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**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

# Information Document on the implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action based on the 6th monitoring cycle

**Submitted by the Slovak Republic**

**on 1 July 2026**

The Slovak Republic submits information on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action included in the sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages ("Committee of Experts"), which was approved by the Committee of Experts on 12 June 2025 and presented to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

**Recommendations of the Committee of Experts for immediate action for the Slovak Republic**

**Bulgarian language**

**Recommendation for immediate action**

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| **a.** | **Facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Bulgarian.** |

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MC SR") and its founding organisations currently do not have the capacity to ensure the creation of an independent body responsible for collecting, keeping, presenting or publishing works in Bulgarian. However, the MC SR will examine the possibilities of implementing the recommendation of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in relation to the collection, preservation of a copy of and presentation or publication of works produced in Bulgarian. To this end, it will undertake coordination and consultation steps with relevant organisations within its jurisdiction and with representatives of the Bulgarian national minority in order to identify an appropriate and feasible institutional solution.

**Croatian language**

**Recommendations for immediate action**

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| **a.** | **Provide for pre-school education substantially or entirely in Croatian and for the teaching of Croatian as an integral part of the curriculum in primary education in the areas where this language is traditionally used, while ensuring continuity between educational levels.** |
| **b.** | **Take the necessary legal and practical measures to ensure that Croatian can be used in communication with administrative authorities and public service providers and facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in this language, irrespective of thresholds.** |

**Regarding the recommendation (a):**

**Existing measures and legislative framework**

The Slovak Republic already allows the establishment of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools or classes with the language of instruction of a national minority, as well as schools and classes with the teaching of the language of a national minority. In 2025, legislative amendments were adopted that expanded the system of national education to include separate (parallel) classes with the teaching of the language and literature of a national minority and other subjects in this language.

**Educational standards as a tool for ensuring the quality of teaching minority languages**

Educational standards for national minority languages represent a binding framework for the content and level of education in individual languages. They are divided into **a performance standard and a content standard**, while determining the requirements for the acquisition of knowledge, skills and abilities of pupils in a given language. Their aim is to ensure a comparable level of education and create conditions for obtaining the relevant level of education or for continuing further education. The introduction and ongoing updating of these standards also supports the systematic development of language education for national minorities and creates a methodological basis for schools that provide education in the language of a national minority or teach the language and literature of a national minority.

**Support for linguistic and cultural identity**

Education of members of national minorities is supported through special curricula, teaching of languages and literature of national minorities, as well as content focused on their history and culture. The state educational programmes were updated in 2025-2026 according to the needs identified in practice, and schools have the opportunity to use other tools to support linguistic diversity.

**Support for the training of teachers of minority languages**

One of the measures to ensure the availability of education in national minority languagesis the support of **basic and further education of teachers teaching in the Ukrainian language and teachers teaching the Romani language or in the Romani language, including the pre-school education**.

**The Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic** (hereinafter referred to as the "MERDY SR") supports the training of pedagogical staff for these areas through **a specific targeted subsidy for the implementation of study programmes** focused on the training of teachers of minority languages, specifically the study programmes **Teaching Ukrainian Language and Literature and Teaching Romani Language and Literature**. Both programmes are supported beyond the standard subsidy in order to strengthen the training of qualified teachers and create personnel conditions for the development of education in minority languages.

This paragraph will fill in the missing part in the text on **the specific implementation of the recommendation in the area of teachers**, while not repeating the already mentioned information on standards and the legislative framework.

**Upcoming measures**

MERDY SR is preparing a methodological guide on the education of national minorities and in 2026 conducts consultations with representatives of national minorities as part of the preparation of the Concept for the Development of National Education. The Ministry supports the development of national education but is not inclined to the widespread introduction of teaching of national minority languages as a mandatory part of the curriculum in all areas of their traditional use. Additional measures will be proposed based on the results of the ongoing consultations.

In this way, all recommendations according to individual languages will be retained, but the text is still significantly shorter and clearer than the original version.

**List of approved educational standards for national minority languages**

**A. National Education Programme 2015**

1. **Educational standards for the 1st level of primary school** to the innovated National Education Programme for Primary Education – 1st level of primary school – approved by: MERDY SR on 6 February 2015 under number 2015-5129/1758:1-10A0 for primary schools, valid from 1 September 2015.

- Hungarian language and literature
- German language and literature
- Romani language and literature
- Ruthenian language and literature
- Russian language and literature
- Ukrainian language and literature

2. **Educational standards for the 2nd level of primary school** to the innovated National Education Programme for Primary Education – 2nd level of primary school – approved by: MERDY SR on 6 February 2015 under number 2015-5129/5980:2-10A0 for primary schools, valid from 1 September 2015.

- Hungarian language and literature
- German language and literature
- Romani language and literature
- Ruthenian language and literature
- Russian language and literature
- Ukrainian language and literature

3. **Educational standards for grammar schools with a four-year educational programme** to the innovated National Education Programme for Grammar Schools with a four-year and five-year educational programme – approved by: MERDY SR on 20 March 2015 under number 2015-7846/10840:1-10B0 as part of the National Education Programme for Grammar Schools, valid from 1 September 2015.

- Hungarian language and literature
- Romani language and literature
- Ukrainian language and literature

4. **Educational standards for grammar schools with an eight-year educational programme** to the innovated National Education Programme for Grammar Schools with an eight-year educational programme – approved by: MERDY SR on 20 March 2015 under number 2015-7846/10840:1-10B0 as part of the National Education Programme for Grammar Schools, valid from 1 September 2015.

- Hungarian language and literature
- Romani language and literature

**B. National Education Programme 2023**

**National Education Programme 2023 for Primary Education** approved by MERDY SR under number 2023/831:7-A2140, valid from 1 September 2023

- Hungarian language and literature
- German language and literature
- Romani language and literature
- Ruthenian language and literature
- Russian language and literature
- Ukrainian language and literature

**C. Other approved educational standards for national minority languages that do not yet have institutional education:**

1. **Educational standards for primary education** to the National Education Programme for Primary Education – 1st level of primary schools approved by MERDY SR on 6 February 2015 under number 2015-5129/1758:1-10A0, valid from 1 September 2015

- Bulgarian language and literature – approved: MERDY SR under number 2022/19390:2-C1630, valid from 7 September 2022
- Czech language and literature – approved: MERDY SR under number 2022/19390:3-C1630, valid from 7 September 2022
- Polish language and literature – approved: MERDY SR under number 2022/19390:4-C1630, valid from 7 September 2022
- Croatian language and literature – approved: MERDY SR under number 2022/19390:5-C1630, valid from 7 September 2022

2. **Educational standards for lower secondary education** to the National Education Programme for Lower Secondary Education – 2nd level of primary schools approved by MERDY SR on 6 February 2015 under number 2015-5129/5980:2-10A0 for the 2nd level of primary schools, valid from 1 September 2015

- Bulgarian language and literature – approved: MERDY SR under number 2022/19390:8-C1630, valid from 02/03/2023
- Czech language and literature – approved: MERDY SR under number 2022/19390:9-C1630, valid from 02/03/2023
- Croatian language and literature – approved: MERDY SR under number 2022/19390:10-C1630, valid from 03/02/2023
- Polish language and literature – approved: MERDY SR under number 2022/19390:11-C1630, valid from 02/03/2023

**Support for minority languagesin competitions and school sports**

- The documents contain **educational standards for national minority languages for the period 2015 – 2023.**
- Since the **2025/2026** school year, **NIVaM** have been providing organisational and financial support for nationwide rounds of competitions:
    - **Beautiful Hungarian Speech** – development of the Hungarian language and cultivated linguistic expression,

    - **Get to know the Slovak language** – support for the acquisition of the Slovak language by pupils from national minority backgrounds.
- Subject Olympiads and competitions ensure **translations of tasks into Hungarian**, thereby supporting **equal access for pupils** and the use of the minority language in the educational process.
- **School sports** create space for the natural use of regional and minority languages in informal and leisure activities.
- Competitive and sports activities contribute to the fulfilment of the recommendations of the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages** and support an **inclusive, language-sensitive school environment**.
- Further development is possible mainly through **methodological support, the organisation of events, and the systematic consideration of linguistic diversity**.

**Regarding the recommendation (b):**

The Croatian language is traditionally used in the Slovak Republic, mainly in the Bratislava Self-Governing Region and primarily in the urban districts of Bratislava, specifically in Devínska Nová Ves, Jarovce, and Čunovo, as well as in the municipality of Chorvátsky Grob. However, due to the geographical distribution and number of members of the Croatian national minority, there is currently no municipality that meets the legally established threshold of 15% of the population belonging to the Croatian national minority, which is a condition for exercising the rights arising from Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 184/1999 Coll.") in the field of official relations. For this reason, the provisions of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. do not apply to these territories.

Despite this fact, the Croatian language continues to be used in the social, cultural and community life of members of the Croatian national minority. Given the large number and geographical distribution of members of the Croatian national minority in the Slovak Republic, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "OPGNM") pays special attention to maintaining the conditions for the use of the Croatian language in public and cultural life. Through regular communication with representatives of the minority and support for projects financed by the Fund for the Support of Culture of National Minorities, which creates space for the preservation and development of the Croatian language, including its use in information, cultural and educational activities. At the same time, the OPGNM is aware that the current legal regulation does not ensure the exercise of the right to use the Croatian language in official relations, since the legal conditions stipulated by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. are not met in the territory of the Slovak Republic. However, the OPGNM continuously monitors and evaluates the possibilities for further development of the language rights of members of the Croatian national minority, including the possibilities of using the Croatian language in oral communication with public administration bodies to the extent permitted by Section 2(8) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Currently, medical documentation is kept in the state language. However, this fact does not exclude the healthcare provider from communicating with the patient in the language of a national minority, if it is mutually agreed upon and other circumstances of special concern does not prevent this. The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoH SR") does not have information regarding the Croatian language, as the language in question is not used within the scope of the activities and subject matter jurisdiction of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic and regional public health authorities.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MARD SR"), in cooperation with the relevant specialist divisions of the Ministry and subordinate organisations, is preparing the required measure – ensuring translations and publication of official documents in the Croatian language and the possible use of this language.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoLSAF SR") has not encountered a requirement for the provision of information and administrative services by providers of public employment services in Croatian in the last 15 years. A total of 27 EURES advisors operate at the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, who provide information on working and living conditions in individual EU countries and vice versa. They are also available to foreigners from EU countries, and provide them with advice, online or by telephone, as long as they are at the place of work within the Slovak Republic. In this context, options are being explored to translate the forms used in the MoLSAF SR into all languages of national minorities in a way that respects the budget of the ministry. In the case of the Croatian national minority, the MoLSAF SR will, in the event of an identified need and within the available personnel, technical and financial possibilities, strive to use the Croatian language in communication and provision of information even beyond the threshold values established by law. (Currently, in the area ofsupport for national minority languages, Act No. 184/1999 Coll. is consistently applied and complied with. According to Section 2(1) of this Act, citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority have the right to use the minority language in official communication in municipalities in which they constitute at least 15% of the population according to two consecutive population censuses.)

**Hungarian language**

**Recommendation for immediate action**

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| **a.** | **Increase the use of Hungarian place and street names in public signage, including at regional and national roads and official publications in the area where this language is used.** |

OPGNM has identified several obstacles in the application of the language rights of national minorities in the area of road signs. For this reason, it initiated negotiations with the Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoT SR") and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoI SR") with the aim of eliminating the identified shortcomings and thus ensuring a more consistent application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The negotiations also focused on the prepared amendment to the "Decree No. 30/2020 Coll. of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic on Traffic Signs" (hereinafter referred to as the "Decree No. 30/2020"). Representatives of the OPGNM subsequently participated in the negotiations of the interdepartmental working group and submitted proposals aimed at expanding the use of languages of national minorities in connection with road signs. In the period from 2024 to 2026, the process of placing the first road signs using the Hungarian language on class II and III roads in the territory of the Trnava Self-Governing Region and the Nitra Self-Governing Region began. OPGNM also contacted the Slovak Road Administration several times in connection with the start of the process of placing bilingual road signs on class I roads as well. OPGNM prepared a specific list of road signs present in the territory of the Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Banská Bystrica and Košice Self-Governing Regions, which, according to the applicable legislation, can be indicated in the language of a national minority. Based on the above list, the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities will contact the above self-governing regions.

Decree No. 30/2020 falls under the responsibility of the Traffic Police Department of the Presidium of the Police Force, which is currently preparing an amendment to the aforementioned Decree; the amendment is in the final stages of drafting prior to its submission for comments.

The MoT SR has fulfilled the recommendations regarding the support, increased visibility and use of languages of national minorities through road signs by issuing the technical regulations of the department – Technical Conditions (TP) 117 – Common Principles of the Use of Road Signs and Traffic Equipment and Sample Sheets (VL) No. 6.1 Vertical Road Signs, which are effective from 20 January 2023.

The MoT SR stated in its opinion on the Report on the Progress and Results of the Sixth Round of Monitoring the Level of Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic that the public interest transport services that the MoT SR orders are not directly considered to be services provided by "administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf" pursuant to Art. 10(3) of the Charter. However, the Slovak Railways, as the railway infrastructure manager, continuously complies with the provisions of Section 34(6)(h) of Act No. 513/2009 Coll. on Railways and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 513/2009 Coll."), regarding the signage of railway stations and stops (transport points) in the language of a national minority in municipalities pursuant to Section 2(1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

In addition to the statutory obligation, information in a minority language regarding threats to life, health, safety or property in places accessible to the public is also provided at some selected transport points. The number of transport points with signs in the language of a national minority increased to 137 in 2025, of which 125 were with signs in Hungarian.

**German language**

**Recommendations for immediate action**

**a. Provide for pre-school education substantially or entirely in German and for the teaching of German as an integral part of the curriculum in primary, secondary, and technical and vocational education in the areas where this language is traditionally used, while ensuring continuity between educational levels.**

**b. Increase the visibility of German, including place and street names, by using it in public signage.**

**Regarding the recommendation (a):** see the text regarding the recommendation (a) for the Croatian language.

**Regarding the recommendation (b):**

Within its scope of competence, OPGNM monitors the implementation of language rights of members of the German national minority and supports measures aimed at preserving and increasing awareness of the German language in public spaces. According to the results of the 2021 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings, the share of residents declaring themselves to be of German nationality reaches the legally established threshold of 15% for the implementation of language rights in only two municipalities, namely Kunešov and Chmeľnica. In these municipalities, conditions have been created for the use of the German language in public signage in accordance with Act No. 184/1999 Coll. OPGNM also examined the possibilities of supplementing road signs and other information signs in these municipalities. Therefore, it can be stated that, based on the above-mentioned survey, the aforementioned municipalities currently do not have street signs even in the state language. At the same time,

there are no informational road signs installed in the territory of the municipalities that could be the subject of bilingual text, except for the road signs indicating the beginning and end of the municipality, which are currently bilingual.

The MoT SR has fulfilled the recommendations regarding the support, increased visibility and use of languages of national minorities through road signs by issuing the technical regulations of the department – Technical Conditions (TP) 117 – Common Principles of the Use of Road Signs and Traffic Equipment and Sample Sheets (VL) No. 6.1 Vertical Road Signs, which are effective from 20 January 2023.

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In addition to the statutory obligation, information in a minority language regarding threats to life, health, safety or property in places accessible to the public is also provided at some selected transport points. The number of transport points with signs in the language of a national minority increased to 137 in 2025, of which 1 was with sign in Hungarian.

**Polish language**

**Recommendations for immediate action**

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| **a.** | **Provide for pre-school education substantially or entirely in Polish and for the teaching of Polish as an integral part of the curriculum in primary and secondary education in the areas where this language is traditionally used, while ensuring continuity between educational levels.** |
| **b.** | **Take the necessary legal and practical measures to ensure that Polish can be used in communication with administrative authorities and public service providers and facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in this language, irrespective of thresholds.** |

**Regarding the recommendation (a):** see the text regarding the recommendation (a) for the Croatian language.

**Regarding the recommendation (b):**

Within its scope of competence, OPGNM monitors the implementation of language rights of members of national minorities and provides methodological support in the application of legal regulations in this area. Considering the geographical distribution of members of the Polish national minority and the results of the 2021 Census of Population, Houses and Dwellings, there is no municipality in the territory of the Slovak Republic in which the legal conditions for the enforcement of language rights in the Polish language to the extent provided for by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. are met. For this reason, the legal regime enabling communication with public administration bodies in the Polish language is currently not applied.

Nevertheless, the OPGNM continuously monitors the status of the Polish language and supports activities aimed at preserving and developing the linguistic identity of members of the Polish

national minority. At the same time, the OPGNM is aware that the current legal regulation does not ensure the exercise of the right to use the Polish language in official relations, since the legal conditions stipulated by Act No. 184/1999 Coll. are not met in the territory of the Slovak Republic. However, the OPGNM continuously monitors and evaluates the possibilities for further development of the language rights of members of the Polish national minority, including the possibilities of using the Polish language in oral communication with public administration bodies to the extent permitted by Section 2(8) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll.

Slovak Government Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll. issuing a list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority constitute at least 15% of the population does not include District Offices, whose territorial jurisdictions include municipalities where the language of the Polish national minority may be used.

Currently, medical documentation is kept in the state language. However, this fact does not exclude the healthcare provider from communicating with the patient in the language of a national minority, if it is mutually agreed upon and other circumstances of special concern does not prevent this. The MoH does not have information regarding the Polish language, as the language in question is not used within the scope of the activities and subject matter jurisdiction of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic and regional public health authorities.

The MARD SR, in cooperation with the relevant specialist divisions of the Ministry and subordinate organisations, is preparing the required measure – ensuring translations and publication of official documents in the Polish language and the possible use of this language.

In the offices of labour, social affairs and family in the border regions with Poland, communication within the framework of providing employment services is routinely ensured in Polish, as the labour offices are staffed by Polish-speaking employees. In addition, an Eures advisor works in Námestovo, who is an online helper for ensuring communication and providing information regarding public employment services in Polish and at other labour offices, which is commonly used if necessary. A total of 27 EURES advisors operate at the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, who provide information on working and living conditions in individual EU countries and vice versa. They are also available to foreigners from EU countries, and provide them with advice, online or by telephone, as long as they are at the place of work within the Slovak Republic. In this context, options are being explored to translate the forms used in the MoLSAF SR into all languages of national minorities in a way that respects the budget of the ministry. In the case of the Polish national minority, the MoLSAF SR will, in the event of an identified need and within the available personnel, technical and financial possibilities, strive to use the Polish language in communication and provision of information even beyond the threshold values established by law. (Currently, in the area of support for national minority languages, Act No. 184/1999 Coll. is consistently applied and complied with. According to Section 2(1) of this Act, citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority have the right to use the minority language in official communication in municipalities in which they constitute at least 15% of the population according to two consecutive population censuses.)

**Romani language**

**Recommendations for immediate action**

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| **a.** | **Provide for pre-school education substantially or entirely in Romani and for the teaching of Romani as an integral part of the curriculum in primary and secondary education in the areas where this language is traditionally used, while ensuring** |

**continuity between educational levels and taking the specific needs and wishes of the users into account.**

**b. Provide basic and further training of the teachers teaching in or of Romani, including at pre-school level.**

**Regarding the recommendations (a) and (b):** see the text regarding the recommendation (a) for the Croatian language.

**Ruthenian language**

**Recommendation for immediate action**

**a. Take steps to make available a substantial part of pre-school, primary, secondary, and technical and vocational education in Ruthenian in the areas where this language is traditionally used, while ensuring continuity between educational levels.**

**Regarding the recommendation (a):** see the text regarding the recommendation (a) for the Croatian language.

**Russian language**

**Recommendation for immediate action**

**a. Provide for the use of Russian in pre-school and teaching of Russian at secondary level, while ensuring continuity between educational levels.**

**Regarding the recommendation (a):** see the text regarding the recommendation (a) for the Croatian language.

**Serbian language**

**Recommendation for immediate action**

**a. Provide for the use of Serbian in pre-school and teaching of Serbian at primary and secondary levels, while ensuring continuity between educational levels and in co-operation with its users.**

**Regarding the recommendation (a):** see the text regarding the recommendation (a) for the Croatian language.

**Ukrainian language**

**I. Recommendations for immediate action**

**a. Take steps to make available a substantial part of pre-school, primary, secondary, and technical and vocational education in Ukrainian in the areas where this language is traditionally used, while ensuring continuity between educational levels.**

**b. Provide basic and further training of the teachers teaching in Ukrainian.**

**Regarding the recommendations (a) and (b):** see the text regarding the recommendation (a) for the Croatian language.

In addition, we would like to point out that the buildings of District Offices in ethnically mixed areas, within whose territorial jurisdiction there are municipalities where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority constitute at least 15% of the population (the Hungarian national minority and the Ruthenian national minority), and their Client Centres (if established within the District Office) are properly marked with official signs in the minority language alongside the official language.

District Offices shall ensure that the language of a national minority can be used in communications with public authorities by means of having public administration employees who can communicate in that language.