operations, funds under the sub-analytic account 423111 - Translation Services have been planned under the Budget and Financial Plan of the South Bačka Administrative District for 2019 under Group 423 - Translating Services.

1127. At the sessions of the Collegium, attended by all heads of district units of state bodies, the Head of the South Bačka Administrative District regularly points to the obligations arising from the Law on General Administrative Procedure, as well as from Article 10 of the European Charter.

1128. The professional service of the Central Banat Administrative District is able, using its own capacities, as well as in cooperation with local self-governments and their services or other local authorities, to respond to individual requests of the parties and to enable them to exercise their right to use minority languages before the administrative bodies.

1129. In the territory of the North Bačka Administrative District, members of national minorities can submit a written application in the Slovak language, and the District Professional Service endeavors, in accordance with its capabilities, to respect their right and to enable them to be translated.

1130. All employees of the Professional Service of the Srem District, in accordance with the positive legal regulations, respect the rights of national minorities and always meet the requests of every citizen. If a citizen addresses the administration in Slovak language, the District Service will respect the party's right and facilitate the translation of the submission, as well as of the response in this language.

b. Facilitate the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Slovak.

1131. The statutes of local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use also determine the publication of local general acts in the official gazettes of local self-government units. In this sense, since it allows the local self-government units to identify minority languages that are in official use, the state approves and encourages local authorities to publish their documents in minority languages. Some local self-government units have taken the opportunity to provide in their statutes that official gazettes publishing local documents are also published in minority languages that are in official use. The Municipality of Bački Petrovac publishes an official gazette in the Slovak language, which means that the statute and all general acts of the local self-government unit are also available in the Slovak language.

1132. The availability of official documents of local self-government units in minority languages is also enabled on official websites, as some of the local self-government units have websites on the minority language. The municipality of Bački Petrovac and the City of Pančevo have a website in Sovak.

1133. Official documents of local self-government units are available to speakers of minority languages through various printed publications, bulletins, or newsletters published by the local self-government units.

1134. In the competition that the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities announces for the allocation of budget funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, who officially use languages and scripts of national minorities, among other things, are allocated and for the production of official newsletters, multilingual forms and other public publications. Information on the amount of funding allocated at these competitions for the development of official gazettes and the printing of multilingual public publications, which contributes to improving the availability of official documents in minority languages, is contained in the table below.

2016	2017	2018
505,000.00	2,656,900.00	2,333,000.00

h. Encourage the local branches of the national authorities to draft documents in Slovak.

1135. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated

professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System, which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

i. Ensure that users of Slovak may submit oral or written applications in Slovak to the regional or local authorities.

1136. As stated in the previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, the citizens have the right to address the authorities orally or in writing in their own language, and this right is exercised in practice. Local self-government authorities place notices on their bulletin boards and in their buildings that the citizens may submit their requests and addresses in the minority language that is in official use, and request responses in that language.

1137. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities has conducted an online survey in 2016 and it collected data from the bodies of local self-government units and provincial bodies and organizations, inter alia, about the oral and written communication of these bodies with the citizens.

1138. Based on the data collected, the total number of employees in the bodies of local self-government is 5,594 persons, and in the bodies of AP of Vojvodina it is 1,180 persons. Of these, 133 (1.96%) are members of the Slovak national minority, 122 (1.8%) indicated that their Slovak language was their mother tongue, and 147 indicated that they knew the Slovak language.

1139. The resources available for successful use of languages and scripts of national minorities at the local level, in addition to staffing capacities that include both civil servants and engaged translators and certified interpreters, include the availability of public publications, guides, notices and information boards in national minority languages, the publishing of official gazettes of the local self-government units in languages and scripts of the national minorities, publication of information on official websites of local self-government units in languages and scripts of national minorities, the availability of documents and forms of various submissions (requests, petitions, etc.) in the languages and scripts of national minorities, the conduct of administrative proceedings as a whole in the languages and scripts of national minorities, and the issuing of register books excerpts and other registrar services provided in languages and scripts of national minorities.

1140. The table below provides information on measures contributing to the use of the possibility of submitting an oral or written application in Slovak in local self-government units in which the Slovak language is in official use.

Local self-government unit	Measures contributing to the use of the possibility of submitting an oral or written application in Slovak to local authorities
Alibunar	The Rules on the organization and classification of job positions in job descriptions do not prescribe the knowledge of the Slovak language. In the municipal administration, one employee speaks Slovak. Speakers of minority languages are informed of the opportunity to address the authorities orally and in writing in their own language on bulletin boards and the Alibunar Municipality Bulletin. The bilingual register books excerpts in Slovak are available to the citizens
Bačka Palanka	The Ordinance on the Organization and Systematisation of the Jobs of the Municipal Administration of the Municipality of Bačka Palanka, within the Department of General Administration and Joint Affairs, has systematized two job positons where the knowledge of the Slovak language is prescribed as a special condition. The total number of employees who speak Slovak is 4. The Municipality of Bačka Palanka provided an interpreter for the Slovak language, who provides simultaneous translation of the Municipal Assembly sessions. Members of the Slovak national minority are informed about the possibilities of exercising their rights in the field of official use of language and script by bulletin boards, notices and in the media. All members of the Slovak national minority have the right to address the authorities in their mother tongue, both orally and in writing. When registering in the electoral roll, members of the Slovak minority may apply to receive and obtain a decision on registration in the Slovak language. Application forms for issuing register books excerpts (births, deaths and marriages), citizenship certificates and bilingual excerpts are also available in Slovak at the Local Office in Pivnice. During the reporting period, 853 register books excerpts were issued in Slovak language.
Bačka Topola	The Rulebook on Organization and Systematisation of Jobs in the Municipal Administration, Budget Inspection Service and the Service of Citizens' Protectors of the Municipality of Bačka Topola prescribes proficiency in one of the languages of national minorities in official use in the municipality (Hungarian, Slovak, Ruthenian). One employee in the municipal administration, speaks Slovak. Members of the Slovak minority are informed of the possibilities to effectively exercise their rights in the area of official use of language and script orally (when a party addresses the authority), in the local media and in the print media and bulletins. Slovak speakers do not address the local authorities in the Slovak language, although they can. In the event a citizen addresses in writing the local self-government authority in Slovak, the citizen would receive a reply in Slovak, as the municipality will hire a translator, in accordance with the law. The citizens are provided with bilingual register books excerpts in the Slovak language.
Bački Petrovac	The Act on Systematization requires the knowledge of Slovak language for 30 job positions, and a total of 40 employees know the Slovak language. The bulletin boards in the local offices and in the Reception Office of the Municipal Administration in Bački Petrovac have notices for the citizens about the possibilities to effectively exercise their rights in the Slovak language. The average number of written communications in Slovak language in the reporting period is 1-2%. The citizens mainly address the authorities orally in Slovak (70% of the citizens) and receive their answers in Slovak, as all employees of the municipal administration are familiar with the Slovak language and script. Requirements for the issuance of bilingual excerpts and certificates, as well as a large number

	of bilingual forms are available in Slovak.
Beočin	The Act on Systematization requires the knowledge of Slovak language for 1 job position. The bulletin board at the Lug Local Office has notices to the citizens about the possibilities to effectively exercise their rights in the Slovak language. In 99% of the cases, the citizens address the authorities orally and only 1% in writing in Slovak. At any time, the employee prints the request and the like in Slovak at the request of the citizen. The citizens are provided with register books excerpts and certificates in Slovak.
Zrenjanin	The Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Jobs in the City Administration, the Attorney General's Office and the Professional Service of the Protector of Citizens of the City of Zrenjanin prescribes 3 jobs that require the knowledge of Slovak language. The total number of employees who speak Slovak is 6. Slovak speakers are informed about the possibilities to effectively exercise their rights in the Slovak language on the information boards in the Service Center, which have the notices on the right to enter a personal name in the registers and citizenship books, notices on enrollment in a special voter register, notices about elections, etc. Also, the names of departments and divisions in the City Administration are written in Slovak. Speakers of the Slovak language are offered posters in Slovak and Serbian on the rights in the field of the official use of languages and scripts of national minorities, as well as brochures. Oral addressing of the citizens in Slovak are not recorded, but it is estimated that an average of about 800 citizens have addressed the authorities orally in the Slovak language during the year. The bilingual register books excerpts in Slovak are available to the citizens.
Kovačica	A total of 34 employees of the Kovačica Municipal Administration are fluent in Slovak. As more employees speak Slovak, Slovak speakers can communicate with them in Slovak. In the populated areas of Kovačica and Padina with a predominantly Slovak population, the citizens orally address the authority in Slovak and receive their reply in Slovak, as most employees speak Slovak. The estimated number of oral addresses at the Kovacice Municipal Administration and the Padina Local Office in Slovak in the reporting period was approximately 1,000 per year. The citizens are provided with bilingual register books excerpts in the Slovak language.
Novi Sad	By the Act on Unified Systematization of Jobs in City Administrations, Special Organizations and Services of the City of Novi Sad, there are no systematized jobs requiring knowledge of the Slovak language. A total of 6 employees know Slovak. All members of the Slovak national minority have the right to address the authorities in their mother tongue, both orally and in writing. When registering in the electoral roll, members of the Slovak minority may apply to receive and obtain a decision on registration in the Slovak language. The citizens are provided with a translator for the Slovak language. At the Kisač Local Office, the citizens address the authorities daily in Slovak. The marriage ceremonies are also conducted in the Slovak language.
Stara Pazova	The Act on Unified Systematization in the Municipal Administration of Stara Pazova Municipality has one job position for which the knowledge of Slovak language is prescribed. The total number of employees who speak Slovak is 6. Slovak speakers, are informed by the civil servants in the Municipal Administration about the possibilities to effectively exercise their rights to use Slovak in local self-government. There is no record of the number of written communications in the Slovak language, it is around 10% annually. Oral addressing is almost daily. Regarding addressing in Slovak, it is mainly about weddings performed by registrars in the presence of an interpreter in Slovak, and there were 6 requests in total in the reporting period. The official documents, applications for entry in the electoral roll, bulletins, notices, etc. in Slovak are available to citizens.
Šid	A total of 8 employees of the municipal administration are fluent in Slovak. Slovak speakers address the authorities orally, there were no written communications in the reporting period. The citizens are provided with bilingual register books excerpts.

1141. Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities regularly launches competitions for the allocation of budget funds to

bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, who officially use languages and scripts of national minorities. Funds are, among other things, allocated for the training of employees of bodies and organizations using the national minority language, which has been identified as a language in official use, and especially in job positions where the employees communicate with the citizens (participation in courses, seminars, etc.), as well as for the development of an e-government system for working in a multilingual environment, which further strengthens the possibility of exercising the right of speakers of minority languages to file an oral or written application in their own language. The text of the competition with applications for the competition is printed and published in the Serbian language and in the Cyrillic script, followed by the Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian and Ruthenian languages and scripts.

1142. Information on the amount of funds allocated for the training of employees of organs and organizations is contained in the table below.

2016	**2017**
221,064.00	1,377,000.00

1143. Information on the amount of funds allocated for the development of an e-government system for multilingual environment is contained in the table below.

2016	**2017**
200,000.00	232,000.00

j. Ensure the use or adoption of place names in Slovak.

1144. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have provided detailed explanations of legislative solutions that have enabled the adoption and use of traditional names of towns and settlements in minority languages. Namely, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that in areas where members of national minorities constitute a significant population, traditional local names, street names, settlements and topographical marks should also be written in their minority language. The Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities encourages the use of traditional forms of names of towns and settlements in minority languages, since the law provides that in the territory of a local self-government unit where official language is in official use, the names of bodies exercising public authority, the names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms are also written in the minority language, in line with the tradition and spelling of that language. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities prescribes that the traditional names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographical names are determined by the national council of the national minority.

1145. Section 5.3.7. of the first report on the implementation of the Charter, as well as section 4.3.5. of the second report on the implementation of the Charter contain information on the

traditional names of cities, municipalities and settlements in the Slovak language established by the National Council of the Slovak National Minority and published in the Official Journal of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

1146. At the end of 2018, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government sent a letter to the heads of the city and municipal administrations that officially used the languages and scripts of national minorities, in which it was emphasized that they were obliged to adhere to all relevant regulations guaranteeing the right to official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities in their work and conduct, which also includes the provision of names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other place names on multilingual boards.

1147. There are numerous examples of the use of traditional names of settlements in minority languages, from the printing of nameplates of settlements, through the names of institutions, memoranda and stamps of local self-government bodies, to the use of these names in public documents, in forms for being entered or erased from the special electoral roll of a national minority, during the election process, on tourist signage, in official gazettes, bulletins and brochures of the local self-government units, etc.

1148. The table below provides available information on the practice of using traditional names of settlements in the Slovak language provided by local self-government units that have responded to the invitation to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter.

Local self-government unit	Use of traditional place names in Slovak
Bač	The board with the name of Selenča is also written in Slovak. Traditional names of settlements in the Slovak language are used on the board of the local community Selenča and on the board with the names of municipal authorities.
Bačka Palanka	The boards with the names of Pinice, Silbaš and Čelarevo are written in Slovak. Traditional names of settlements in the Slovak language are used on the boards in the building of the municipality of Bačka Palanka, on the boards with the name of the bodies and organizations founded by the municipalities, information boards, seals of the authorities, bilingual register books excerpts, bilingual register books excerpts and citizenship certificates.
Bačka Topola	The boards with the names of places in the municipality of Bačka Topola in the language of the Slovak national minority are written in Bačka Topola and Bajša. Traditional names of settlements in the Slovak language are used in bilingual register books excerpts as well as on the nameplates of municipal authorities and organizational units.
Bački Petrovac	The boards with the names of the places in the territory of the municipality of Bački Petrovac in the Slovak language is written in Bački Petrovac, Gložan, Kulpin and Maglić. The traditional names of places in the Slovak language are on the boards with the names of municipal bodies, institutions and organizations founded by the Municipality of Bački Petrovac (Slovak Vojvodina Theater, "Stefan Homola" Library, Museum of Vojvodina Slovaks, Tourist Organization of Bački Petrovac Municipality, Health Institution, Center Center for Social Work, Vcielka Preschool, Jan Čajak Elementary Schools Bački Petrovac, Jan Amos Komenski Kulpin, Joze Marčok Dragutin Gložan, Jan Kolar Gymnasium with students' home in Bački Petrovac, local communities). The names are also written in Slovak in republic institutions (Republic Geodetic Authority - Real Estate Cadastre Service Bački

	Petrovac, Republic Pension and Disability Insurance Fund).
Beočin	A board with the name of the village Lug, in which the Slovak language is in official use, is written in Slovak. Signposts and street names and organizations in the local community of Lug are written in Slovak. Traditional town names in Slovak are used in the register books excerpts as well as on the board of the local community.
Zrenjanin	The names of Aradac, Belo Blato and Zrenjanin are written in Slovak. Traditional names of places in the Slovak language are also used on the boards with the name of the City Administration, local offices, public companies and bilingual register books excerpts.
Kovačica	The boards with the names of Kovačica and Padina are also written in Slovak. Traditional names of places in the Slovak language are also used on the nameplates of local and republic authorities.
Odžaci	The board with the name of Lalić is also written in Slovak. Traditional place names in Slovak are also used on local authority nameplates.
Novi Sad	The tables with the names of Budisava, Kisač and Rumenka are also written in Slovak. Traditional names of settlements in Slovak are inscribed on the boards, which are placed on the institutions of the City of Novi Sad authorities, the City Attorney's Office of the City of Novi Sad, local self-governments, the Protector of citizens of the City of Novi Sad, the seals of the authorities, bilingual register books excerpts and citizenship certificates.
Plandište	The boards with the names of Barice, Velika Greda, Armenians, Margita, Plandiste and Hajdučica are also written in Slovak. Boards with the name of the organ are also in Slovak. Traditional Slovak-language names are also used on local authority nameplates.
Stara Pazova	The board with the name of the local community Stara Pazova, is written in Slovak. Traditional names in the Slovak language are used on forms of registers, memorandum of the Municipality, inscriptions of institutions (theater, squares, health center, etc.) and marking of official premises in institutions.
Šid	The board with the name of Ljuba is also written in Slovak. Traditional names of settlements in the Slovak language are used on the boards with the name of the organs, information boards, seals of the organs and bilingual register books excerpts.

1149. In the election process for members of national councils of national minorities held in November 2018, traditional forms of place names in minority languages were used in the electoral material, inter alia, on the election lists of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; statements of acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority; the approvals of the holders of the electoral list of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; the power of attorney to submit an election list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; voters' statements that they support the election list of candidates for members of the national minority council; lists of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; decisions on the establishment of an aggregate electoral list for members of national councils of national minorities; forms for collecting electorate signatures; lists of candidates for members of the national council of the national minority for elections by electoral assembly; statements on the acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority in elections through the electoral assembly; certificates of the right to vote outside the polling station, etc.

1150. The traditional forms of place names in minority languages are also used in request forms for erasing the name from the special electoral roll of a national minority. The above forms have been translated into the languages of national minorities that are in official use and the traditional

name of the place in minority language may be used when filling in the section on the place of residence. The above information is entered in an identical manner in the special electoral roll of a national minority.

1151. Within the competition for allocation of budgetary funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, in whose work the languages and scripts of national minorities are officially used, the competent provincial secretariat also allocates funds for creating multilingual boards with names of bodies and organizations, settlements, street names. etc. Information on the funds allocated in these competitions for the placement of boards with the names of bodies and organizations, settlements and street names is contained in the table below.

2016	2017	2018
2,252,200.00	5,334,100.00	7,167,000.00

k. Encourage Slovak speakers to submit a request in Slovak to public service providers.

1152. The Law on Public Services does not contain an explicit provision on the language in which citizens can address public services to exercise their rights and obligations, but bearing in mind that public services, when deciding on the rights and obligations of citizens, organizations or users of their services and when they carry out other tasks prescribed by law, decide and work under the General Administrative Procedure Act and the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, this means that oral and written requests may also be submitted in minority languages.

1153. As there is no legal obligation to specifically keep records of requests made by minority language speakers to public services, there is no aggregate information on the number of requests submitted. To illustrate the possibility of using minority languages in communication with public services, information provided by public companies founded by the Republic of Serbia, which participated in the preparation of this report, according to which there was no written address by users of services in one of the minority languages, highlighting their competence to respond to requests in minority languages. The following public companies have responded to the invitation to participate in the development of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter: Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" doo., Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

1154. Distribution System Operator EPS d.o.o. Belgrade points out that the general acts of the Operator are not conceived on a territorial, but on a functional principle, with the exception of branches - power distribution, which perform the technical part of the operations of the Operator's predominant activity, but also these units are designed to represent the connection of one functional entity with the same individual operations of that functional whole that are performed in the consumption areas of the branches. According to the above, the normative and nomotechnical determination of the concept of the general acts of the Operator is not territorial, but unique and functional, and for the above reasons no knowledge of minority languages is

foreseen as a special condition for carrying out any job in the Operator. Likewise, the general acts of the Operator do not contain any negative or discriminatory norms that prevent the filing or receipt of requests in minority languages, and therefore there is a possibility that requests to the Operator may be submitted in minority languages, in accordance with the law.

1155. The Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade states that it has ensured the application of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts in the areas of working units and regional work units in which official languages and scripts of national minorities are in use. No requests were made in the languages of national minorities during the reporting period, although conditions were provided for such requests to be addressed. Namely, the work units and the regional work units in their work strive to enable users to use languages that are in equal official use when providing postal and other services, which implies that the names of work units or regional units are written in the territory of certain local self-government units, among others, work units, stamps and stamps, as well as the forms used on a daily basis in the work of the post network front office and in the delivery (e.g. shipment arrival notification form, registered receipt form, letter consignments, departure telegram form, etc.).

1156. PE Srbijagas points out that it is possible for clients to address the company in minority languages and to use them in this public company.

1157. Local self-government units involved in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, in which the Slovak language is in official use, state that public services and public enterprises founded by local self-government units allow speakers of Romanian to submit their requests or other written documents in Romanian. Although the exercise of this right is made possible in practice, both by the employment of minority language speakers in public services and public enterprises, and by the hiring of court interpreters or translators as needed, there were few occasions of addressing the public services and public companies in Slovak language.

1158. For example, the City of Zrenjanin states that, if the citizen addresses himself either in writing or orally in Slovak, the Social Welfare Center provides translators and thus facilitates the procedure in Slovak language. The Historical Archive notes that so far there has been no addressing of citizens in Slovak language, but they would also hire a translator if the need arises. PE “Pijace i parkinzi” allow Slovak speakers to submit their requests and other written communication in this language. Some public services and public utilities in the city do not work with citizens (eg "Sportski objekti" and "Rezervati prirode") or so far Slovak speakers have not addressed them either in writing or orally (PE "Gradska stambena agencija" and the Institute for the protection of cultural monuments) in Slovak.

l. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure concerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Slovak to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

1159. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[54], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charterthere were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the Slovak language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

1160. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

1161. PE Post of Serbia notes that when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in that area.

1162. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

1163. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and who speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the Employment Contract.

1164. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1 January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs shall, among other things, define jobs for which, as a special condition, knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat, or its

[54] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

organizational unit are located. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

Article 11 - Media
paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
paragraph 2
paragraph 3

1165. As public information in Slovak is made up of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing media radio and television broadcasting services in Slovak, basic activity of the public media services, financing media content in Slovak language on private media and financing of the media whose indirect founder is National the Council of the Slovak National Minority.

1166. The table below shows the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analog signal and media television broadcasting via a digital signal in Slovak.

No.	Radio	Television
1.	Impres DOO, Bačka Topola-Radio Trend	Sremska televizija DOO, Šid-Sremska TV
2.	Medijski centar blu DOO, Odžaci-BB Radio	TV Petrovec DOO, Bački Petrovac-TV Petrovec
3.	Avalon DOO, Odžaci-BB Radio plus	Novosadska TV DOO, Novi Sad-Novosadska TV
4.	JP RTV opštine Kovačica, Kovačica-Radio Kovačica	Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
5.	Informativni centar DOO, Odžaci-Radio Odžaci	Delta televizija DOO za zastupanje, marketing i televizijske aktivnosti, Novi Sad-TV Delta
6.	TV Petrovec DOO, Bački Petrovac-Radio Petrovec	JP RTV opštine Kovačica, Kovačica- TV OK
7.	Kopernikus RTV Šid DOO, Šid-Radio Šid	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-TV Pančevo
8.	Radio Bačka DOO, Bač-Radio Bačka	Fondacija Panonija, Subotica-TV Panon
9.	RTV Stara Pazova DOO, Stara Pazova-Radio Stara Pazova	
10.	Radio Impuls DOO, Bačka Palanka-Radio impuls	
11.	Radio Delta DOO za zastupanje, marketing i televizijske aktivnosti, Novi Sad- Delta radio	
12.	IIC Katoličke crkve Rado Marija, Novi Sad-Radio Marija Novi Sad	
13.	IIC Katoličke crkve Rado Marija, Subotica-Radio Marija Subotica	
14.	Đakovačka i Sremska biskupija, Vikarijat Sremski, Petrovaradin-Radio Marija Vrdnik	
15.	IIC Katoličke crkve Rado Marija, Sombor-Radio Marija Sombor	
16.	Informativni centar DOO, Bačka Topola-Radio regije	

17.	Kula DOO, Kula-Q Radio	
18.	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-Radio Pančevo	
19.	Radio Petrovec DOO, Bački Petrovac-Radio Petrovec	
Total	19	8

1167. The table below lists media service providers providing media service of television broadcasting of programs in Slovak via the cable system.

No.	TELEVISION
1.	Informativni centar DOO, Bačka Topola-Express channel
2.	Novosadska TV DOO, Novi Sad-Novosadska TV
3.	RTV Panonija DOO, Novi Sad-TV Panonija
4.	Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
5.	Sremska televizija DOO, Šid-Sremska TV
6.	VTV Koment DOO, Subotica-TV Bačka
7.	Kopernikus kabl netvork DOO, Niš-KCN Sever
8.	RTV Pančevo DOO, Pančevo-TV Pančevo
9.	TV Petrovec DOO, Bački Petrovac-TV Petrovec
10.	RTV Stara Pazova DOO, Stara Pazova-TV Stara Pazova
11.	Fondacija Panonija, Subotica-TV Panon
Total	11

1168. In the reporting period, according to RTV, there was a noticeable increase in programs in the Slovak language on RTV Second Program compared to 2015. The Slovak-language program in 2018 had a share of 8.69% of the total RTV 2 program and shows a genre diversity, but the following types of content are most informative: informative, culture-art and music[55].

1169. 11 print media of different periodicals are published in the Slovak language.

1170. Informing in Slovak is financed from the republic, provincial and local budgets by co-financing projects selected in a competition.

1171. The Ministry of Culture and Information has supported projects selected in competitions that were implemented in various types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Slovak in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Media	Amount
2016	2	Radio	900,000.00
2016	1	Television	400,000.00
2016	1	Production	400,000.00
2017	2	Radio	800,000.00
2017	2	Television	1,000,000.00
2018	2	Radio	800,000.00

[55] Public Media Service of RTV - Ways to Fulfill Legal Programmatic Obligations, Report of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media for the Period January 1 - December 31, 2018, p. 83

2018	2	Television	900,000.00
2018	2	Production	800,000.00

1172. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Slovak.

	SLOVAK LANGUAGE	Number of projects	Total funding
2016	**Media Type**	**1**	**200,000.00**
	Production	1	200,000.00
2017		**9**	**1,400,000.00**
	Newspapers	1	100,000.00
	Television	1	300,000.00
	Radio	2	250,000.00
	Production	5	750,000.00
2018		**10**	**1,420,000.00**
	Newspapers	1	150,000.00
	Television	1	100,000.00
	Radio	3	400,000.00
	Internet	1	120,000.00
	Production	4	650,000.00

1173. The budget of AP of Vojvodina subsidizes newspapers of provincial importance, including newspapers in Slovak. The table below provides information on subsidizing this type of media.

Publisher	Media	2016	2017	2018
NIU Hlas Ljudu, Novi Sad	" Hlas Ljudu" - Slovak language	28,674,000.00	28,674,000.00	30,108,000.00
	"Vzlet"	2,412,000.00	2,412,000.00	2,532,000.00
	"Zornjička"	2,844,000.00	2,844,000.00	2,985,600.00
Total		**33,930,000.00**	**33,930,000.00**	**35,625,600.00**

1174. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of informing the national minorities.

1175. The table below shows the number of programs and projects and the amount of funding allocated per year to the Slovak national minority.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2017	1	30,000.00
2018	1	400,000.00

1176. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that co-financed programs and projects in the field of information in the Slovak language from 2016 to 2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Bačka Palanka	300,000.00	1,450,000.00	2,000,000.00
2.	Zrenjanin	336,960.00	308,880.00	365,040.00
3.	Stara Pazova	-	3,400,000.00	3,750,000.00

1177. In addition, the Municipality of Bačka Palanka has financed in 2016 weekly newspapers in Slovak and Hungarian in the amount of RSD 300,000.00, in 2017 in the amount of RSD 1,000,000.00, and in 2018 in the amount of RSD 2,000,000.00.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

m. Encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Slovak.

1178. The Republic of Serbia, AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units continuously encourage the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual content in the Slovak language through project co-financing.

n. Apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Slovak.

1179. The Republic of Serbia, AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units provide for the production of audiovisual content in the Slovak language through project co-financing, assistance.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits
paragraph 1 a, b, c, f
paragraph 2

1180. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually awards, through competition, the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities.

1181. The table below shows the number of programs and the amount of funding allocated to institutions and organizations in the Slovak language.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	4	800,000.00
2017	7	1,060,000.00
2018	6	850,000.00

1182. Within the Competition for translating the representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In 2016-2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages.

1183. The table below provides information on the number of works and the resources allocated to translations into Slovak.

Language of translation	**Slovak**			
	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**Total**
Number of works	1	-	-	1
Amount in dinars	-	-	-	-
Amount in euros	2,000	-	-	2,000

1184. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities supports public institutions in the preservation of the cultural identity and creativity of persons belonging to national minorities and the implementation of projects and programs that promote the culture, preservation and presentation of the cultural heritage of national minorities and whose program activities are implemented in cooperation with the national councils or institutions and organizations established by members of national minorities.

1185. The Secretariat co-finances the Institute for Culture of the Vojvodina Slovaks with the following amounts:

Beneficiary	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**
Institute for Culture of Vojvodina Slovaks	8,820,000.00	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00

1186. The same secretariat co-finances the work of cultural institutions and other cultural entities not financed from the budget of AP of Vojvodina, which go beyond the local importance and more permanently satisfy the cultural needs of citizens in AP of Vojvodina with their programs. Among such funded institutions are the Naive Art Gallery, Kovačica and the Museum of Vojvodina Slovaks, Bački Petrovac.

Institution	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**
Gallery of Naive Art	100,000.00	100,000.00	150,000.00
Museum of Vojvodina Slovaks	150,000.00	150,000.00	200,000.00

1187. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities finances from its budget (within the program activity Support to the Cultural Activity of National Minorities) programs and projects of importance for the culture and art of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina through a public competition it publishes annually. Programs and projects in the field of protection of the intangible cultural heritage and artistic

creation of national minorities and in the field of publishing in the languages of national minorities are co-financed.

1188. The table below provides information on the number and type of co-financed projects and programs and the amount of funds paid for the Slovak language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds	Total
2016	Publishing	4	500,000.00	1,200,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	8	700,000.00	
2017	Publishing	3	220,000.00	1,030,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	12	810,000.00	
2018	Publishing	7	590,000.00	1,350,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	26	1,760,000.00	

1189. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

1190. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects by associations of the Slovak minority members and the amount of funding awarded in the call for proposals for grants to ethnic community organizations in the period 2016 - 2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	13	950,000.00
2017	45	3,000,000.00
2018	39	3,000,000.00

1191. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of members of the Slovak national minority from 2016 to 2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Bačka Palanka	320,000.00	300,000.00	450,000.00
2.	Bačka Topola	-	-	50,000.00
3.	Beočin	215,000.00	119,610.00	310,000.00
4.	Bački Petrovac	26,494.00	17,454.00	19,919.00
5.	Kovačica	4,281,740.00	17,505,738.00	5,318,774.00
6.	Plandište	60,000.00	125,000.00	185,000.00
7.	Stara Pazova	1,098,318.00	814,243.00	5,890,400.00
8.	Šid	450,000.00	-	-

1192. In order to preserve the cultural and linguistic specificity of the Slovak national minority in the Republic of Serbia, in addition to the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Slovaks in Novi Sad, there is also a Slovak Publishing Center in Bački Petrovac, a publisher of magazines and books in the Slovak language (in several editions). The Slovak minority in Serbia publishes a magazine called *Novi život* - a magazine for literature and culture that abounds of quality texts and translations to the Slovak language.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

o. Foster access in Slovak to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

1193. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces an open call for co-financing the cultural activities of national minorities, and support for translations, dubbing and subtitling of translations of works produced in national minority languages is cited as one of the priorities of the competition. So far, relatively few users have applied for projects of this type, and the reasons for this may differ. Projects are often planned and implemented without a broader perception of the importance of translating the content, in the context of accessibility and audience development. That is why networking of different cultural actors from different territories, when planning and implementing the program, is another important competition priority that can contribute to a greater use of minority languages.

1194. Compared to the previous reporting period, there is an increase in the number of subtitling or translation projects, as well as those that correspond with the broader community, i.e. not targeting members of only one national minority; it cannot be said that a standard has been established but that these are sporadic examples of good practice. In the last three years, the Ministry has supported the issuing of 22 publications, for which 12 different national minorities have applied. Some of them are translations, while the others are original works, sometimes resulting from scientific and research work.

1195. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities attaches great importance to the protection of the linguistic identity of national minorities, inter alia, through the co-financing of projects of translation, dubbing, post-

synchronization and subtitling of works produced in national minority languages, which were selected at a competition.

p. In territories other than those in which Slovak is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Slovak.

1196. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities through competition, which encourage cultural activities and content in the languages of national minorities and territories which they are not the ones in which these languages are traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

1197. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

1198. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

1199. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called *Cities in Focus*, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42 from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development.

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

q. Encourage regular activities promoting Slovak in the framework of existing agreements on transfrontier co-operation at national level.

1200. Cooperation with the Slovak Republic is based on the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Education, Culture and Sports between the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the Slovak Republic signed in 1996.

1201. Specific activities are planned and implemented through periodic bilateral cooperation programs. The Cooperation Program between the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic in the field of education for the period 2016-2020 was signed in 2016.

1202. Cooperation programs are carried out by the exchange of scholarships on the basis of reciprocity, exchange of lecturers/visiting professors of Serbian or Slovak language, scholarships for summer courses of Serbian, i.e. Slovak language and culture, direct cooperation of universities in Serbia and Slovakia, participation in scientific meetings, conferences and roundtables.

1203. In the academic year 2018/2019, two lecturers from the Slovak Republic were hired, one at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade and one at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad. At the Komenski University in Bratislava, at the Slavic Languages Department, Faculty of Philosophy, one lecturer was hired for the Serbian language course.

1204. The Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Novi Sad has significant cooperation with the University of Prešov (Erasmus+) and the University of Matej Bel in Banska Bistrica (bilateral cooperation).

1205. The Government of the Slovak Republic has allocated a quota of 36 scholarship months and four places for the Slovak language summer school to citizens of the Republic of Serbia for the academic year 2018/2019. As part of the National Scholarship Program of the Government of the Slovak Republic, a call for applications for scholarships for the academic year 2018/2019 has been published to support the mobility of students, university professors, researchers and artists. Citizens of the Republic of Serbia were eligible for these scholarships.

1206. Within the CEEPUS III program, universities in Serbia are included in the Central European exchange program for students and teaching staff with the universities in Slovakia, among others. In the academic year 2018/2019, three lecturers from the Slovak Republic were approved in the Republic of Serbia.

1207. Within the Erasmus+ Mobility for Students and Staff program, one student from the Faculty of Economics within the Technical University of Košice attended the Belgrade Banking Academy - Faculty of Banking, Insurance and Finance during 2017.

1208. In the area of culture, the Cooperation Program between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for 2010-2013 was also signed, that is automatically extended yearly until the new program is signed. The agreed framework includes cooperation in the fields of literature, filmmaking, librarianship, theater, music, fine arts, museology, protection of cultural monuments, as well as establishing links between individuals and institutions of the two countries, with the aim of continuous exchange of information between the two ministries and cultural institutions of the two countries.

1209. UNESCO has repeatedly recognized Kovačica, a municipality in which 82% of the population are Slovaks, as an example of good practice in the field of culture and nurturing the diversity of cultural expression. This place has been marking February 21st - International Mother Language Day for two decades.

1210. The following table provides available information on local-level co-operation, obtained from local self-government units that have responded to the invitation to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter.

Local self-government unit	City of Cooperation	Area of Cooperation
Bačka Palanka	Považska Bistrica and Liptovski Mikulas	The cooperation is carried out in the fields of culture, economy, tourism, sports, education and social protection. Cooperation includes exchange of experience, assistance in specific areas and exchange of young people, as well as experts in various fields.
Bačka Topola	Rožnjo	The cooperation is carried out in the field of culture, sport and art.
Bački Petrtovac	Stara Ljubovnja, Nitra, Ruzomberok and Martin	
Beočin	Novaki, Lučenec and Banska Bistrica	Cultural events are organized jointly.
Kovačica		The municipality of Kovačica cooperates with several cities in Slovakia in various projects to preserve the culture, language and traditions of Slovakia.
Niš	Košice	Collaboration in the field of film, art and music. In 2016, the event "Days of Slovakia in Niš" was held and exhibitions of artists from Slovakia were held regularly.
Stara Pazova	Puhov, Miloslavov, Dunajská Lužná, Belá, Hamuliakovo and Stare Mesto	Cooperation in the field of culture.
Šid	Stebnik	

4.1.9. UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

Article 8 - Education

paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

Primary Education

1211. The study of the subject Ukrainian language with elements of national culture is organized in five local self-government units in seven primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of students
2016/2017	5	9	137
2017/2018	5	9	111
2018/2019	5	7	16

University and higher education

1212. The Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, has basic academic studies of Ukrainian language, literature, culture.

Study profile	2016	2017	2018	Total number of students in all years of studies, academic year 2018/2019
Ukrainian language, literature, culture	21	11	8	58

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Make available education in Ukrainian at all appropriate levels.

1213. Bearing in mind the statutory requirements for the introduction of the minority language into the education system – the consent of 50% of parents/legal guardians is required in preschools, and in order for teaching to be held in a minority language in primary and secondary schools, at least 15 students enrolled in the first grade are needed; therefore the educational institutions at all levels carry out the surveys with parents at the enrollment of students into the first year of the education cycle (enrollment in preschool, in the first grade of the primary school and in the first grade of the secondary school).

1214. By completing the survey, the parent declares the desired language of the educational work/teaching. The institution is obliged, if the conditions prescribed by law are fulfilled, to provide the educational work in the language of the national minority

1215. As no legal requirements for introducing Ukrainian into any of the educational levels have been obtained, except as an elective subject/program *Mother tongue/speech with elements of national culture* in primary school, complete Ukrainian preschool educational work is not conducted, or entire education in Ukrainian is not conducted at primary and secondary level of education.

1216. Since secondary education is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out *the Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

c. Favour and encourage the offering of Ukrainian as a subject of adult and continuing education.

1217. Parents' surveys on elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture* are conducted each school year, through the Uniform Survey Sheet, which is distributed to all primary schools through school administrations. Interested students in Adult Elementary Education schools are also interviewed by this survey sheet on attendance of the elective course/program Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture. In the previous school years, there wasn't a sufficient number of students interested in learning Ukrainian with elements of national culture. If the legal requirements are met and at least 15 students apply to learn Ukrainian with elements of national culture, the institution will be obliged to form a group and organize the teaching of this subject.

1218. Since secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools for adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

d. Within the territory in which Ukrainian is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Ukrainian, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

1219. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle and Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of

national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

1220. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society, History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

1221. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

1222. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

1223. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

1224. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the second year gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

Article 9 - Judicial powers

paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d

paragraph 2 a, b, c
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

e. Take measures to encourage Ukrainian speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

1225. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Ukrainian.

1226. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Ukrainian speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

1227. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

1228. According to available data, at the beginning of 2019, three members of the Ukrainian national minority were employed in the courts of the Republic of Serbia. There were no Ukrainian-language proceedings during the reporting period.

f. Inform Ukrainian speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

1229. According to the provisions of the law governing the criminal and civil proceedings, the parties, witnesses and other persons participating in the proceedings have the right to use their language and script during the proceedings, which is in accordance with Article 199 of the Constitution. If, however, the proceedings are not conducted in their language, they will be informed of their right to translation. These persons may declare that they know the language in which the proceedings are conducted and waive their right to translation. Failure to do so will provide them with a translation of what they or others present, as well as the translation of documents and other written evidence. Translation is done by a translator. The minister responsible for justice issues the decision to appoint permanent court translators and translation costs are paid from the budget.

g. Make available in Ukrainian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Ukrainian.

1230. As the Ukrainian language is not in official use, no legal texts have been translated into this language during the reporting period.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services
paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2 b, c, d, g
paragraph 3 c
paragraph 4 c
paragraph 5

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

b. Initiate the introduction of Ukrainian into local official use so as to enable the application of the Charter.

1231. Until now, the Ukrainian language has not been officially introduced in any local self-government unit. The reason for this is the dispersion of members of the Ukrainian national minority who do not live in significant numbers in any unit of local self-government or in a populated place and thus they do not fulfill the conditions prescribed by the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts for the Introduction of Ukrainian into official use.

1232. By amending the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts of 2018, the Republic of Serbia has prescribed affirmative conditions for the official introduction of languages and scripts of the national minority to official use in populated areas where the number of members of the national minority reaches 15%. Namely, the Law stipulates that in settlements in units of local self-government, the territory of which is determined in accordance with the law governing the territorial organization of the Republic of Serbia, in which the percentage of members of a particular national minority in the total population in the territory of

the inhabited place reaches 15% according to the results the last census, the names of bodies exercising public authority, the names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms are also written in the language of the national minority concerned, according to its tradition and spelling, even if the language of the national minority is not in official use in the territory of the local self-government. However, even with the application of these affirmative rules, the conditions for the introduction of the Ukrainian language into official use in certain settlements were not met.

1233. The National Council of the Ukrainian National Minority has so far not initiated an introduction of the Ukrainian language into official use.

h. Encourage the local branches of the national authorities to draft documents in Ukrainian.

1234. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System, which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

i. Foster the publication by local and regional authorities of their official documents also in Ukrainian.

1235. As noted in previous reports on the application of the Charter, the publication of official documents in minority languages is dependent on the introduction of minority language for official use. Since the Statute of the AP of Vojvodina does not establish that the Ukrainian language is in official use in the bodies of AP of Vojvodina, as it is not in official use in any unit of local self-government, official documents were not published in the Ukrainian language.

j. Encourage Ukrainian speakers to use this language in communication with public service providers.

1236. The Law on Public Services does not contain an explicit provision on the language in which citizens can address public services to exercise their rights and obligations, but bearing in mind that public services, when deciding on the rights and obligations of citizens, organizations

or users of their services and when they carry out other tasks prescribed by law, decide and work under the General Administrative Procedure Act and the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, this means that oral and written requests may also be submitted in minority languages.

1237. As there is no legal obligation to specifically keep records of requests made by minority language speakers to public services, there is no aggregate information on the number of requests submitted. To illustrate the possibility of using minority languages in communication with public services, information provided by public companies founded by the Republic of Serbia, which participated in the preparation of this report, according to which there was no written address by users of services in one of the minority languages, highlighting their competence to respond to requests in minority languages. The following public companies have responded to the invitation to participate in the development of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter: Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" doo., Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

1238. Distribution System Operator EPS d.o.o. Belgrade points out that the general acts of the Operator are not conceived on a territorial, but on a functional principle, with the exception of branches - power distribution, which perform the technical part of the operations of the Operator's predominant activity, but also these units are designed to represent the connection of one functional entity with the same individual operations of that functional whole that are performed in the consumption areas of the branches. According to the above, the normative and nomotechnical determination of the concept of the general acts of the Operator is not territorial, but unique and functional, and for the above reasons no knowledge of minority languages is foreseen as a special condition for carrying out any job in the Operator. Likewise, the general acts of the Operator do not contain any negative or discriminatory norms that prevent the filing or receipt of requests in minority languages, and therefore there is a possibility that requests to the Operator may be submitted in minority languages, in accordance with the law.

1239. The Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade states that it has ensured the application of the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts in the areas of working units and regional work units in which official languages and scripts of national minorities are in use. No requests were made in the languages of national minorities during the reporting period, although conditions were provided for such requests to be addressed. Namely, the work units and the regional work units in their work strive to enable users to use languages that are in equal official use when providing postal and other services, which implies that the names of work units or regional units are written in the territory of certain local self-government units, among others, work units, stamps and stamps, as well as the forms used on a daily basis in the work of the post network front office and in the delivery (e.g. shipment arrival notification form, registered receipt form, letter consignments, departure telegram form, etc.).

1240. PE Srbijagas points out that it is possible for clients to address the company in minority languages and to use them in this public company.

k. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure concerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Ukrainian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

1241. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[56], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charterthere were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the Ukrainian language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

1242. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

1243. PE Post of Serbia notes that when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in that area.

1244. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

1245. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and who speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the Employment Contract.

[56] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad

1246. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1 January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs shall, among other things, define jobs for which, as a special condition, knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat, or its organizational unit are located. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

l. Draw the attention of local authorities to the right to use family names in Ukrainian in conformity with the spelling and script of that language, and if needed, provide them with technical support to ensure the effective use of this right.

1247. The previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have detailed the legislative framework for exercising the right of persons belonging to national minorities to enter their personal name according to their language and spelling. The right to enter a personal name in the minority language and spelling in the registers does not depend on the official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities, it is provided in the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia.

1248. The provision of Article 17 of the Law on Civil Registers[57] stipulates that the personal name of a child, parents, spouse and deceased is entered in the Serbian language, in Cyrillic script, and the persons belonging to national minorities have the right to enter their personal name in accordance with the language and spelling of the language of the national minority members, which does not exclude a parallel entry of a personal name in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script as well.

1249. In the past period, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government has provided to all the bodies performing the entrusted activities of keeping the registry books an Instruction on the method of entering the personal name of persons belonging to a national minority in the registers in order to harmonize the practice of work and application of the regulations on the registry. The instruction directs the manner of work related to the registration of the personal name of a member of a national minority, regardless of the place of entry of a particular fact in the registers and irrespective of whether that information is entered during the basic registration in the registry or during subsequent registration. Also, along with the aforementioned instruction, an example of the Notice on the procedure and manner of entering

[57] Official Gazette of RS, no. 20/2009, 145/2014 and 47/2018

the personal name of a national minority member in the registers was distributed for placing on the bulletin boards of all the registered areas of the cities/municipalities for which the registers are kept.

1250. An Administrative Inspectorate has been set up in the Ministry; among other things, it supervises the work and activities of territorial autonomy bodies and local self-government units. The Administrative Inspectorate verifies whether these bodies comply with the regulations governing, among other things, the official use of languages and scripts and the registry.

1251. The Administrative Inspectorate carries out inspection supervision in accordance with the annual work program proposed by the Chief Administrative Inspector and approved by the Government. In the course of the implementation of the Work Program, the Administrative Inspectorate performed a total of 4,341 inspections and has acted upon 4,607 petitions from citizens and legal entities and has notified the petitioners of the outcome of the proceedings in the period 2016-2018.

1252. A total of 7,056 measures have been proposed to the inspection bodies in the Minutes of the supervisory inspection, to remedy the identified irregularities, irregularities and deficiencies. Of the total number of the proposed measures, 23 measures were concerning the right a national minority member to enter their personal name in the register in the language and script of the national minority in accordance with the Law on Civil Registers and the Instruction on Keeping Registers and Registry Forms.

Article 11 - Media
paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
paragraph 2
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

m. Encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Ukrainian on a regular basis.

1253. The Republic of Serbia, AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units continuously encourage the regular broadcasting of private television programs in the Ukrainian language through project co-financing. In addition, the new offer of Ukrainian-language TV programs on RTV has increased compared to 2015 and adequately replaces the previous offer of private TV stations, especially because it is available to speakers of Ukrainian throughout the AP of Vojvodina.

1254. The following paragraphs provide information on the complete Ukrainian-language radio and television broadcasting service.

1255. As public information in Ukrainian is made up of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing media radio and television broadcasting services in Ukrainian, basic activity of the public media services, financing media content in Ukrainian language on private media and financing of the media whose indirect founder is National the Council of the Ukrainian National Minority.

1256. The table below shows the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analog signal and media television broadcasting via a digital signal in Ukrainian.

No.	Radio	Television
1.	Catholic Church IIC Rado Marija, Novi Sad-Radio Marija Novi Sad	Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
2.	Catholic Church IIC Rado Marija, Subotica-Radio Marija Subotica	
3.	Đakovica and Srem Diocese, Srem Vicary, Petrovaradin-Radio Marija Vrdnik	
4.	Catholic Church IIC Radio Marija, Sombor-Radio Marija Sombor	
5.	RTV Inđija DOO, Inđija-Radio Inđija	
6.	Kula DOO, Kula-Q Radio 89,2	
Total	6	1

1257. The table below lists media service providers providing media service of television broadcasting of programs in Ukranian via the cable system.

No.	TELEVISION
1.	RTV Panonija DOO, Novi Sad-TV Panonija Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
2.	RTV Panonija DOO, Novi Sad-TV Panonija Kanal 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
Total	2

1258. Radio and television program in Ukrainian is broadcasted daily on RTV. The program in Ukrainian language has a share of 1.48% in the total broadcasted RTV 2 program. It is mainly an informative program (83.89%), with the most significant show of its own production - Ukrainian Panorama, which gives an overview of the most important events related to the life of this ethnic community in Vojvodina.

1259. Periodicals Ridne slovo and Solovejko are published in the Ukrainian language.

1260. Informing in Ukrainian is financially supported from the republic, provincial and local budgets by co-financing projects selected in competitions.

1261. The Ministry of Culture and Information has supported projects selected in competition that are implemented through various types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Ukrainian in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Media	Amount
2016.	1	Radio	400,000.00
2017.	1	Radio	400,000.00
2018.	1	Radio	400,000.00

1262. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Ukrainian.

	UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE	Number of projects	Total funding
2016	**Type of media**	**1**	**100,000.00**
	Newspapers	1	100,000.00
2017		**2**	**250,000.00**
	Radio	2	250,000.00
2018		**1**	**150,000.00**
	Radio	1	150,000.00

1263. The budget of AP of Vojvodina subsidizes newspapers of provincial importance, including newspapers in Ukrainian. The table below provides information on subsidizing this type of media.

Publisher	Media	2016	2017	2018
NIU *Ridne Slovo*, Novi Sad	"Ridne slovo" - Ukrainian Language	2,953,560.00	2,953,560.00	3,102,000.00
	"Solovejko"	1,098,000.00	1,098,000.00	1,152,450.00
Total		**4,051,560.00**	**4,051,560.00**	**4,254,540.00**

1264. From 2016 to 2018, the municipality of Vrbas has financed programs and projects for multilingual media and media in Ruthenian, Hungarian and Ukrainian. For 2016, it has allocated RSD 100,000.00, for 2017, RSD 300,000.00, and for 2018, RSD 300,000.00.

n. Encourage and/or facilitate the production an~ distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Ukrainian.

1265. The Republic of Serbia, AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units continuously encourage the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual content in the Ukrainian language through project co-financing.

o. Encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly newspaper in Ukrainian.

1266. Without prejudice to the interpretation of the Committee of Experts according to which newspapers, in terms of the Charter, are published daily or at least weekly, the authorities of the

Republic of Serbia point out that, according to the Law on Public Information and Media, periodical newspapers are not a journal, but a media which is listed as such in the Media Register. Accordingly, *Ridne slovo* and *Solovejko* are registered in the Media Register. The decision to provide part of the funds from the budget of AP of Vojvodina for publishing newspapers of provincial significance established that Ridne slovo and Solovejko were the newspapers of provincial significance. This obligation is exercised by the State in accordance with the situation of the Ukrainian language and to the extent that, directly or indirectly, it has jurisdiction, power or plays an appropriate role in this area, and respecting the principle of independence and autonomy of the media, as expressly provided in Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Charter. The authorities of the Republic of Serbia reiterate that interfering of the state regarding the periodicity of the print media, i.e. newspapers in the Ukrainian language would violate not only the principle of the independence and autonomy of media arising from Article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, but also the cultural autonomy Ukrainian national minority.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits
paragraph 1 a, b, c, f
paragraph 2

1267. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually awards, through competition, funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities.

1268. The table below provides information on the number of programs and the amount of funding allocated to the institutions and organizations in Ukrainian language.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	1	200,000.00
2017	-	-
2018	1	150,000.00

1269. Within the Competition for translating representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, a significant number of authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In 2016-2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages.

1270. The table below provides information on the number of works and the resources allocated to translations into Ukrainian.

Language of translation	Ukrainian			
	2016	2017	2018	Total
Number of works	5	5	-	10
Amount in dinars	-	-	-	-
Amount in euros	6,000	6,300	-	12,300

1271. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities finances from its budget (within the program activity Support to the Cultural Activity of National Minorities) programs and projects of importance for the culture and art of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina through a public competition it publishes annually. Programs and projects in the field of protection of the intangible cultural heritage and artistic creation of national minorities and in the field of publishing in the languages of national minorities are co-financed.

1272. The table below provides information on the number and type of co-financed projects and programs and the amount of funds paid for the Ukrainian language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds	Total
2016	Publishing			
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events			
2017	Publishing	1	50,000.00	115,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	1	65,000.00	
2018	Publishing			165,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	6	165,000.00	

1273. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

1274. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects of the Ukrainian minority members associations and the amount of funds awarded in the call for proposals for grants to organizations of ethnic communities in the period 2016 - 2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	5	120,000.00
2017	4	390,000.00
2018	4	390,000.00

1275. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of members of the Ukrainian national minority in 2016-2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Inđija	250,000.00	350,000.00	380,000.00
2.	Kula	1,020,000.00	640,000.00	640,000.00

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

p. Encourage the production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ukrainian.

1276. The Republic of Serbia supports and encourages with budget funds the production, reproduction and dissemination of works in the Ukrainian language to the extent that there are projects and programs in this field. Funding/co-financing is provided by the Ministry of Culture and Information, AP of Vojvodina and local self-government units.

1277. For a number of years, the Ukrainian national minority has been organizing the *Taras Shevchenko Days*, the *Kalina Festival of Ukrainian Culture* and the *Veselka Children's Creative Arts Festival*, all supported by budgetary funds.

1278. The *Taras Shevchenko's Days* is a literary, theater and musical event and is held throughout the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, in places where there are branches of the Ukrainian language, literature and culture society. The *Taras Shevchenko Days* were launched in 1990 and are aimed at presenting works by the master of Ukrainian literature and history, Taras Shevchenko, one of the greatest Ukrainian poets, painters and humanists.

1279. In 2018, RTV 1 broadcast a three-episode film "Століття дружби" (Centuries of Friendship), about the history of Ukrainian-Serbian ties. The film is in Serbian, but the authors of the screenplay and a group of cameramen are primarily representatives of the Ukrainian and Ruthenian communities in Serbia. The filming also took place on the territory of Ukraine, and distinguished historians and lecturers from Serbia were also interviewed in the film. Also, at the 12th International Beldocs Documentary Film Festival in Belgrade, after the screening of the film Process - State of Russia against Oleg Sencov, a panel discussion on Oleg Sencov was organized in the presence of authors from Ukraine.

q. Foster access in other languages to works produced in Ukrainian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

1280. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces an open call for co-financing the cultural activities of national minorities, and support for translations, dubbing and

subtitling of translations of works produced in national minority languages is cited as one of the priorities of the competition. So far, relatively few users have applied for projects of this type, and the reasons for this may differ. Projects are often planned and implemented without a broader perception of the importance of translating the content, in the context of accessibility and audience development. That is why networking of different cultural actors from different territories, when planning and implementing the program, is another important competition priority that can contribute to a greater use of minority languages.

1281. Compared to the previous reporting period, there is an increase in the number of subtitling or translation projects, as well as those that correspond with the broader community, i.e. not targeting members of only one national minority; it cannot be said that a standard has been established but that these are sporadic examples of good practice. In the last three years, the Ministry has supported the issuing of 22 publications, for which 12 different national minorities have applied. Some of them are translations, while the others are original works, sometimes resulting from scientific and research work.

1282. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities attaches great importance to the protection of the linguistic identity of national minorities, inter alia, through the co-financing of projects of translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling of works produced in national minority languages, which were selected at a competition.

r. Foster acces in Ukrainian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling.

1283. The Republic of Serbia fosters the access to the content in languages of national minorities originating in other languages by providing assistance or developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronization and subtitling of translations. The Ministry of Culture and Information co-finances projects selected at public calls for proposals, to the extent in which there are interested applicants. However, having a particular type of project must take into account both the realistic production and the artistic value of the resulting work.

1284. By conducting a competition for translation of representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, the Ministry of Culture and Information subsidizes foreign publishers for translation into the language of their native country. Within the Competition for translating representative works of authors from Serbia into foreign languages, which actually subsidizes foreign publishers, a significant number of local authors have been translated into the languages of the region, and the added value of this competition lies in the fact that it is most often the native countries of the national minorities living in Serbia. In the period from 2016 to 2018 alone, 100 works were translated into 12 different languages, and EUR 108,300, USD 2,000 and RSD 1,612,000.00 were allocated for these purposes.

1285. When it comes to the audiovisual production (film industry), it is well known that it belongs to the creative industries and is therefore market-oriented. The Ministry sees a potential reason for the lack of great number of translations into minority languages in this very fact, because it is not profitable to translate into languages that will not generate market value, even if the government subsidizes this activity. An example of this is the translations of films supported by the Ministry, mainly made for the purpose of participating at festivals or other events in the native countries (the Film Center of Serbia allocates funds for the translation of films if distributors show interest).

s. In territories ther than those in which Ukrainian is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Ukrainian.

1286. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities annually announce, through competition, funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities, which encourage cultural activities and programs in languages of national minorities also in territories in which these languages have not been traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

1287. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

1288. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

1289. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called Cities in Focus, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42 from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development.

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

t. Encourage regular activities promoting Ukrainian in the framework of existing agreements on transfrontier co-operation at national and local levels.

1290. The Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Education, Culture and Sports between the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine was signed in 1996. In addition, the Culture Cooperation Program between the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine was signed in 2013. The program envisages cooperation in the field of culture in terms of exchanging experts, films and publications, participation in events, theater events, festivals and professional gatherings. The parties have pledged to encourage cultural exchange between the two countries. The procedure for adopting a new cooperation program has been initiated.

1291. In 2017, the event "Days of Ukraine" was held in Novi Sad, in numerous cultural institutions (Matica Srpska, Cultural Center of Novi Sad, Studio M, Museum of Vojvodina, Historical Archive of Novi Sad, etc.). As part of the event, a Ukrainian film revue was held, followed by the exhibition "History of Relations between Ukraine and Serbia", "Plesni Vernisaž", with participation of cultural and art societies of the Ukrainian minority from Kula, Ruski Krstur, Sremska Mitrovica, Đurđevo, Novi Sad and a concert of musical and choral art called "Ukraine invites guests".

1292. Youth Theater (stage for children) from Novi Sad and Children's Theater from Kragujevac have participated at the second International Puppet Theater Festival held in 2018 at the Kiev Academic Puppet Theater.

4.1.10. CROATIAN LANGUAGE

Article 8 - Education
paragraph 1 a (iii), a (iv), b (iv), c (iv), d (iv), e (ii), f (iii), g

Primary Education

1293. The entire education in the Croatian language is conducted in one unit of local self-government, in five primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	5	32	274

2017/2018	1	5	33	244
2018/2019	1	5	32	242

1294. In addition, bilingual model is taught in the Croatian language. Classes in the Croatian - English model have been organized at the Matija Gubec elementary school in Tavankut from the school year 2014/15. Currently, bilingual classes take place in one combined second and third grade class.

1295. The study of the subject Croatian language with elements of national culture is organized in six local self-government units in 14 primary schools.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes
2016/2017	6	14	430
2017/2018	6	14	430
2018/2019	6	14	459

Secondary Education

Gymnasiums

1296. Entire education in Croatian language is conducted in one local self-government unit, in one gymnasium.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	4	74
2017/2018	1	1	4	71
2018/2019	1	1	4	66

Technical and specialist education

1297. The entire education in the Croatian language is conducted in one local self-government unit, in a three-year technical school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students
2016/2017	1	1	1	6
2017/2018	1	1	1	6
2018/2019	-	-	-	-

1298. The entire education in the Croatian language is conducted in one local self-government unit, in a four-year technical school.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of schools	Number of classes	Number of students

2016/2017	1	1	3	47
2017/2018	1	1	3	37
2018/2019	1	1	3	51

1299. The National Council of the Croatian National Minority states in its contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that textbooks for secondary schools for teaching in the Croatian language are lacking and that 3 out of the 30 textbooks in the textbook catalogue for secondary schools are in use, while others have become outdated and are not in line with the current teaching and learning programs.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

c. Make preschool education available in Croatian.

1300. Preschool education in the Croatian language is conducted in one local self-government unit in one preschool institution.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	1	1	1	18
2017/2018	1	1	3	24
2018/2019	1	1	3	24

1301. Educational work in preschool institutions is also organized bilingually, in Serbian and Croatian, in one unit of local self-government in one preschool institution.

School year	Number of local self-government units	Number of preschool institutions	Number of classes	Number of children
2016/2017	1	1	1	20
2017/2018	1	1	2	20
2018/2019	1	1	2	23

ð. Provide facilities for the study of Croatian as a university and higher education subject.

1302. In the Republic of Serbia there is no organized study of the Croatian language as a separate subject.

1303. At the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad from the academic year 2018/2019, a Croatian language department was established to implement the Program for the Acquisition of Competences in the Croatian Language, Culture and Literature with Methodology, within the Center for Teacher Training, in accordance with the Law on Higher Education. The program is designed to ensure the acquisition of knowledge and skills necessary for competent teaching in the Croatian language at the level of subject and classroom teaching and realization of preschool activities, and is implemented by a teacher/lecturer of Croatian language and literature as a

Croatian native speaker. 7 candidates in the current academic year have enrolled in the Competency Program for Croatian Language and Literature with Methodology.

1304. At the same faculty, under the accredited study program Serbian Literature and Language, students study Croatian Literature as a separate subject.

e. Encourage the offering of Croatian as a subject of adult and continuing education.

1305. Parents' surveys on elective course/program *Mother tongue/Speech with elements of national culture* are conducted each school year, through the Uniform Survey Sheet, which is distributed to all primary schools through school administrations. Interested students in Adult Elementary Education schools are also interviewed by this survey sheet on attendance of the elective course/program Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture. In the previous school years, there wasn't a sufficient number of students interested in learning Croatian with elements of national culture. If the legal requirements are met and at least 15 students apply to learn Croatian with elements of national culture, the institution will be obliged to form a group and organize the teaching of this subject.

1306. Since secondary education, even secondary school for adult education, is not a compulsory form of education in the Republic of Serbia, it is currently not possible to carry out the *Mother tongue/Speech Program with elements of national culture* in secondary schools for adult education that would be funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. So far, this elective program is carried out with the support of national councils of national minorities and local self-governments.

f. Within the territory in which Croatian is used, ensure the teaching of the history and the culture reflected by Croatian, including to pupils belonging to the majority population.

1307. An analysis of the selected curricula, subject competences and educational standards was carried out within the Horizontal Program for the Western Balkans and Turkey, through the project *Strengthening the Protection of National Minorities in Serbia*. The analysis shows that the standards and the teaching and learning programs, and in particular assignments and units for particular subjects, such as Nature and the Society and Music Culture in the first cycle, Serbian language and Literature and Geography in the second cycle, Geography, Sociology and the Constitution and Citizens' Rights in the third education cycle, directly address the issue of national minorities or their cultural heritage, which represents positive trends or examples. In addition, teachers may organize lessons on specific content relevant to national or local identities, with the aim that teaching should lead to the development of students' intercultural competences, to their acquaintance with members of different ethnic/national groups.

1308. The *History* course has been recognized as one of the most important in raising the awareness of different views of the past, including the position and perspective of national

minorities. After analyzing the curricula for the subjects *Nature and the Society*, *History*, and to some extent *Geography*, it was noted that the issue of national minorities living in Serbia was not sufficiently addressed.

1309. Within the same project, Guidelines for the proper representation of national minorities in educational content were developed. This document is based on the Report on representation of national minorities in teaching curricula and educational standards of the Republic of Serbia and the Report on representation of national minorities in school textbooks in the Republic of Serbia.

1310. In addition to the general guidelines, the document also proposes specific guidelines containing examples and guidance on how to translate recommendations appropriately into the educational content. Thereafter, the document provides a set of guidelines pertaining to the institutions competent for the adoption, harmonization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the teaching and learning programs. The last set of proposed guidelines addresses the content of the textbooks and possible ways to include the content on national minorities. Recommendations are defined as a form of support to institutions, participants and stakeholders in the education system in developing awareness (especially of the student population and employees in education and culture) of the need to understand the rights, status and participation of national minorities, to embrace cultural diversity, to develop tolerance, to foster a shared life and an overall social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia.

1311. The recommendations are directed at the institutions responsible for education concerning teaching and learning programs for primary and secondary schools, the promotion of democratic culture in schools and gender equality. A specific set of recommendations relates to improving the quality of textbook content (visual and textual), which should reflect the respect for minority rights, as well as a set of recommendations for improving the quality of initial education of teachers who teach in a minority language.

1312. These activities have resulted in clearly marked elements of democratic culture, i.e. content that supports and encourages the respect for diversity, active application of tolerance, protection against discrimination in the second year gymnasium programs within the framework of the education system, based on Guidelines, Opinions and Recommendations.

Article 9 - Judicial powers
paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d
paragraph 2 a, b, c
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

g. Take measures to encourage Croatian speakers to use this language in criminal and civil proceedings as well as in proceedings concerning administrative matters.

1313. The previous reports on the application of the Charter set out, inter alia, the provisions ensuring the right of parties, witnesses and other participants to use their own language during court proceedings and before the court relating to administrative matters. It has already been pointed out that, based on the legislative and legal framework, it is possible to conduct the entire judicial proceedings in minority languages in the courts in which they have been identified as languages in official use. In accordance with the regulations, these court proceedings are recorded separately. The courts, however, do not keep records of the number of cases in which parties use some of the minority languages only in the part in which they communicate with the court, or the number of court proceedings in which the participants exercise their right to use their own language. Under these circumstances, no information was available on proceedings before the court concerning administrative matters, that is, in criminal and civil proceedings, in which the parties have exercised their right to use Croatian.

1314. Based on the applicable legal provisions on the right to the use of language and script in criminal proceedings, the court delivers a written notice to the suspect or the defendant, before the first hearing, informing him of his rights at the hearing, inter alia, of the right to use a language in the proceedings that he understands and of the right to a translator and an interpreter. These legal provisions also apply to Croatian speakers. In addition, if, in criminal proceedings, the accused, the defense lawyer, the injured party or the plaintiff, contrary to his request, is denied access to his language at the main trial and following the course of the main trial in his own language, there is an absolute violation of the procedural provisions of which the court takes into account the line of duty.

1315. Similar to the provisions governing criminal proceedings, there is an absolute breach of the rules of procedure in civil proceedings if, contrary to the provisions of the law, the court rejects a party's request to use his language and script freely in the proceedings, or if the litigation was not conducted in the language of a national minority, although legal requirements were met for this.

1316. According to available data, in early 2019, 46 members of the Croatian national minority were employed in the courts of the Republic of Serbia, while 41 employees spoke the Croatian language as well as seven lay judges. There were no procedures conducted in the Croatian language in the reporting period.

h. Inform Croatian speakers of the possibility to validly draft legal documents in this language.

1317. In addition to the above rules, the Rules of Procedure also contain additional rules of relevance for the wider use of minority languages in judicial proceedings. Namely, if the court proceedings are not conducted in the language of a national minority, and in the court, besides the Serbian language, the language of the national minority is also officially used, written documents shall be submitted in his language to the member of the national minority at their request. Translation of submissions and documents submitted to the court in the languages of

national minorities is carried out by a translator. The minutes and decisions in the first instance proceedings relating to the proceedings shall be drafted, as authentic texts, in the Serbian language and in the established language of the proceedings. If necessary, they shall be translated into another language of the national minority, if required by a member of the national minority as a participant in proceedings not conducted in his language. Minutes and decisions in legal remedies proceedings shall be made in the Serbian language. The court of first instance shall translate the decisions taken by legal remedies into the established language of the proceedings and, if necessary, into the second language of national minorities, as well as submit them in a text credibly translated to the appropriate language (to the members of national minorities as participants in the proceedings). If written in the language of a national minority and sent to a court where the language is not in official use, a translation into Serbian shall be enclosed.

1318. The full application of the above rules ensures that speakers of minority languages are informed at each stage of the proceedings of their right to use their language before a court and to decide to exercise their rights.

i. Make available in Croatian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Croatian.

1319. In order to increase the availability of the most important regulations pertaining to the exercise of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the amendments to the Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities of 2018 stipulate that the ministry responsible for exercising the rights of national minorities provides the translation and publishes the collections of consolidated texts of the most important laws of the Republic of Serbia, whose subject matter of regulation is, in whole or in most part, the exercise of rights of national minorities.

1320. The Ministry is obliged to make these laws available in electronic format, on its website and on the eGovernment Portal, as well as to agree to send to the national councils of national minorities a certain number of collections of consolidated texts of these laws. Exceptionally, the national council of a national minority may submit a proposal to the line ministry, on the grounds that it is of particular importance for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the national minority, for the line ministry to translate and publish a collection of consolidated texts of certain laws within its legal scope containing provisions pertaining to the exercise of rights and freedoms of national minorities, that is, to the social relations that are of particular importance to national minorities. When deciding on a proposal of a national council, particular consideration shall be given to the availability of the planned budgetary funds, as well as to whether amendments to these laws or an adoption of a new law is planned in the next one year that would replace the law proposed for translation or publishing.

1321. Translating regulations into minority languages will help harmonize the professional legal terminology in minority languages and further affirm their use in proceedings before the state authorities.

1322. As a number of laws governing the rights and status of persons belonging to national minorities have been amended in 2018, those laws, as well as the accompanying by-laws, have been translated into languages of national minorities that are in official use. These are the Law on National Councils of National Minorities, the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities, the Law on the Official Use of Languages and Scripts, the Decree on the Procedure for Allocating Funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities, and the Rulebook on the Method of Entering and Keeping the Register of National Councils, which are also available in Croatian.

1323. In addition, during the election cycle for the election of the members of the national councils of national minorities in November 2018, the following documents were translated into Croatian: the Law on the Election of Members of the Parliament; Rulebook on the form and content of the form for collecting signatures of voters supporting electors; Instruction on conducting an electoral assembly for the election of members of national councils of national minorities; List of candidates for members of the National Council of the Croatian National Minority for Elections by Electoral Assembly; Statement of acceptance of candidacy for a member of the National Council of the Croatian National Minority for Elections through the Electoral Assembly; ballot paper.

Article 10 - Administrative authorities and public services
paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), c
paragraph 2 b, c, d, g
paragraph 3 c
paragraph 4 c
paragraph 5.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

b. Take organisational measures to ensure that users of Croatian can submit oral or written applications in Croatian to local branches of the national authorities and encourage Croatian speakers to make use of this possibility in practice.

1324. As noted in previous reports on the implementation of the Charter, administrative districts in the Republic of Serbia have been formed to perform public administration tasks outside the seats of the state administration bodies and reflect the dispersion of state affairs. For easier carrying out tasks within the scope and outside their seats, the ministries or provincial secretariats establish for a certain territory their detached units - district territorial units. The cluster of all district regional units in a certain territory is an administrative district - a regional center of state administration.

1325. In the administrative district, public administration bodies may, at their discretion, perform one or more of the following public administration tasks: to resolve administrative matters in the first instance, to supervise the work of holders of public authority, and to conduct the supervisory inspections.

1326. District regional units of the state administration bodies have been formed in order to optimize the carrying out of state administration tasks, and above all the supervisory inspection activities. Ministries conduct for their district territorial units the HR policy, establish work plans, issue directives and instructions, and, on the basis of their competencies, on their websites, they direct parties to the district regional units of state administration bodies, in areas where the language of a national minority is in official, they may conduct the proceedings both in the language and using the script of that national minority.

1327. An Administrative Service is established in the administrative district, which shall essentially perform the tasks, general and common to all district regional units and provide expert and technical support to the head of the administrative district. Jobs within the scope of the Professional Services of the administrative district can be grouped into: legal, financial, registry, professional and technical support to the head of the administrative district and others.

1328. Although there are no obstacles or restrictions to the use of oral or written applications in minority languages by the speakers of minority languages, most of the administrative districts have stated in their contributions to the preparation of the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that so far there have been no cases in the professional service of the administrative district of an oral or written address in minority languages to the Head of the District, national inspection services, or provincial secretariats. All employees of the professional services of the administrative districts, as far as they are in contact with the parties, respect the rights of national minorities and always serve every party, regardless of their nationality or the language in which the party has addressed them. Should the party address them orally or in writing in a minority language, the professional service would meet him, enable him to exercise his right, and to the extent possible, to obtain a response in the minority language.

1329. In the territory of the North Bačka Administrative District, members of national minorities can submit a written application in the Croatian language, and the District Professional Service makes every effort to respect their right and to facilitate the translation.

j. Encourage the local branches of national authorities to draft documents in Croatian.

1330. Providing the drafting of documents in regional and minority languages entails a systematic solution to this issue that will ensure that administrative districts have a dedicated professional service that translates and drafts documents in minority languages. This would also require the recruitment of new staff members and the provision of additional financial resources, which is not possible at this time. Namely, since 2014, the Republic of Serbia has been applying

measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, which include, inter alia, the prohibition of employment in the public sector. The Law on Amendments to the Law on the Budget System, which came into force on December 7, 2013, stipulates a ban on establishing employment relations with new persons in order to fill in vacant job positions in public funds users, and this ban remains in force. Implementation of these measures is the basis for further continuation of reforms that should contribute to the advancement of other social and economic fields, reduction of unemployment rates, greater social justice, improvement of health care, education, work on infrastructure projects and more.

k. Facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents also in Croatian.

1331. The Statute of the AP of Vojvodina stipulates that the Serbian language and the Cyrillic script, the Hungarian, Slovak, Croatian, Romanian and Ruthenian languages and their scripts are in official use in the bodies and organizations of the AP of Vojvodina.

1332. The Statute of the AP of Vojvodina, the Provincial Assembly Decisions and the general acts of the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina, as well as the Provincial decrees and decisions of the Provincial Government, are published in the "Official Gazette of the AP of Vojvodina". These acts are published in all languages that are officially used in the work of the bodies of AP of Vojvodina, including the Croatian language.

1333. In addition to the above, the web site of the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina and the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, including official documents on these sites, have been translated and are available in all languages officially used in the work of the provincial authorities.

1334. The statutes of local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use also determine the publication of local general acts in the official gazettes of local self-government units. In this sense, since it allows the local self-government units to identify minority languages that are in official use, the state approves and encourages local authorities to publish their documents in minority languages. Some local self-government units have taken the opportunity to stipulate in their statutes that official gazettes publishing local documents also in minority languages that are in official use. The City of Subotica also publishes an official newsletter in the Croatian language, which means that the statute and all general acts of the local self-government unit are also available in the Croatian language.

1335. The official documents of local self-government units in minority languages are also available on official websites, as some of the local self-government units in which minority languages are in official use have websites in the minority language. The Subotica website is available in Croatian. On this site everything is published in all three languages which are officially used, among other documents, all competitions (applications for the competition and

the report on funds spent), as well as decisions and solutions in the field of culture, information, allocation of funds to religious communities, sports, the youth sector, social humanitarian organizations, scholarships for high school students of the deficient occupations of the technical profession and scholarships for students and encouraging the development of young talents.

1336. Official documents of local self-government units are available to speakers of minority languages and through various printed publications, newsletters, or bulletins published by local self-government units.

1337. The competition announced by the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities for the allocation of budget funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, who officially use languages and scripts of national minorities, among other things, is allocated for the production of official newsletters, multilingual forms and other public publications. Information on the amount of funding allocated to these competitions for the development of official newsletters and the publication of multilingual public publications, which contributes to improving the availability of official documents in minority languages, is contained in the table below.

2016	2017	2018
505,000.00	2,656,900.00	2,333,000.00

l. Ensure the use or adoption of place names in Croatian.

1338. Previous reports on the implementation of the Charter have provided detailed explanations of legislative solutions that have enabled the adoption and use of traditional place names in minority languages. Namely, the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that in areas where members of national minorities constitute a significant population, traditional local names, street names, settlements and topographic markings should also be written in their minority language. The Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities encourages the use of traditional forms of place names in minority languages, since the law provides that in the territory of a local self-government unit where official language is in official use, the names of bodies exercising public authority, the names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms are also written in the minority language, according to the tradition and spelling of that language. The Law on National Councils of National Minorities prescribes that the traditional names of local self-government units, settlements and other geographical names are determined by the national council of the national minority.

1339. Section 4.3.5 of the Second Report on the Implementation of the Charter contains information on traditional names of cities, municipalities and settlements in the Croatian language established by the National Council of the Croatian National Minority.

1340. At the end of 2018, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government sent a letter to the heads of city and municipal administrations in which languages and letters of national minorities were in official use; it emphasized that in their work and conduct they were obliged to adhere to all relevant regulations guaranteeing the right to official use of the languages and scripts of national minorities, which also includes labeling of the names of local self-government units, settlements, squares and streets and other toponyms on multilingual boards.

1341. There are numerous examples of the use of traditional names of settlements in minority languages, from the printing of boards with the names of settlements, through the names of institutions, memoranda and seals of local self-government bodies, to the use of these names in public documents, in forms for application or deletion from the special electoral roll of a national minority, during the election process, on tourist signage, in official gazettes, bulletins and brochures of local self-government units, etc.

1342. The following table provides available information on the practice of using traditional names of settlements in the Croatian language, provided by local self-government units that have responded to the invitation to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter.

Local self-government unit	**Use of traditional place names in Croatian**
Apatin	Board with the name of Sonta is also written in Croatian. Traditional names of settlements in the Croatian language are used on the boards with the names of organs and individual associations.
Sombor	In the settlements of Bački Breg, Bački Monoštor, Svetozar Miletić and Čonoplja, the names of the settlements are also written in Croatian. Traditional names of settlements in the Croatian language are used on the boards with the names of the organs in the settlements of Bački Monoštor and Bački Breg.
Sremska Mitrovica	In Stara Bingula, the boards with the name of the inhabited place are also written in Croatian.
Subotica	All boards on the City Administration building are written in Croatian. Traditional names of settlements in the Croatian language are also written on the boards of the Historical Archives, the Inter-municipal Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, the Municipal Police Subotica, the Local Tax Administration office and the Ombudsman's office. The Provincial Secretariat for Tourism has allocated RSD 385,000.00 for tourist signage at the entrance routes to Subotica. Multilingual boards were set up in the local communities of Zorka, Peščara, Bajnat, Aleksandrovo, Mali Radonovac, Radonovac, Centar 1, Centar 2, Novo Selo, Palić, Dudova Šuma, Željezničko naselje, Kertvaros, Prozivka, as well as in settlements Čantavir, Šupljak, Palić, Hajdukovo, Bački Vinogradi, Bajmok and Kelebija.
Šid	The names of Sot and Batrovci are also written in Croatian.

1343. In the election process for members of national councils of national minorities held in November 2018, traditional place names in minority languages were used in the electoral material, inter alia, on the election lists of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; statements of acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority; the approvals of the holders of the electoral list of candidates for members of national councils of national minorities; the power of attorney to submit an election list of

candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; voters' statements that they support the election list of candidates for members of the national minority council; lists of voters who, by their signatures, support the electoral list of candidates for members of the national council of a national minority; decisions on the establishment of an aggregate electoral list for members of national councils of national minorities; forms for collecting electorate signatures; lists of candidates for members of the national council of the national minority for elections by electoral assembly; statements on the acceptance of candidacy for a member of the national council of a national minority in elections through the electoral assembly; certificates of the voting right for voting outside the polling station, etc.

1344. The traditional place names in minority languages are also used in request forms for erasing the name from the special electoral roll of a national minority. The above forms have been translated into the languages of national minorities that are in official use and the traditional name of the place in minority language may be used when filling in the section on the place of residence. The above information is entered in an identical manner in the special electoral roll of a national minority.

1345. Within the competition for allocation of budgetary funds to bodies and organizations in the territory of AP of Vojvodina, in whose work the languages and scripts of national minorities are officially used, the competent provincial secretariat also allocates funds for creating multilingual boards with names of bodies and organizations, settlements, street names etc. Information on the funds allocated in these competitions for the placement of boards with the names of bodies and organizations, settlements and street names is contained in the table below.

2016.	**2017.**	**2018.**
2,252,200.00	5.334,100,00	7,167,000.00

m. Initiate the introduction of an administrative procedure concerning requests from public service employees who have knowledge of Croatian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used.

1346. Based on the available data and information obtained from the public enterprises founded by the Republic of Serbia that have participated in the preparation of the Fifth Report[58], it can be concluded that during the period covered by the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter there were no requests of employees who speak a minority language, including the Croatian language, to be engaged in the territories in which these languages are used. Likewise, it can be concluded that there is a general willingness to meet the potential requirements.

1347. For example, the Distribution System Operator EPS Distribucija d.o.o. Belgrade states that the issue of respecting the requirement of employees who know a minority language to be

[58] Distribution System Operator "EPS Distribucija" Ltd, Belgrade; Public Enterprise "Post of Serbia", Belgrade and PE "Srbijagas", Novi Sad.

hired in the territories in which those languages are used, is in fact a segment within the institute of changing contractual working conditions, where the knowledge of the minority language can be taken into account in the assessment of the fulfillment of all other conditions prescribed by the laws and general acts of the Operator for performing the work at a certain job position, in order to offer the employee an annex to the employment contract in the legally prescribed manner and in the form prescribed by law.

1348. PE Post of Serbia notes that when hiring staff in certain job positions, generally engages the staff according to the place of residence and in accordance with the needs of the work process, so that the engagement of the staff from the area of residence where members of national minorities who are speakers of minority languages also live ensures that the staff know the language of the national minority in that area.

1349. If there is a big number of members of a national minority in a given area, it is a common practice for the company to hire employees who know the language of a national minority, often members of that national minority for front office and postal delivery jobs, all in accordance with the needs of the work process and in the best interest of the users. This is supported by the fact that in the period 2016-2018, the Company has employed 7 persons with knowledge of one of the minority languages, in the territory where these languages are used.

1350. PE Srbijagas points out that they have employees who belong to national minorities and who speak minority languages, but they did not have a single employee requesting to be engaged at a place of employment different than the place of employment specified in the Employment Contract.

1351. In addition, it is important to emphasize that the new Law on Public Service Employees, which will be effective from 1 January 2020, stipulates that the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs, among other things, shall define jobs for which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority that is officially used in the territory of the local self-government unit in which the public service seat or its organizational unit are located, will be stipulated as a special condition. If a vacancy is filled in which the knowledge of the language and script of a national minority is stipulated as a special condition, the vacancy notice shall specify this condition, as well as any written verification of its fulfillment. The application of these rules will enable additional employment of minority language speakers in the territories where these languages are used in workplaces for which the Rulebook on the Organization and Systematisation of Public Service Jobs provides for the knowledge of national minority languages and scripts as a special condition.

Article 11 - Media

paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), f (ii)
paragraph 2
paragraph 3

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

a. Encourage the broadcasting of private television and radio programmes in Croatian.

1352. The authorities of the Republic of Serbia consider that this recommendation has been fulfilled given the fact that PMI RT Vojvodina has increased the hourly rate of broadcasting both radio and television programs in the Croatian language. The PMI RT of Vojvodina covers the entire territory of the AP of Vojvodina with its signal, where the members of the Croatian national minority are mostly concentrated. There are ten radio stations providing terrestrial analogue signal service in the Croatian language, and two TV stations providing a digital television broadcast service in the Croatian language. Three television stations provide the media service for television broadcasting in the Croatian language via the cable system.

1353. As public information in Croatian is made up of different segments, its sustainability can be viewed in the context of: providing media radio and television broadcasting services in Croatian, basic activity of the public media services, financing media content in Croatian language on private media and financing of the media whose indirect founder is the National Council of the Croatian National Minority.

1354. The table below shows the media service providers providing media radio service via terrestrial analog signal and media television broadcasting via a digital signal in Croatian.

No.	Radio	Television
1.	IIC Catholic Churches Rado Marija, Novi Sad-Radio Marija Novi Sad	Channel 9 DOO, Novi Sad- K9
2.	IIC Catholic Church Rado Marija, Subotica-Radio Marija Subotica	YU ECO DOO, Subotica- YU ECO TV
3.	Diocese of Đakovo and Srem, Vicariate of Srem, Petrovaradin-Radio Marija Vrdnik	
4.	IIC Rado Marija Catholic Church, Sombor-Radio Marija Sombor	
5.	Planeta LTD, Apatin-Naksi radio Apatin 105.8	
6.	Radio Subotica-Sabadkai radio LTD. Subotica-Radio Subotica	
7.	Information Center LTD. Odžaci-Radio Odžaci	
8.	RTV Indjija LTD, Indjija-Radio Indjija	
9.	Radio Bačka LTD, Bac-Radio Bačka 99,1	
10.	Belgrade Archdiocese, Belgrade-Radio Marija Niš	
Total	10	2

1355. The table below lists media service providers that provide media service for television broadcasting of programs in Croatian via the cable system.

No.	**TELEVISION**
1.	RTV Panonija LLC, Novi Sad-TV Pannonia
2.	Kanal 9 LLC, Novi Sad- K9

3.	VTV Koment DOO, Subotica-TV Subotica
Total	3

1356. There are 13 printed media in the Croatian language with different frequency of issuing.

1357. The National Council of the Croatian National Minority stated in its contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that the Croatian community has less minutes on RTV compared to some communities of similar size and that the increase in minutes should be such as to reflect the minutes with minorities of similar size. Likewise, five editorial staff are employed in Croatian, while, for example, in the Slovak editorial office, the number of employees exceeds ten.

1358. Information in Croatian is financially supported from the republic, provincial and local budgets by co-financing projects selected at competitions.

1359. The Ministry of Culture and Information has supported projects selected at competitions, which are implemented through various types of media, facilitating and encouraging the use of Croatian in the media.

Year	Number of projects	Media	Amount
2016	4	Production	1,900,000.00
2017	1	Radio	400,000.00
2017	3	Production	1,200,000.00
2018	2	Production	1,000,000.00

1360. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities of AP of Vojvodina has allocated funds to encourage the promotion of public information in Croatian.

	CROATIAN LANGUAGE	Number of projects	Total funding
2016.	**Type of media**	**2**	**290,000.00**
	Newspapers	1	100,000.00
	Production	1	190,000.00
2017.		**9**	**1,100,000.00**
	Newspapers	2	200,000.00
	Radio	1	100,000.00
	Internet	2	270,000.00
	Production	4	530,000.00
2018		**9**	**1,230,000.00**
	Newspapers	2	200,000.00
	Radio	1	100,000.00
	Internet	3	330,000.00
	Production	3	600,000.00

1361. The budget of AP of Vojvodina subsidizes newspapers of provincial importance, including newspapers in Croatian. The table below provides information on subsidizing this type of media.

Publisher	Media	2016	2017	2018
NIU *Hrvatska Riječ*, Subotica	"Hrvatska riječ"- Croatian	28,674,000.00	28,674,000.00	30,108,000.00
	"Kužiš"	1,728,000.00	1,728,000.00	1,819,200.00
	"Hrcko"	2,268,000.00	2,268,000.00	2,376,000.00
Total		**32,670,000.00**	**32,670,000.00**	**34,303,200.00**

1362. At the proposal of the Council for National Minorities, the priority area for the allocation of funds from the Budget Fund for National Minorities in 2017 and 2018 was the financing of programs and projects in the field of informing the national minorities.

1363. The table below shows the number of programs and projects and the amount of funding allocated per year to the Croatian national minority.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2017	1	100,000.00
2018	5	1,170,000.00

1364. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that co-financed programs and projects in the field of information in the Croatian language from 2016 to 2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Sombor	100,000.00	50.000,00	50,000.00
2.	Subotca	4,000,000.00	-	1,880,000.00

1365. In addition, the City of Subotica allocated RSD 7,257,000 to the media that broadcast in Hungarian, Croatian and Bunjevac language.

Article 12 - Cultural activities and benefits
paragraph 1 a, b, c, f
paragraph 2

1366. The Ministry of Culture and Information annually awards, through competition, funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities.

1367. The table below shows information on the number of programs and the amount of funding allocated to institutions and organizations in the Croatian language.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016.	5	1,000,000.00

2017.	9	1,320,000.00
2018.	10	1,320,000.00

1368. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities supports public institutions in the preservation of the cultural identity and creativity of persons belonging to national minorities and the implementation of projects and programs promoting the culture, preservation and presentation of the cultural heritage of national minorities and whose program activities are implemented in cooperation with national councils or institutions and organizations established by members of national minorities.

1369. The Secretariat co-finances the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Croats with the following amounts:

Beneficiary	2016	2017	2018
Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Croats	8,820,000.00	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00

1370. The Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities finances from its budget (within the program activity Support to the Cultural Activity of National Minorities) programs and projects of importance for the culture and art of national minorities in AP of Vojvodina through a public competition it publishes annually. Programs and projects in the field of protection of the intangible cultural heritage and artistic creation of national minorities and in the field of publishing in the languages of national minorities are co-financed.

1371. The table below provides information on the number and type of co-financed projects and programs and the amount of funds paid for the Croatian language.

Year	Area of cultural and artistic creativity supported by the project	Number of projects	Approved funds	Total
2016	Publishing	1	250,000.00	730,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	17	480,000.00	
2017	Publishing	5	290,000.00	964,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	28	674,000.00	
2018	Publishing	10	550,000.00	1,894,000.00
	Journals/Publications			
	Other cultural events	44	1,344,000.00	

1372. The Provincial Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities - National Communities, based on the annual call for proposals subsidizes the ethnic community organizations. Funds are allocated for co-financing regular activities, for the procurement of equipment, for projects and for organizing the events of ethnic community organizations, in particular for: creating conditions for the development of culture, science and the arts; nurturing and encouraging folk creativity; multicultural programs and projects aimed at developing a spirit of tolerance; presentation of

cultural goods of exceptional importance; preserving and nurturing the language, folk customs and old crafts; protection and presentation of folklore heritage; literary, dramatic, scenic, musical and visual arts, memorials, festivals, jubilee events, art colonies, camps; nurturing and developing amateurism, visiting of ensembles; scientific research; cooperation with the native countries and other forms of international cooperation; and other programs and projects aimed at exercising the rights of national minorities.

1373. The table below provides information on the number of supported projects of associations of the Croatian minority members and the amount of funds awarded in the call for proposals for grants to ethnic community organizations in the period 2016 - 2018.

Year	Number of projects	Aproved funds
2016	44	950,000.00
2017	62	3,000,000.00
2018	73	3,000,000.00

1374. The table below provides information on the number of local self-government units that have co-financed programs and projects in the field of preserving and nurturing the culture and language of the Croatian national minority members from 2016 to 2018, as well as the amount of funds allocated.

	LSGU	2016	2017	2018
1.	Apatin	1,150,809.96	1,248,600.00	1,220,000.00
2.	Sombor	581,500.00	1,387,500.00	1,966,715.00
3.	Subotica	7,919,000.00	11,463,000.00	11,015,000.00

1375. The Ministry of Culture and Information supports the publication of the *NOVA RIJEČ* magazine for literature and art, published by the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Croats from Subotica. In addition to the magazine, the Institute records a large number of quality publications in the Croatian language. Also, of importance for the literary creativity of the Croats and the preservation of linguistic specificities, there is a special event called the *Days of Balint Vujkov, the days of Croatian books and words*. It is an interdisciplinary gathering of researchers, writers, linguists, educators and other experts, aimed at shedding light on the rich heritage that Balint Vujkov has collected. The programs of this event partly refer to the youngest, i.e. the students, so they are carefully designed and of high quality.

1376. In addition to the traditional *Bunjevac Song Festival*, or the commemoration of the customs of *Dužijanca*, through various programs, the Croatian language and specificity are affirmed at a scientific conference called *O Šokcima je rič*.

1377. The Institute for the Culture of the Vojvodina Croats and the Croatian Word Institute are financed from the budget. The National Council of the Croatian National Minority states in its contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter that the Republic of Serbia does not purchase books from the Republic of Croatia and that the Institute for the Culture of

Vojvodina Croats buys them from its own funds. Also, books and periodicals published by the Institute for the Culture of Vojvodina Croats and NIU *Hrvatska riječ* are not purchased by the Republic of Serbia.

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

n. In territories other than those in which Croatian is traditionally used, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Croatian.

1378. As outlined in the previous paragraphs, the Ministry of Culture and Information annually announces the funding for co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities through competition, which encourage cultural activities and content in the languages of national minorities and territories which they are not the ones in which these languages are traditionally used. Such projects are represented in some environments, but not in all.

1379. A good example of such projects are individual projects of multicultural character. The Ministry of Culture and Information has allocated RSD 2,570,000.00 to institutions and organizations for multicultural projects for financing - co-financing programs and projects in the field of cultural activities of national minorities in the period 2016-2018.

1380. Where there are no such projects, it is necessary to look at the broader picture beyond project co-financing, such as the number of minorities (and accordingly the existing volume of cultural content and available capacities), economic (under)development and the degree of cultural participation. All this has been identified as a problem in some areas and is not necessarily related only to the culture of national minorities, and various measures and activities in this regard are planned and implemented. An example is a competition for cities in focus, visits of cultural institutions to small towns in Serbia, as well as ongoing research on cultural participation conducted by the Institute for the Study of Cultural Development.

1381. In 2016, the Ministry of Culture and Information has introduced a new competition called *Cities in Focus*, aimed at promoting cultural life in smaller communities and encouraging the development of creativity and cultural diversity, especially in nationally mixed environments. In the period 2016-2018, 16 multiethnic local self-governments have received RSD 218,463,442.42 from the ministry for the promotion of culture. The importance of this competition is also reflected in raising awareness of the cultural specificities of the local community, as well as a clearer recognition of the importance and potential of culture as a driver of economic development.

Article 14 - Cross-border exchange
paragraph 1 a, b

Activities to implement the recommendations of the Committee of Experts

o. Encourage regular activities promoting Croatian in the framework of existing agreements on transfrontier co-operation at national and local level.

1382. An Agreement between the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the Field of Culture and Education was signed in 2002.

1383. Cross-border cooperation takes place at sessions of the Serbian-Croatian Intergovernmental Mixed Committee established under the Agreement between Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Croatia on the Protection of the Rights of the Serbian and Montenegrin Minorities in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Minority in Serbia and Montenegro. The Mixed Committee meets regularly, the Seventh Session was in early 2018 and the Eighth was in March 2019. Members of the Mixed Committee analyzed the implementation of the recommendations made at previous meetings, discussed issues of interest to both minorities and made new recommendations. Among the many significant recommendations, the establishment of the Department for the Croatian Language in Serbia and of the Serbian language in Croatia, in which teachers will be educated to teach students in Serbia in Croatian and students in Croatia in Serbian, is highlighted.

1384. The Mixed Serbo-Croatian Interstate Commission for the Return of Cultural Property is also active. The work of the Commission so far has been assessed as successful by the governments of both countries, as the Commission meets regularly.

1385. The Faculty of Teacher Education of the University of Belgrade and the Faculty of Teacher Education of the University of Zagreb have signed a Cooperation Agreement in 2016, based on which, with the aim of improving the initial education of teachers in the Republic of Serbia and in the Republic of Croatia, the following activities are carried out: lectures by professors from Zagreb in Serbia and vice versa; professors from Serbia became members of the editorial board of the *Croatian Journal of education*; professors from Zagreb are on the editorial team of *Teaching Innovation and Methodical Practice* published in Serbia; several international scientific conferences have been jointly organized: Poreč 2016, Aranđelovac 2017, Petrinja 2018, Belgrade 2018; exchange of professors in doctoral studies; exchange of students based on the Erasmus program; exchange of literature for students and libraries; syllabuses are harmonized to facilitate the recognition of exams.

1386. When it comes to financing movie art, several films have been produced in previous period, in co-production with Croatian film companies.

1387. The following table provides available information on local level cooperation, obtained from local self-government units that responded to the invitation to participate in the preparation of the Fifth Report on the implementation of the Charter.

Local self-government unit	City of cooperation	Area of cooperation
Apatin	Belišće, Dalj, Erdut and Kutjevo	Cooperation is reflected in cross-border projects of the Interreg IPA CBC Program Serbia-Croatia, with the City of Kutjevo, the Municipality of Erdut, the Dalj Development Agency, the City of Belišće and Osijek-Baranja County. The cooperation was also realized through the international project "Amazon of Europe Bike Trail", funded by the Danube Transnational Program, where the Municipality of Apatin is an equal project partner with five other institutions in Croatia.
Beočin	Ilok	Cooperation in the field of culture.
Sombor		Cooperation with Croatia on projects financed from the EU funds.
Sremska Mitrovica	Vukovar-Srijem County	Cooperation has also been established in the fields of culture, sports and education.
Subotica	Osijek	The two cities participate in various events, foster tradition and exchange experiences. Students participate in language competitions in Croatia. There are also a number of partnership agreements on cooperation on specific projects (KARDS - Regional Partnerships for the Intercultural Exchange and the Danube Transnational Program 2016), followed by the Croatia-Serbia Cross-border Cooperation Program (Tourism Development and Preservation of Cultural and Natural Heritage).
Šid	Vukovar-Srijem County	

1388. According to the National Council of the Croatian National Minority in its contribution to the Fifth Report on the Implementation of the Charter, the fact that some municipalities from Serbia have established cooperation with individual municipalities in Croatia still does not provide a benefit for the Croatian community in Serbia, as projects implemented between municipalities are not concerned with the promotion of the status and rights of national minorities.