COUNCIL OF EUROPE



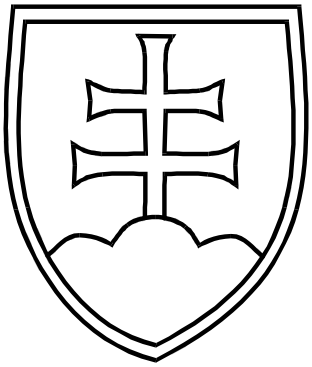
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 28 February 2024 MIN-LANG (2024) PR 2

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

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

SLOVAK REPUBLIC



THE SIXTH REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Bratislava 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. LANGUAGE PART 5
GENERAL ISSUES 5
COMMON INFORMATION ON MINORITY LANGUAGES 8
Common information on Article 8 – Education 8
Common information on Article 9 – Judicial authorities 15
Common information on Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services 17
Common information on Article 11 – Media 20
Common information on Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities 21
Common information on Article 13 – Economic and social life 23
Common information on Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges 24
1.1 BULGARIAN LANGUAGE 24
1.1.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information 24
1.1.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles 24
1.1.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14 25
1.2 CZECH LANGUAGE 28
1.2.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information 28
1.2.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles 29
1.2.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14 29
1.3 CROATIAN LANGUAGE 33
1.3.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information 33
1.3.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles 33
1.3.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14 33
1.4 HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE 37
1.4.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information 37
1.4.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles 37
1.4.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14 37
1.5 GERMAN LANGUAGE 54
1.5.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information 54
1.5.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles 54
1.5.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14 54
1.6 POLISH LANGUAGE 58
1.6.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information 58
1.6.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles 59
1.6.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14 59
1.7 ROMA LANGUAGE 62
1.7.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information 62

1.7.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles....63
1.7.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14....63
1.8 RUTHENIAN LANGUAGE....76
1.8.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information....76
1.8.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles....76
1.8.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14....76
1.9 RUSSIAN LANGUAGE....83
1.9.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information....83
1.9.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles....83
1.10 SERBIAN LANGUAGE....84
1.10.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information....84
1.10.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles....84
1.11 UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE....85
1.11.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information....85
1.11.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles....85
1.11.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14....85
2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION....91
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS....92

1. LANGUAGE PART

GENERAL ISSUES

1. The Slovak Republic ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as the "Charter") on 20 July 2001 and deposited and registered it with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 5 September 2001. The Charter entered into force in the Slovak Republic on 1 January 2002 and currently applied to the following 11 languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Ukrainian (Parts II and III of the Charter), Russian and Serbian (Part II of the Charter).

2. When depositing the instrument of ratification, the Slovak Republic declared, pursuant to Article 1(b) of the Charter, that the term "territory in which the regional or minority language is used", also regarding the application of Article 10 thereof, shall refer to the municipalities under the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 221/1999 Coll., issuing the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority account for at least 20 % of the population (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll."). The Slovak Republic further declared that the term "territory in which the regional or minority language is used" means the territory of each municipality listed in the Annex to Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. The regulation in question was updated in January 2023 by new Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 35/2023 Coll., issuing the list of municipalities in which citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority account for at least 15 % of the population (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll."). Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll. reflects on the results of the 2021 Population and Housing Census (hereinafter referred to as "2021 Census"), the interpretation of two questions on nationality and the latest amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the use of languages of national minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on the use of national minority languages").

3. In 2021, there was a change in the methodology that made it possible to obtain a more accurate picture of the ethnic structure of the Slovak population. The Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Slovak Government") by resolution no. 412/2022 of June 22, 2022 approved the interpretation of the results of 2021 Census regarding the nationality and other nationality of the inhabitants as the sum of both nationality categories, according to which, when determining the number of members of national minorities, it is necessary to start from the sum of two questions on nationality. During the 2021 Census campaign, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Office of the Plenipotentiary for NM") prepared and published promotional and informational materials in Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Serbian and Ukrainian languages. For the results of 2021 Census, see Table 1. Reference sources of the 2021 Census results also include the 2023 Analytical Report of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic *"2021 Population and Housing Census: National Analytical Report"*.[1]

[1] Sčítanie obyvateľov, domov a bytov 2021: Národná analytická správa (statistics.sk) (in Slovak)
Sčítanie obyvateľov, domov a bytov 2021: Národná analytická správa (statistics.sk)

Table 1: 2011-2021 Census results by national minorities

National minority	Nationality 2011		Mother tongue 2011		Nationality 2021		I. and II. nationalities in total		Mother tongue	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
Bulgarian national minority	1,051	0.02	132	0.00	1,106	0.02	1,552	0.03	907	0.02
Czech national minority	30,367	0.62	55,469	1.03	28,996	0.53	45,711	0.80	33,864	0.62
Croatian national minority	1,022	0.02	1,234	0.02	967	0.02	2,001	0.03	923	0.02
Hungarian national minority	458,467	8.50	508,714	9.40	422,065	7.75	456,154	8.40	462,175	8.48
German national minority	4,690	0.09	5,186	0.10	3,318	0.06	8,573	0.20	3,959	0.07
Polish national minority	3,084	0.06	3,119	0.06	3,771	0.07	5,282	0.10	3,821	0.07
Roma national minority	105,738	2.00	122,518	2.27	67,179	1.23	156,164	2.90	100,526	1.84
Ruthenian national minority	33,482	0.62	55,469	1.03	23,746	0.44	63,556	1.20	38,679	0.71
Russian national minority	1,997	0.04	N/A	N/A	3,245	0.06	8,116	0.10	4,947	0.09
Serbian national minority	698	0.01	N/A	N/A	1,084	0.02	1,876	0.03	1,229	0.02
Ukrainian national minority	7,430	0.10	5,689	0.01	9,451	0.17	11,037	0.20	7,608	0.14

Source: The Office of the Plenipotentiary for NM

4. Regarding the Yiddish language, we note that the Charter does not apply to this language in the Slovak Republic. When depositing the instrument of ratification on 5 September 2001, the Slovak Republic made a statement not including the Yiddish language. Yiddish was neither included in the recognition of two other languages as minority languages

in the Slovak Republic, when the Slovak Government recognized the Russian and Serbian languages pursuant to Part II of the Charter on 18 November 2015. The recognition was notified to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 25 November 2015 and subsequently registered on 27 November 2015.

5. The Yiddish language is incorrectly mentioned in several reports of the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe. The Slovak Republic drew attention to this fact in 2019. The legal order of the Slovak Republic does not contain provisions on territorially localizable and territorially non-localizable languages. The decisive criterion is the calculation of minority languages and the number of inhabitants in the village speaking some minority language. In certain circumstances, the Yiddish language can be considered a territorially non-localizable language.

6. Representatives of the Jewish national minority declare that the Hebrew language, or Yiddish is used by the Jewish national minority mainly in the cultural sphere (presentation of old Jewish songs and prayers), in the religious sphere (synagogue worship) and in family life, to a limited extent.[2] The mother tongue of the majority of the Jewish population living in Slovakia is Slovak, Hungarian and German. Hebrew language/Judaism lessons are provided by the Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Slovak Republic.[3]

7. According to the 2021 Census results, 273 residents use Yiddish or Hebrew. 596 residents (0.01%) reported Jewish nationality, and 1,242 residents (0.41%) reported Jewish nationality as another nationality. Regarding religion, 2,007 residents (0.04%) reported the Jewish community.[4]

8. The Jewish national minority has its representative in the Committee for National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (hereinafter referred to as "CNMEG"), which is part of the advisory body of the Slovak Government – the Slovak Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter referred to as "GCHR"). CNMEG is an institutionalized consultation mechanism on the involvement of members of national minorities and ethnic groups in dealing with matters affecting them. CNMEG members represent national minorities and civil society.

9. In cooperation with the Secretariat of the Charter and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "MFEA SR"), the CNMEG prepared translations of the *Language Guide* under the Charter. The Guide was translated into Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages in close cooperation with the members of the *Advisory Group of the Plenipotentiary to ensure the harmonization of practice with the applicable act on the use of languages of national minorities*. In addition to the latest translations of the language guide, translations of the language guide in Czech, Croatian, German and Polish in Slovakia are also available on the Council of Europe website. The Language Guide was mainly translated in order that users of minority languages in the Slovak Republic receive accurate information about their language rights under the Charter. The Guide was published on the website of the Council of Europe in February 2022[5], as well as on

---

[2] https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3564/hodnotiaca_sprava_o_podpore_kultur_narodnostnych_mensin_o_stave_narodnostneho_skolstva_a_o_pouzivani_jazykov_n.pdf?csrt=5973685449600080304 (in Slovak)

[3] https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3564/sprava_o_pouzivani_jazykov_nm_2014.pdf?csrt=13283824744026832856

[4] https://www.scitanie.sk/obyvatelia/zakladne-vysledky/struktura-obyvatelstva-podla-materinskeho-jazyka/SR/SK0/SR (in Slovak)

[5] https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-charter-regional-or-minority-languages/publications#{%22118498910%22:[18]}

the website of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Plenipotentiary for NM")[6] and sent to CNMEG members and minority organizations and the media.

10. After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, CNMEG proactively and intensively worked to improve the awareness of members of national minorities by providing translations of basic information and instructions related to the pandemic also into minority languages (Hungarian, Roma, Ukrainian, Ruthenian and German). In cooperation with the Public Health Authority, these translations were published on the websites of the relevant regional offices, as well as on the website of the Plenipotentiary for NM and the coronavirus central web portal. Most translations were prepared in the Hungarian language, which could ensure a full-fledged language mutation of the coronavirus web portal, and this would mean that the state administration prepared a full-fledged portal in a minority language for the first time in history. However, frequent changes in the pandemic regulations thwarted this ambition of the Office of the Plenipotentiary for NM and only necessary up-to-date information could be provided.

11. The reference period of the submitted *Sixth Report on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic* is the period from the adoption of the Fifth Report of the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe on the Implementation of the Charter in the Slovak Republic on 22 March 2019 until now, i.e. the period of 2019-2023.

12. The report is prepared in accordance with the framework of the Council of Europe adopted at the 1345th session of the Committee of Deputies of the Ministers of the Council of Europe (hereinafter referred to as the "CDM") on 2 May 2019. It also reflects on the *Evaluation of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Fifth Evaluation Report on the Slovak Republic* adopted by the Committee of Experts on 22 March 2021.

13. The opinion of representatives of users of minority languages is included in the periodic two-year Evaluation Report on the Support of the Cultures of National Minorities, the State of National Minority Education and the Use of the Languages of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Evaluation Report") prepared by the Chamber of National Minorities in CNMEG and submitted for approval to the GCHR. In the area of the use of the languages of national minorities, the Evaluation Report analyses the possibilities of using the languages of national minorities in public life, in the press, media and cultural life. The Evaluation Report for 2019-2020[7] is published on the website of the Plenipotentiary for NM. The Evaluation Report for 2020-2021 is currently in the approval process and will be available on the same website. The opinions of state administration bodies are also included in the Evaluation Report.

COMMON INFORMATION ON MINORITY LANGUAGES

Common information on Article 8 – Education

Legal basis – legislative framework of national minority education

14. The legal basis for the development of national minority education in the Slovak Republic is the Constitution of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the

[6] https://narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/ramcovy-dohovor-a-europska-charta/?csrt=13619979482244822469 (in minority languages)
[7] https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/vybor-pre-narodnostne-mensiny-a-etnicke-skupiny/hodnotiace-spravy/ (in Slovak)

"Constitution"), and the details are established mainly by Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (hereinafter referred to as the "Education Act"), Act No. 596/2003 Coll. on State Administration in Education and School Self-Government (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 596/2003 Coll."), Act No. 597/2003 Coll. on the Financing of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities and other acts and regulations of lesser legal force.

Act No. 245/2008 on Education and Training (Education Act) and its amendment

15. In 2021, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic (hereafter referred to as "MESRS SR") prepared an amendment to the Education Act, which also included an amendment to the Act on State Administration in Education and School Self-Government. The amendment contains several important provisions that support the development of national minority education. Act No. 415/2021 Coll. adopted by the National Council of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "NC SR") in October 2021, amending the Education Act, introduced a definition of national minority education, which has not been explicitly included in the act. The definition of national minority education is a set of provisions found in several paragraphs of the Education Act.[8]

16. Teaching the Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with the national minority language of instruction (i.e. de facto in schools with the Hungarian language of instruction) has been possible until now by using different methods and forms that are used in teaching the native language. In 2018, the MESRS SR developed and approved the *Concept of Teaching the Slovak Language and Slovak Literature in Primary Schools with Hungarian Language of Instruction.* For more information on the concept and the methodological model, see point 210.

17. Educational publications (textbooks, educational materials and workbooks) approved by the MESRS SR and educational publications and software not approved by the MESRS SR, but in compliance with the principles and goals of education and training are used for education in schools. In educational publications published in the national minority language, geographical names accepted and used in the national minority language are given bilingually (first in the language of the respective national minority and then in the state language in parentheses or after a slash, in the manner that was used in textbooks approved between 2002 and 2006). Cartographic works are presented in the state language. A summary overview of geographical names is given at the end of the textbook in the form of a dictionary in both the national minority language and the state language.

18. The free choice of educational publications in relation to national minority education means that the market of educational publications is essentially open to experts and authors from national minorities, as well as to educational publications published abroad, provided they are in accordance with the principles and goals of education defined in the Education Act.[9]

19. Amendment to Act No. 596/2003 Coll. established regional offices as local state administration bodies in education from 1 January 2022. According to the regulations effective until 31 December 2021, the competence of the district offices in the regional headquarters in the field of education, youth, physical culture and sports was transferred to the regional office in the relevant territorial district. The performance of local state administration in education has thus returned from the competence of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak

[8] Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (Education Act) and on amendments to certain acts, as amended (definition of national minority education pursuant to: §§ 2, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 12): https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2008/245/20230901 (in Slovak)

[9] Ibid.: (definition of educational publication pursuant to: §§ 12 and 13)

Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoI SR") to the competence of the MESRS SR. In addition to the competence in the field of establishment and cancellation of schools and school facilities, the regional authorities took over all the previous tasks arising from the performance of local state administration in education. This amendment creates the conditions for the establishment of national minority schools and facilities in cases where the municipalities do not or cannot create the conditions for this, provided that the specified conditions and the demonstrated interests of the parents are met.

20. MESRS SR approved the Directive No. 33/2020 on teaching aids, regulating the procedure of the Ministry and directly managed organizations in the selection and assessment of teaching aids, which also concerns teaching aids issued for the needs of education in national minority languages. Directive No. 5/2021 was updated, inter alia, with approval protocols (recommendation protocols) for the translation of a teaching aid, which is issued based on an assessment of the expertise of the translation from the Slovak language to the language of the relevant national minority. Following the amendment to the Education Act, the MESRS SR approved the new Directive No. 1/2022 on educational publications for the purposes of assessing the translation of an educational publication into the national minority language.

21. The MESRS SR invested EUR 16 million in 2020, EUR 14 million in 2021 and EUR 11.5 million in 2022 from the state budget and EUR 7.6 million from the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan budget in textbooks, workbooks and teaching texts. In the years 2021-2022, the MESRS SR ensured the assessment of 236 educational publications for schools with the national minority language of instruction and teaching the national minority language.

22. In the 2020/2021 school year, as part of the expansion of support for distance learning in schools, the MESRS SR operationalized the educational platform Viki and created Edu TV model lessons in cooperation with teachers from practice to help students and teachers in the education process in national minority schools and classes.

23. In 2020, the MESRS SR published information leaflets on raising awareness on and protection against abuse and violence in Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian and Serbian languages: *Protecting children from violence.*[10]

National Education Programmes

24. In the monitored period, the MESRS SR approved several amendments to the National Education Programmes (hereinafter referred to as "NEPs"), specifically for primary schools with the language of instruction of the national minority; primary schools teaching the language of the national minority; and grammar schools with the language of instruction of the national minority. The consolidated version of NEPs also includes framework curriculum plans for primary schools with the Slovak language of instruction, primary schools with the national minority language of instruction, and primary schools teaching the national minority language.[11] All applicable education standardsare included in the annexes: Amendments to the NEP for primary schools with the national minority language of instruction and primary schools teaching the national minority language.

25. The MESRS SR also approved the education standards for the NEP for Primary Education – 1st grade of primary school; for lower secondary education – 2nd grade of primary

[10] https://www.minedu.sk/ochrana-deti-pred-nasilim/ (in minority languages)
[11] https://www.minedu.sk/29439-sk/statne-vzdelavacie-programy/ (in Slovak)

school for teaching Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian and Polish language and literature. The above documents were prepared on the basis of the Slovak commitments to the Charter.[12]

26. Under the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic, the Minister of Education approved *NEP for Primary Education* in March 2023, specifying education and training from the first grade of primary schools from the 2026/2027 school year. Experimental verification will be ongoing until that period. The new NEP contains the *Language and Communication* education standard, developing education standards for several subjects: *Slovak language and literature, Hungarian language and literature, German language and literature, Roma language and literature, Ruthenian language and literature, Russian language and literature, Ukrainian language and literature, Slovak language and Slovak literature, Slovak language as a second language – foreigners and Foreign languages.* Within the framework of the NEP, the specific aspects of the education and training of pupils in national minority schools and classes, pupils with special educational needs and pupils and foreigners were also developed for the prepared pedagogical documents for primary and secondary schools.

Subsidy calls of the MESRS SR for primary and secondary schools

27. Since 2021, financial resources have also been allocated as part of the call for the project *Support for Teaching the Mother Tongue of the National Minority* intended for primary and secondary schools with national minority classes. Priority areas of support included preparatory activities for teaching the national minority language or activities within the framework of teaching the national minority language (Croatian, Polish, Ruthenian, Roma, Ukrainian, German or Bulgarian). In the 2022/2023 school year, the MESRS SR supported 8 projects in the total amount of EUR 12,000 to promote the teaching of the Roma and Ruthenian languages. No applications were submitted in 2021 to support activities aimed at teaching other languages listed in the call.[13]

28. The call for applications for the provision of funds for the project *Support for regional and multicultural education of pupils belonging to national minorities* has been announced since 2016. The aim of the call in the 2022/2023 school year was to support the development of multicultural and regional education in national minority schools and classes. Under the call, the MESRS SR supported 30 projects in the total amount of EUR 53,000.[14]

29. The Ministry of Education was the administrator and co-organizer of the annual competitions for national minority schools and/or pupils from the Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian and German national minorities.

Decree No. 202/2022 Coll. of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic of 3 June 2022, establishing the criteria for determining the maximum number of students in the first year of secondary schools

30. According to the No. 202/2022 Coll. of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic of 3 June 2022, establishing the criteria for determining the maximum number of students in the first year of secondary schools (hereinafter as the "Decree"), the decisive criteria for determining the maximum number of first graders obtained from the entrance criteria for the purposes of proportional distribution between individual

[12] https://www.minedu.sk/vzdelavacie-standardy-pre-vyucovanie-bulharskeho-ceskeho-chorvatskeho-a-polskeho-jazyka-a-literatury/ (in Slovak)
[13] https://www.minedu.sk/vyhodnotenie-vyzvy-podpora-vyucby-materinskeho-jazyka-narodnostnej-mensiny-2021/ (in Slovak)
[14] https://www.minedu.sk/vyhodnotenie-vyzvy-podpora-regionalnej-a-multikulturnej-vychovy-ziakov-patriacich-k-narodnostnym-mensinam-2022/ (in Slovak)

study fields and study programmes in the relevant secondary schools also include the provision of education and training in secondary schools in the national minority language, including secondary schools with students permanently resided in the territory of a different self-governing region than the one where the respective secondary school is located. Pursuant to the Decree, other criteria for grammar schools, secondary vocational schools, secondary sports schools, art schools and conservatories also include *"the provision of education and training of students in national minority languages"*.

System of legally claimable support measures in relation to the Education Act Amendment

31. The system of legally claimable support measures was adopted in relation to the Education Act Amendment of 9 May 2023, effective and gradually established from 1 September 2023 to 1 September 2026. Support measures can be provided to all children. The most important provision from the point of view of supporting minority languages is a support measure aimed at supporting the learning of the school's language of instruction by providing a course in the school's language of instruction or other support in learning it. This measure is provided by a kindergarten, a kindergarten for children with special educational needs, a primary school, a primary school for pupils with special educational needs, a secondary school, a secondary school for pupils with special educational needs except for bilingual education or special educational facility.

32. The above support measure can be used e.g. for the inclusion of Roma pupils with difficulties in integrating into the educational system due to the fact that they do not speak the Slovak language, or the school's language of instruction. It also has a positive effect on the inclusion of other students who need support in improving the knowledge of the school's language of instruction. As a support measure for learning the school's language of instruction, accompanying methodological material was also developed.

Analysis of small-class schools in relation to national education

33. Primary schools with few classes form a significant part of the school network in Slovakia. This is especially true for national minority education, where schools of this nature are overrepresented. In 2023, an Analysis of the position of small-class and incompletely organized schools in relation to national minority education was prepared. The analysis in question was developed and at the same time a small field research was carried out in the micro-region of Šahy by the Matej Bela Institute - Bél Mátyás Intézet.[15]

Institutional support

34. Within the organizational structure of the MESRS SR, the Department of National Minority Education Development was established under the National Minority and Inclusive Education Section. The section is directly engaged in national minority and inclusive education with a specific emphasis on the needs of national minorities. The upcoming curriculum reform in primary schools is supported by the Department of Curriculum and Education Innovations. Support for curricular reform in the regions is provided by entities selected on the basis of a call.

35. On 1 July 2022, the National Institute of Education and Youth (hereinafter referred to as "NIEY") was established by merging five directly managed organizations of the Ministry of Education – the Methodological and Pedagogical Centre, the State Pedagogical Institute, the National Institute of Certified Measurements in Education, IUVENTA – the Slovak Youth

[15] https://www.minedu.sk/analyza-postavenia-malotriednych-a-neplnoorganizovanych-skol-vo-vztahu-k-narodnostnemu-skolstvu/ (in Slovak)

Institute and the Slovak Pedagogical Library. The NIEY has 8 regional offices (in each regional seat) and also one office in Komárno, which is cross-sectionally focused on supporting national minority education in the regions. On 1 July 2022, the Regional Youth Work Coordinator position was created to support work with Hungarian-speaking youth.

Statistical information on education in national minority languages

Kindergartens

36. As of 15 September 2022, a total of 3,137 kindergartens (2,793 state, 232 private, and 112 church kindergartens) were included in the Network of Schools and School Facilities of the Slovak Republic, 364 (11.60%) of them with the national minority language of instruction, namely Bulgarian, Hungarian, German, Ruthenian and Ukrainian. In the Network of Schools and School Facilities of the Slovak Republic, there is also 1 special kindergarten with Hungarian language of instruction with 28 children.

Table 2: The number of kindergartens in Slovakia by the national minority language of instruction

Language of instruction	Number of kindergartens	Percentage
Bulgarian	1	0.03 %
Hungarian	281	8.96 %
German	1	0.03 %
Ruthenian	4	0.13 %
Slovak and Hungarian	76	2.42 %
Ukrainian	1	0.03 %
TOTAL	364	11.60 %

Source: MESRS SR

Primary schools

37. As of 15 September 2022, a total of 2,069 primary schools were included in the Network of Schools and School Facilities, of which 1,854 were state, 118 church and 87 private school, with a total number of 24,774 classes. As of 15 September 2022, a total of 241 (11.65%) primary schools with Hungarian, German, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Russian, and Bulgarian language of instruction from the total number of primary schools were established under the Network of Primary Schools.

Table 3: The number of primary schools in Slovakia by the national minority language of instruction

Language of instruction	Number of primary	Percentage
Bulgarian	1	0.05 %
Hungarian	207	10.00 %
German	2	0.10 %
Ruthenian	2	0.10 %
Slovak and Hungarian	27	1.30 %
Ukrainian	1	0.05 %
Slovak and Russian	1	0.05 %

TOTAL	241	11.65 %

Source: MESRS SR

38. *Primary schools with Hungarian language of instruction* are attended by:

- 27,651 pupils in state schools, of which 13,054 pupils are in grades 1-4 and 14,597 in grades 5-9;
- 1,605 pupils in church schools.

39. *Primary schools with German language of instruction* are attended by:

- 32 pupils in state schools in grades 1-4;
- 153 pupils in private schools in grades 1-4.

40. *Primary schools with Bulgarian language of instruction* are attended by:

- 66 pupils in private schools, of which 30 pupils are in grades 1-4 and 36 in grades 5-9.

41. *Primary schools with Ruthenian language of instruction* are attended by:

- 82 pupils in state schools, of which 32 pupils are in grades 1-4 and 50 in grades 5-9.

42. *Primary schools with Ukrainian language of instruction* are attended by:

- 192 pupils in state schools, of which 85 pupils are in grades 1-4 and 107 in grades 5-9.

Table 4: Number of pupils in primary schools with the national minority language of instruction in the period 2016-2022

Year	Hungarian	German	Ukrainian	Bulgarian	Ruthenian	Russian	Total
2016	29,077	164	168	76	0	0	29,485
2017	29,236	157	171	84	53	6	29,584
2018	29,261	166	141	84	62	10	29,724
2019	29,264	168	148	83	60	25	29,748
2020	29,285	155	143	69	67	35	29,754
2021	29,276	174	148	68	81	58	29,805
2022	29,256	185	192	66	82	59	29,840

Source: MESRS SR

43. As of 15 September 2022, a total of 253 special primary schools were included in the Network of Schools and School Facilities in the Slovak Republic.

Table 5: The number of special primary schools in Slovakia by the national minority language of instruction

Language of instruction	Number of special primary schools	Percentage
Hungarian	8	3.37%
Slovak and Hungarian	13	5.48%

Source: MESRS SR

Secondary schools

44. As of 15 September 2022, a total of 441 secondary schools and conservatories, including schools only with a part-time form of study, were included in the Network of Schools and School Facilities. There are 417 full-time secondary vocational schools (of which 323 are state, 74 private and 20 church schools). Of the above secondary vocational schools, 37 secondary vocational schools with the national minority language were established, of which

25 with Slovak and Hungarian as the language of instruction and 12 with the Hungarian language of instruction. At the same time, 234 grammar schools and secondary sports schools, including schools only with a part-time form of study, were included in the Network of Schools and School Facilities. There are 233 full-time schools (of which 144 are state, 39 private and 50 church schools). 22 of the above grammar schools are grammar schools and secondary schools with the national minority language of instruction.

Table 6: The number of secondary vocational schools in Slovakia by the national minority language of instruction

Language of instruction	Number of secondary vocational schools	Percentage
Hungarian	12	2.83%
Slovak and Hungarian	25	5.90%
TOTAL	37	8.73%

Source: MESRS SR

Table 7: The number of grammar schools in Slovakia by the national minority language of instruction

Language of instruction	Number of grammar schools and secondary sports schools	Percentage
Hungarian	14	5.98%
Slovak-Hungarian	6	2.56%
Ukrainian	1	0.43%
Bulgarian	1	0.43%
TOTAL	22	9.40%

Source: MESRS SR

Common information on Article 9 – Judicial authorities

45. In the monitored period, there were no legislative changes regulating access to translation and interpretation in court proceedings.

46. The legislation contained in the Criminal Procedure Code of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "CPC") lays down the conditions for the mandatory involvement of an interpreter to the proceedings, if the accused declares that he/she does not speak the language of the proceedings. This legislation applies to any language, not only to regional or national minority languages.

47. The accused has the right to decide whether he/she speaks the Slovak language as the language of proceedings sufficiently to defend his/her interests. Furthermore, in the case of a declaration of a lack of knowledge of the Slovak language, the extent to which the accused is able to communicate in that language is not examined, but an interpreter/translator must be involved in the proceedings. This CPC provision must therefore be interpreted in such way that the accused is free to decide and it is at his/her own discretion whether he/she is able to speak the state language at a level sufficient for it to be the language of the proceedings or not, and prefers the possibility of conducting the proceedings in another language, i.e. with an interpreter/translator.

48. If the accused decides that he/she has a good command of the Slovak language, then the proceedings are conducted in that language. However, in order to ensure that the rights of the accused in the proceedings are properly exercised, a correction is introduced under the CPC, which provides for the compulsory involvement of an interpreter/translator if it is established by the authorities in the course of the proceedings that the accused does not

speak the language of the proceedings sufficiently for the proper exercise of his/her rights in the criminal proceedings, despite the declaration.

49. The possibility of involving an interpreter/translator in the proceedings is also regulated in the event that the legal representative of the accused, suspect, victim, participant or witness does not speak the language of the proceedings.

50. In the case of civil proceedings, § 155 of Act No. 160/2015 Coll. on the Civil Procedure Code, the right of everyone to speak before a court in their mother tongue or in a language they understand is regulated, where the costs associated with interpretation and translation shall be borne by the court. The above provision applies both to the course of the proceedings and to the possibility of submitting documents in the mother tongue or a language that the person understands (and which are subsequently translated at the expense of the state). A similar provision is regulated by Act No. 162/2015 Coll. on the Administrative Procedure Code for administrative proceedings before the court.

Table 8: Statistics on the use of translation and interpretation in court proceedings in 2021 (legally concluded cases)

Language	Civil proceedings – translation	Civil proceedings – interpretation	Criminal proceedings – interpretation
Bulgarian	-	1	16
Czech	-	1	
Croatian	-	-	2
Hungarian	38	353	419
German	14	21	31
Polish	8	12	31
Roma	-	-	5
Ruthenian	-	-	-
Russian	4	7	26
Serbian	2	4	36
Ukrainian	2	6	129
Vietnamese	4	6	6

Source: Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

Table 9: Statistics on the use of translation and interpretation in court proceedings in 2022 (legally concluded cases)

Language	Civil proceedings – translation	Civil proceedings – interpretation	Criminal proceedings – interpretation
Bulgarian	1	2	8
Czech	-	-	2
Croatian	2	2	4
Hungarian	25	414	487
German	23	33	32
Polish	3	6	49
Roma	-	1	4
Ruthenian	-	-	-
Russian	-	6	32
Serbian	5	8	39
Ukrainian	5	13	136
Vietnamese	3	7	5

Source: Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

Common information on Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

51. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Office of the Government"), as the administrator of the Act on the use of national minority languages, provides professional and methodological assistance to public administration bodies pursuant to the Act, as well as to the organizational components of the security and rescue forces, discusses administrative offences in the area of the use of the languages of national minorities and submits biennially to the meeting of the *Slovak Government the Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic* (hereinafter referred to as the "Language Report"). The Language Report maps the state of use of languages of national minorities in the Slovak Republic and, based on data analysis, identifies areas with deficiencies in application practice. Relevant information on Article 10 can be found in the Language Report for 2019-2020[16] and in the Language Report 2021-2022[17].

52. The latest Language Report for 2021-2022 was adopted by the Slovak Government on 29 December 2022. The Slovak Government perceives the need to strengthen the application practice of the language rights of members of national minorities and, in this context, imposed on the head of the Office of the Government and the Plenipotentiary for NM the obligation to prepare a proposal for a financial support mechanism to compensate for expenses incurred in connection with the implementation of it resulting obligations in order to improve the application practice of the Act on the use of national minority languages; to update and issue methodological guidelines of the Slovak Government to the Act on the use of national minority languages; on responsible heads of individual ministries to increase the level of existing competence education aimed at improving the level of command of the language of national minorities for a group of civil servants performing civil service in municipalities defined in a special regulation and to ensure its availability in public administration bodies within their scope; to take measures to eliminate the shortcomings specified in the approved report and to continuously evaluate their implementation under their competence. The above tasks are specified to be completed by the end of 2023, currently being gradually implemented. In the context of the above resolution, the methodological guideline for the application of the Act on the use of national minority languages was updated and published on the website of the Plenipotentiary for NM in five minority languages.[18]

53. The MoI SR has expanded its electronic system for registry offices with a new module, ensuring the issuance of registry statements also in five minority languages. The Office of the Plenipotentiary for NM participated in the translations of registry forms into national minority languages. The new electronic system can issue marriage, birth and death certificates bilingually. The actual practice showed that some regulations needed to be modified and the registry offices had to be constantly informed about the possibility of using the database in a minority language.

54. In connection with the electronic notification of child birth, the possibility has been introduced for mothers of a non-Slovak nationality since September 2022, at the initiative of the Plenipotentiary for NM, to enter the surname of their newborn daughter in the birth book without the Slovak suffix form directly from the hospital, and therefore without an additional visit to the registry office.

---

[16] https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3562/sprava_o_stave_pouzivania_jazykov_narodnostnych_mensin_na_uzemi_slovenskej_republiky_za_obdobie_rokov_2019_-_2020_e.pdf

[17] https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/3562/report_eng.pdf

[18] https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/legislativa-metodicka-a-odborna-pomoc/metodicka-a-odborna-pomoc/metodicke-usmernenie-k-zakonu/ (in Slovak)

55. The Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (hereinafter referred to as the "COLSAF") has provided translations and publication of official documents related to the areas of employment services and the field of social affairs and family into minority languages (Hungarian, Ukrainian and German languages) for the purposes of submitting applications. The conditions for registration of job applicants, rights and obligations of registered job applicants are regulated by Act No. 5/2004 on Employment Services and on Amendments to Certain Acts, therefore the translated documents for minorities (applications, instructions, confirmations) was published pursuant to this Act.[19]

56. Fluent Hungarian-speaking employees are also present at every labour office in the border regions (with Hungary, Ukraine and Poland) who can help handling the client issues, if needed. Due to the conflict in Ukraine, counsellors speaking the Ukrainian language work at the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. In addition to the above, all vacancies are published in the Ukrainian language.[20]

57. Documents for claiming benefits and contributions (applications, affidavits, instructions, declarations, forms, etc.) have been translated to and published in minority languages (Hungarian, Ukrainian and German).[21]

58. COLSAF ensured the signing of a framework agreement on the provision of translation and interpretation services for translation and interpretation from Slovak to a foreign language[22] (German, Hungarian, Polish, Russian, Czech, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Croatian, Serbian and other languages) and vice versa.

59. COLSAF ensured the translations and publication of the *Fire Alarm Guidelines and the Fire Evacuation Plan* in Hungarian and Ruthenian languages at the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

60. COLSAF ensured the installation of official boards in the Hungarian and Ruthenian languages at individual Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

61. On 15 March 2019, the Amendment to Act No. 513/2009 Coll. on Railways entered into force. Among other things, a provision was added to the Act on Railways on the obligation of the manager of the railway infrastructure to ensure the designation of railway stations and stops where regular passenger transport is carried out in the language of national minorities in municipalities in accordance with the Act on the use of national minority languages. The Railways of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Slovak Railways") have been providing such designation of railway stations and stops since 2016, in accordance with the instruction of the Minister of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic No. 60/2016. At the initiative of the Plenipotentiary for NM, in intensive cooperation with the management of Slovak Railways and Slovenská pošta, a. s. to improve the awareness of members of national minorities, translations of general information at railway stations, as well as translations of basic services and information at post offices to the Ruthenian language were provided through its office.

62. Currently, 133 railway stations and stops on the Slovak Railways network are equipped with bilingual signs, 124 in the Hungarian language and 9 in the Ruthenian language. In the monitored period from March 2019 to August 2023, designation in the language of national

[19] https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/vzory-ziadosti-v-slovenskom-jazyku-a-inych-jazykoch/vzory-ziadosti-pre-oblast-sluzieb-zamestnanosti.html?page_id=13141 (in minority languages)
[20] https://www.sluzbyzamestnanosti.gov.sk/?lang=ua (in Ukrainian)
[21] https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/vzory-ziadosti-v-slovenskom-jazyku-a-inych-jazykoch/vzory-ziadosti-pre-oblast-socialnych-veci-a-rodiny.html?page_id=13142 (in minority languages)
[22] https://www.crz.gov.sk/data/att/3144464.pdf (in Slovak)

minorities was implemented at 78 railway stations and stops, 70 in the Hungarian language and 8 in the Ruthenian language. At other two railway stops, signs in the Ruthenian language were under preparation (until the end of August 2023).

63. Clients of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family can use and adopt a surname in their native language.

Table 10: Implemented education of civil servants of Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in the language of national minorities

Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	Year (2021 and 2022 implemented, 2023 planned)	Language	Number of employees	Hours
Komárno	2021	Hungarian language	16	12
	2022	Hungarian language	16	60
	2023	Hungarian language	16	100
Levice	2022	Roma language	17	48
Lučenec	2022	Hungarian language	7	50
Revúca	2023	Hungarian language	1	24
Rimavská Sobota	2022	Hungarian language	12	24

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

64. At the initiative of the Plenipotentiary for NM, the *Concept of the Activity of the Legal Aid Centre for the years 2022-2024* approved by the Slovak Government on 7 September 2022 was expanded to include the need to provide information on free legal aid for representatives of national minorities in their language, or the need to provide translations of the documents of the Legal Aid Centre (hereinafter referred to as the "LAC") into the languages of national minorities and to increase the language competence of the LAC´s employees. To ensure these goals, the LAC was provided with full cooperation by the Plenipotentiary for NM, based on which information materials were also prepared and published in national minority languages.

65. Under the competences entrusted to it by the Constitution and Act No. 564/2001 Coll. on the Public Defender of Rights (hereinafter referred to as Act No. 564/2001 Coll.), the Public Defender of Rights acts in cases where there is a suspicion that a public administration body or a public authority has interfered with fundamental rights and freedoms. In connection with the implementation of human rights obligations by central or regional public administration bodies, it has more the status of a control body. Even though its competences are not of a coercive nature, it tries to use its authority and expertise to influence public administration bodies and public authorities so that they cultivate the space where the citizen interacts with the state power.

66. According to Act No. 564/2001 Coll., natural persons have the right to communicate with the Public Defender of Rights in their native language, where the costs of interpretation shall be borne by the state. The Office of the Public Defender of Rights applies this provision by communicating with whistleblowers in the language in which the filer addresses the Public

Defender of Rights, while fully respecting the will of the filer to communicate in one of the regional or minority languages.

67. The Office of the Public Defender of Rights tries to communicate in the language of national minorities also in informational materials, e.g. general information material on the mandate of the Public Defender of Rights is also available in Roma and Hungarian languages, while its revision and preparation of other information materials planned to be translated to national minority languages is currently underway. Due to the need for personal communication in national minority languages, especially in facilities where persons are held under the power of the state, the Office of the Public Defender of Rights has provided an electronic translator.

Common information on Article 11 – Media

68. On 1 August 2022, Act No. 264/2022 Coll. on Media Services (hereinafter referred to as the "Media Services Act") entered into force, which amended Act No. 532/2010 Coll. on Radio and Television of Slovakia, providing for Radio and Television of Slovakia (hereinafter referred to as the "RTVS") to broadcast content and regionally balanced programs for national minorities and ethnic groups in radio broadcasting, through a separate website reflecting the current digital possibilities and demands of the public, and also in television broadcasting in the range of at least 120 minutes on working days, so that at least 500 hours of such broadcasting are ensured annually in all television program services. In relation to this obligation, a transitional period until 2024 is being regulated, specifically in the period until 31 December 2022, this obligation was set at a time range of at least 240 hours per year, and in 2023 it is set at a time range of at least 360 hours per year.

69. Community or local television broadcasting is not subject to the obligation to ensure multimodal access, to apply a uniform labelling system, or to comply with quotas for European works in broadcasting.

70. The media legislation of the Slovak Republic does not establish any obstacles to the broadcasting of radio program services in national minority languages. The Media Services Act introduced the term community media into Slovak legislation (§ 107 of the Act), which, due to the fact that it is provided by a person other than an entrepreneur and its purpose is not to make a profit, has in some respects simpler conditions of provision, as it is not covered by all legal obligations as other broadcasters. This measure is intended to serve as an incentive for national community or local broadcasting, provided that the purpose of the broadcaster is not to make a profit.

71. Pursuant to the Media Services Act, the freedom to receive broadcasts in the Slovak Republic is guaranteed and can only be restricted for legal reasons. This is guaranteed by § 16 (2) of the Media Services Act, according to which the receipt of a content service that is provided publicly may only be prohibited under the Act and within its limits, but also Art. 3 (1) of Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on audiovisual media services.

72. Retransmission of broadcasts from other countries may only be limited for legal reasons, the integrity of the signal is also guaranteed (§ 32 of the Media Services Act) in accordance with Art. 3 (1) of Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on audiovisual media services.

73. Act No. 265/2022 Coll. on Publishers of Publications and on the Register in the Field of Media and Audiovisual Media, nor any other act restricts the publication of periodicals in a language other than the state language.

74. The Council for Media Services has 9 members elected by the NC SR. Civil associations representing the interests of national minorities in the field of media, culture, education or sports can also nominate their candidate. The same applies to the supervisory body of the public broadcaster, the RTVS Council.

75. Publication of periodicals in the language of national minorities or ethnic groups living in the Slovak Republic is not limited.

Common information on Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

76. In accordance with Act No. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund for the Support of the Culture of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Fund Act"), the Fund for the Support of the Culture of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as the "Fund") was established for the purpose of preserving, expressing, protecting and developing the identity and cultural values of national minorities and others.

77. In accordance with the Fund Act, the Fund's expert councils assess applications and recommend projects to the director for support, including the amount of its funds to be provided for a specific project.

78. The structure of the Fund's support activity for individual calendar years (hereinafter referred to as the "Structure") is one of the basic documents that regulates in detail the focus of support for cultural and scientific activities and the dissemination and presentation of the results of such activities in the Slovak Republic and abroad in accordance with the purposes of the Act.

79. In accordance with the Structure, the Fund supports under the Programme 1.2 the authors of original and translated literature in printed or electronic form (made available to the public via the Internet, e-books or audio books), the implementation of literary tours, festivals, competitions, international literature mobility and presentations with the aim of maintaining continuity of literature of national minorities.

80. Under the Sub-programme 2.1.1, the Fund supports projects aimed at the creation and translation of literature. The purpose of the Sub-programme is to support original literature in the national minority language, translation of literature from the Slovak language into the national minority language and from the national minority language into the Slovak language, support for the creation and translation of monographic publications about cities and towns and about cultural monuments emphasising their importance for the development of culture and the language of national minorities, the creation and translation of art scholar, social science and other specialist literature important for the development of the culture and language of national minorities, as well as translations of important works of foreign language literature into the national minority language (support is primarily intended for the translation of works that have not yet been translated).

81. In accordance with the Structure, the Fund supports projects aimed at periodicals under the Sub-programme 2.2. The purpose of the Sub-programme is to support the publication of news, informational, educational and educational periodicals, as well as literary, social science, children and youth periodicals, supplements to periodicals, including supplements to religious periodicals focused on the development and popularization of the culture, traditions and language of national minorities and their cultural and social life. The priority is to issue at least one periodical for each national minority.

82. In accordance with the Structure, the Fund supports projects aimed at non-periodicals under the Sub-programme 2.3. The aim of the Sub-programme is to support the publication of such book publications presenting the original literary work of national minorities, which

contribute to the development of the culture and language of national minorities. Only already created works with a completed manuscript are supported.

83. In accordance with the Structure, the Fund supports under the Programme 2.4 projects aimed at national cultural projects implemented through electronic media and the Internet, publication of cultural, news, social science and educational content, dissemination and reception of information about national minorities and for national minorities in electronic form. The subsidy can also be used for the establishment and development of national radio and television broadcasting, Internet radio and television broadcasting.

84. Under the Sub-programme 2.4.1, the Fund supports projects aimed at publishing e-books. The aim of the Sub-programme is to support the publication of such book publications presenting the original literary work of national minorities, which contribute to the development of the culture and language of national minorities. Only already created works with a completed manuscript are supported.

85. Under the Sub-programme 2.4.2, the Fund supports projects aimed at publishing audio books (in previous years, publishing CDs). The aim of the Sub-programme is to encourage the creation, publishing and dissemination of works of original national minority literary creation through audio books.

86. In accordance with the Structure, the Fund supports projects aimed at electronic media, including the creation and development of national radio/television broadcasting under the Sub-programme 2.4.3. The aim of the Sub-programme is to stimulate the creation or development of national radio or television broadcasting.

87. Under the Sub-programme 3.5, the Fund supports projects aimed at professional national minority audiovisual art, implementation of audiovisual works, tours, festivals, competitions and foreign and international mobilities and presentations to support the development of national minority audiovisual culture.

88. Under the Sub-programme 2.1.5, the Fund supports projects aimed at the creation and implementation of audiovisual works. The aim of the Sub-programme is to support the creation of audiovisual works, including demanding audiovisual works.

89. Under the competence of RTVS, the broadcasting time was divided between individual national minorities in the monitored period based on the latest results of the 2021 Census, according to the sum of members of national minorities who stated their nationality on the first and second place. After recalculating the broadcasting time, RTVS doubled the broadcasting time for small national minorities so that the resulting time would enable the preparation of a sufficiently elaborated radio and television program.

90. The new media legislation of June 2022 imposes on the RTVS to broadcast 360 hours of national minority television programmes in 2023 (1.5 times the current time allowance), and this time allowance changes to 500 hours per year in 2024.

91. However, the above media legislation makes it difficult to obtain licenses or change them in the case of frequencies used by broadcasters by law. Obtaining a new frequency in the licensing procedure is only possible after repeated rejection of the frequency by commercial broadcasters, and the Act also does not address the procedure of the licensing authority (Media Council) in the event that RTVS wants to change licenses on existing frequencies – the legal regulation is general, but it also affects the planning, management and changes of frequencies used to broadcast programmes in the languages of national minorities.

92. The impact of the above measures cannot be evaluated yet.

Common information on Article 13 – Economic and social life

93. According to Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "Act No. 270/1995 Coll."), the agenda of healthcare facilities and social service facilities takes place in the state language. Communication between the staff of these facilities and patients or clients usually takes place in the state language; if it is a patient or client whose mother tongue is different from the state language, communication can be conducted in a language in which the patient or client can be understood. Staff is not required to speak a foreign language or a language of a national minority. Patients or clients belonging to a national minority may use their mother tongue in communication with the staff in these facilities in municipalities where the language of the national minority is used in official communication according to a special regulation.

94. According to Act no. 270/1995 Coll., the compliance with obligations in administrative proceedings and proceedings conducted by law enforcement authorities, except for the communication of the staff of healthcare facilities and social services with patients and clients and except for advertising supervised by the authorities according to a special regulation, is supervised by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoC SR"). When exercising the supervision, the MoC SR shall also take into account the codified form of the state language.

95. To a limited extent – in 12 health care facilities – the use of the Roma language in communication with clients is supported by health support assistants (hereinafter referred to as "HSA") in the hospital environment.

96. A specific area of use of regional or minority languages is emergency calls to summon the emergency services of the integrated rescue system at the number 112. Pursuant to Act No. 129/2002 Coll. on the Integrated Rescue System, the coordination centre established by the district office in the regional headquarters ensures the reception of emergency calls at the number 112. All coordination centres of the integrated rescue system that operate in the territory of the Slovak Republic shall send a list of the number of operators who speak a specific foreign language to the permanent service section, which shall evaluate the data, every day when changing the work shift of the operators of the phone number 112. If the relevant centre is unable to handle a call to the emergency number 112 due to the lack of knowledge of a foreign language by the operators on duty, it will ensure that the call is handled by a conference call with the operator of the centre that announced the presence of an operator who speaks the required foreign language in the report on taking over the duty. Based on the experience so far, no problems have been identified in relation to handling emergency calls in the language of the national minority. The system for handling calls to the emergency number 112 in a national minority language works effectively and contributes to the protection of the life and health of citizens who find themselves in an emergency situation.

97. Specifically, the Operating Centre of the Emergency Health Service of the Slovak Republic has operators of the emergency call line 155 who have a certified examination in communication in a specific foreign language. In the event that there is no operator on duty who has the appropriate language skills, he/she can request to take over the call in the given language on the 112 line or, if necessary, the embassy of the relevant country can be used to handle the call through a conference call.

Common information on Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

98. In the monitored period, no measures were taken that would limit the possibilities to fulfil agreements with other countries or to establish and maintain cross-border cooperation in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to national minorities concerned.

99. The activities of the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minority Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "MSHC"), created under the *Treaty on Good Neighbourhood and Friendly Cooperation between the Slovak Republic and the Hungarian Republic,* signed on 19 March 1995 in Paris, continued. In the monitored period, the XIV Session of the MSHC was held on 20 February 2019 in Bratislava and two plenary meetings of the XV Session of the MSHC were held – 13 September 2022 and 3 November 2022 in Budapest. The meetings of the XV Session were concluded without signing the joint minutes due to the request of the Hungarian side to include the Beneš decrees. Members of the Slovak section of the MSHC for state administration (MFEA SR, MESRS SR, MoI SR, MoC SR, the Office of Slovaks Living Abroad, the Office of the Plenipotentiary for NM) and self-government (Trnava Self-Governing Region, city of Komárno) provided full cooperation at the meeting and presented positions and comments on recommendations of the minutes from the point of view of their competence.

100. The tasks from the previous XIV Sessions are fulfilled by relevant ministries and entities. In December 2022, the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic informed his partners about the current status of the XV Session of the MSHC and asked them to assess the possibility of implementing selected recommendations.

101. At the 23rd meeting of the Slovak-Bavarian Commission (27- 28 April 2023), the *Work Program of the Slovak-Bavarian Commission for the years 2023-2025* was signed. Within the framework of cooperation in the cultural area, the MoC SR is, among other things, responsible for the affairs of the German national minority, namely for the continuation of the digitization of written documents and periodicals about the culture of the German national minority in Slovakia and for the support of activities aimed at preserving and maintaining the culture of the German national minority (educational, cultural and geographical-historical seminars).

1.1 BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

1.1.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

102. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the Bulgarian national minority increased by 501 inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. In the case of the Bulgarian minority, the number of residents who stated Bulgarian as their mother tongue increased by 775 compared to 2011. See point 3 of the general information.

103. In 2021, elections were held for members and alternates of CNMEG for all national minorities. One full member with voting rights and one alternate were elected for the Bulgarian national minority. Consultations take place on a regular basis even outside of CNMEG meetings. The Plenipotentiary for NM regularly visits the Bulgarian national minority organizations, informs and consults current tasks with the representatives of the Bulgarian national minority.

1.1.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

104. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

1.1.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14

1.1.3.1 Article 8 – Education

105. See the common information on Article 8.

Articles 8.1.aiii, 8.1.biii and 8.1.ciii: pre-school, primary and secondary education in the Bulgarian language:

106. The founder of the Christo Botev Private Kindergarten (50 pupils as of 15 September 2022), the Christo Botev Private Primary School (66 pupils as of 15 September 2022), the Christo Botev Private Grammar School (33 pupils as of 15 September 2022) is the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria in Sofia. In Slovakia, it is included in the network of schools and school facilities as a private school with the Bulgarian language of instruction. Pupils and students of Bulgarian, Slovak and other nationalities attend the school. It includes one school facility providing both primary and secondary education in the Bulgarian language. The Bulgarian school was established already in 1948 as a result of the need for Bulgarian children in Slovakia to learn Bulgarian. The school determines its specific goal: the preservation of the Bulgarian spirit and cultural traditions in Central Europe. Education takes place in Bulgarian, and English is taught as a foreign language. The Slovak language is taught according to the curriculum of the Slovak Republic, and the Slovak language and literature, Bulgarian language and literature, and another optional subject are mandatory for the school-leaving examination, and it is possible to choose also another subject. Graduates receive school-leaving certificates in Slovak and Bulgarian.

107. See points 24 to 25 and 27 to 28 of the common information on Article 8.

Article 8.1.eii: higher education in Bulgarian:

108. Higher education in the Bulgarian language is provided by the Department of Slavic Studies within the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava and the Department of Slavic Languages within the Faculty of Arts of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica.

1.1.3.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

109. See the common information on Article 9.

1.1.3.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

110. See the common information on Article 10 and point 2 of the general information.

111. In official communication, the national minority language is used in municipalities where the given minority makes up at least 15% of the population. Not a single municipality with the Bulgarian population meets this condition. However, the legally defined territorial competence to use the national minority language does not apply to oral communication. The condition is the consent of the employee of the public administration body and the person participating in the proceedings. In the monitored period, the Plenipotentiary for NM did not record any complaints related to a possible violation of the linguistic rights of the Bulgarian minority under the provisions of the Act on the use of national minority languages. See point 50 of the common information.

112. Clients of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family can use and adopt a surname in their native language.

1.1.3.4 Article 11 – Media

113. See the common information on Article 11.

Article 11.1.aiii: to ensure public broadcasting of radio and television programmes in the Bulgarian language:

114. See point 67 of the common information on Article 11.

Table 11: Radio and television broadcasting hours

National minority language	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television
Bulgarian	5	1.79	5	2.16	5	2.62	10	1.76

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.bii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in the Bulgarian language on a regular basis:

115. See point 69 of the common information on Article 12 for the legislation.

116. See points 75, 77 and 85 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 12: Number of supported projects of the Bulgarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.cii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in the Bulgarian language on a regular basis:

117. See point 68 of the common information on Article 12 and Article 11.1.bii.

Article 11.1.d: to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the Bulgarian language:

118. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.1.ei: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one daily or weekly newspaper in the Bulgarian language:

119. See point 74 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 13: In the monitored period, the following number of periodical titles were published in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bulgarian	1	1	1	0

Source: MoC SR

120. See point 80 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 14: Number of supported projects of the Bulgarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	1	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.fii: to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the Bulgarian language:

121. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.2:
- to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Bulgarian language
- not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Bulgarian language
- to ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in the Bulgarian language
122. See points 70 to 72 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 11.3: to ensure that the interests of the users of the Bulgarian language are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:
123. See point 73 of the common information on Article 12.

1.1.3.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Article 12.1.a: to support the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in the Bulgarian language:
124. Distribution of 2 audiovisual works in the original version with Slovak subtitles/dubbing.
125. See points 78 to 79 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 15: Number of supported projects of the Bulgarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.1.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	2	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

126. See point 81 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 16: Number of supported projects of the Bulgarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	2	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

127. See points 82 to 83 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 17: Number of supported projects of the Bulgarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

128. See point 84 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 18: Number of supported projects of the Bulgarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

129. See points 86 to 87 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 19: Number of supported projects of the Bulgarian national minority under the Sub-programme 3.5.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 12.1.b: to foster access in other languages to works produced in the Bulgarian language by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

130. See Article 12.1.a – by making available audiovisual works in the national minority languages with Slovak subtitles.

Article 12.1.f: to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of the Bulgarian language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

131. Cooperation with the Bulgarian Cultural Institute in Bratislava in the implementation of the projections specified in Article 12.1.a.

132. According to the Fund Act, the majority of the members of the Expert Council of the Fund for the Bulgarian National Minority Culture is established on the basis of the nomination of cultural organizations of the Bulgarian national minority and subsequently the election of candidates for members of the Expert Councils by the gathering of cultural organizations of the Bulgarian national minority, who register in the register of cultural organizations managed by the Fund. See point 76 of the common information on Article 12 for more detail.

1.1.3.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

133. See the common information on Article 13.

1.1.3.7 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

134. See the common information on Article 14.

Article 14.a: to apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which the Bulgarian language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the Bulgarian language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education:

135. Valid Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Education, Science and Culture between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria on Cooperation in the field of Culture.

1.2 CZECH LANGUAGE

1.2.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

136. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the Czech national minority increased by 15,344 inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. In the case of the Czech minority, the number of residents who stated Czech as their mother tongue decreased by 21,605 compared to 2011. See point 3 of the general information.

137. In 2021, elections were held for members and alternate members of CNMEG for all national minorities. Two full members with voting rights and two alternates were elected for the Czech national minority. Consultations take place on a regular basis even outside of

CNMEG meetings. The Plenipotentiary for NM regularly visits the Czech national minority organizations, informs and consults current tasks with the representatives of the Czech national minority.

1.2.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

138. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

1.2.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14

1.2.3.1 Article 8 – Education

139. See the common information on Article 8.

Articles 8.1.aiii, 8.1.biii and 8.1.ciii: pre-school, primary and secondary education in the Czech language:

140. Currently, there is no school in Slovakia with the Czech language of instruction or teaching the Czech language. Pursuant to applicable laws and intergovernmental agreements, secondary and especially university students in Slovakia have the opportunity to study at the relevant secondary school and university in the territory of the Czech Republic after successfully passing the entrance exams. This also applies to citizens of the Slovak Republic, claiming to be members of the Czech and Moravian national minority, who use it according to their possibilities and interests.

141. See points 24 to 25 of the common information on Article 8.

1.2.3.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

142. See the common information on Article 9.

Article 9.1.d: interpretation and translations in the Czech language in civil proceedings and court proceedings in administrative matters:

143. Under § 51(5) of Act No. 543/2005 Coll. on the Administrative and Office Rules for District Courts, Regional Courts, the Special Court and Military Courts "the court shall also engage a translator for the translation of documentary evidence submitted to the court file by the parties to the proceedings prepared in a language other than the state language, with the exception of the Czech language". Translation of documents submitted in the Czech language is therefore not necessary in court proceedings. This is also emphasized for example in proceedings on the enforceability of decisions of foreign authorities, when it is not necessary to attach an official translation of decisions prepared in the Czech language (§ 424(2) of the Administrative Procedure Code).

1.2.3.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

144. See the common information on Article 10 and point 2 of the general information.

145. According to the Act on the use of national minority languages, the Czech language is a recognized minority language. The use of the Czech language in official communication is specifically regulated by § 3 of Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the state language of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "State Language Act"). In official communication, the national minority language is used in municipalities where the given minority makes up at least 15% of the population. Not a single municipality with the Czech population meets this condition. However, the legally defined territorial competence to use the national minority language does not apply to oral communication. The condition is the consent of the employee of the public administration body and the person participating in the proceedings. In the monitored period, the Plenipotentiary for NM did not record any complaints related to a

possible violation of the linguistic rights of the Czech national minority specified by the Act on the use of national minority languages. See point 50 of the common information on Article 10.

146. Clients of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family can use and adopt a surname in their native language. We consider that the relatedness and intelligibility of the language is almost absolute, therefore it was not necessary to introduce any measures under Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services.

1.2.3.4 Article 11 – Media

147. See the common information on Article 11.

Article 11.1.aiii: to ensure that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in the Czech language:

148. See point 67 of the common information on Article 11.

Table 20: Hours of RTVS radio and television broadcasts in the national minority language in the monitored period

National minority language	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television
Czech	26	4.42	26	3.06	26	5.74	53	2.59

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.bii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in the Czech language on a regular basis:

149. In the monitored period, 1 private radio programme service broadcasted in the Czech language in territory of the Slovak Republic.

150. See point 69 of the common information on Article 12 for the legislation.

151. See points 75, 77 and 85 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 21: Number of supported projects of the Czech national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.cii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in the Czech language on a regular basis:

152. See point 68 of the common information on Article 12 and Article 11.1.bii.

Table 22: In the monitored period, the following number of broadcasters broadcast television programme services in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Czech	8	8	13	13

Article 11.1.d: to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the Czech language:

153. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.1.ei: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one daily or weekly newspaper in the Czech language:

154. See point 74 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 23: In the monitored period, the following number of periodical titles were published in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Czech	6	6	6	6

Source: MoC SR

155. See point 80 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 24: Number of supported projects of the Czech national minority under the Sub-programme 2.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	1	2

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.fii: to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the Czech language:

156. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.2:
- to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Czech language
- not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Czech language
- to ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in the Czech language

157. See points 70 to 72 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 11.3: to ensure that the interests of the users of the Czech language are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:
158. See point 73 of the common information on Article 12.

1.2.3.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Article 12.1.a: to support the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in the Czech language:
159. Dissemination of more than 400 audiovisual works in the original version or with Czech subtitles.

160. See points 78 to 79 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 25: Number of supported projects of the Czech national minority under the Sub-programme 2.1.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	1	2

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

161. See point 81 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 26: Number of supported projects of the Czech national minority under the Sub-programme 2.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

162. See points 82 to 83 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 27: Number of supported projects of the Czech national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	1	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

163. See point 84 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 28: Number of supported projects of the Czech national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

164. See points 86 to 87 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 29: Number of supported projects of the Czech national minority under the Sub-programme 3.5.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 12.1.b: to foster access in other languages to works produced in the Czech language by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

165. See Article 12.1.a – by making available audiovisual works in the national minority languages with Slovak subtitles.

Article 12.1.c: to foster access in the Czech language to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

166. More than 400 titles in the Czech language or with Czech subtitles are available.

Article 12.1.e: to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the Czech language:

167. Slovak National Museum (hereinafter referred to as "SNM") – MM – Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia in Martin.

Article 12.1.f: to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of the Czech language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

168. According to the Fund Act, the majority of the members of the Expert Council of the Czech national minority culture is established on the basis of the nomination of cultural organizations of the Czech national minority and subsequently the election of candidates for members of the Expert Councils by the gathering of cultural organizations of the Czech national minority, who register in the register of cultural organizations managed by the Fund. See point 76 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.g: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the Czech language:

169. SNM – MM – Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia in Martin.

1.2.3.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

170. See the common information on Article 13.

1.2.3.7 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

171. See the common information on Article 14.

Article 14.a: to apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which the Czech language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the Czech language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education:

172. Valid Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Czech Republic on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Education and Science.

Article 14.b: to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders for the benefit of the Czech language, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the Czech language is used in identical or similar form:

173. On 16 November 2019, the President of the Slovak Republic, Zuzana Čaputová, and the President of the Czech Republic, Miloš Zeman, ceremoniously opened the Czech House in Bratislava, which was built with significant financial support from the Slovak party.

1.3 CROATIAN LANGUAGE

1.3.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

174. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the Croatian national minority increased by 979 inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. In the case of the Croatian minority, the number of residents who stated Croatian as their mother tongue decreased by 311 compared to 2011. See point 3 of the general information.

175. In 2021, elections were held for CNMEG members and alternates. One full member and one alternate were elected for the Croatian national minority. Consultations with representatives of the Croatian national minority, as well as with the leadership of the Croatian Cultural Union in Slovakia, take place regularly also outside of the CNMEG meetings. The Plenipotentiary for NM has long been working to revitalize the Croatian language in the vicinity of Bratislava and consults municipalities and representatives of the Croatian minority.

1.3.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

176. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

1.3.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14

1.3.3.1 Article 8 – Education

177. See the common information on Article 8.

Article 8.1.biii: secondary education in Croatian:

178. There is no primary school in Slovakia with the Croatian language of instruction or education. Teaching the written Croatian language at the secondary school level is offered at the Žitavská 1 Private Grammar School in Bratislava. It seeks new, innovative forms of

education. It also provides specific forms of education included in the school programme due to its inclusion as a private school in the secondary school network. In the first years of its establishment, the school responded to the high need for teaching foreign languages with a specific focus on teaching Slavic languages (Polish, Croatian, Slovenian and Russian). The alternative curriculum allowed a deeper study of languages or art in the form of optional educational content. The teaching of such languages is voluntary for those interested.

179. See points 24 to 25 and 27 of the common information on Article 8.

Article 8.1.eii: university and higher education of the Croatian language

180. Currently, the Croatian language is taught at university level by the Department of Slavic Studies within the Faculty of Art of the Comenius University in Bratislava.

1.3.3.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

181. See the common information on Article 9.

1.3.3.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

182. See the common information on Article 10 and point 2 of the general information.

183. In official communication, the national minority language is used in municipalities where the given minority makes up at least 15% of the population. Not a single municipality with the Croatian population meets this condition. However, the legally defined territorial competence to use the national minority language does not apply to oral communication. The condition is the consent of the employee of the public administration body and the person participating in the proceedings. In the monitored period, the Plenipotentiary for NM did not record any complaints related to a possible violation of the linguistic rights of the Croatian national minority under the Act on the use of national minority languages. See point 50 of the common information on Article 10.

184. The participation of members of the Croatian national minority is partially ensured through elected representatives of municipal councils in municipalities with the Croatian population. A positive example includes the initiative of the municipality of Bratislava Devínska Nová Ves, which provides the Croatian language course for its office employees.

185. Clients of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family can use and adopt a surname in their native language.

1.3.3.4 Article 11 – Media

186. See the common information on Article 11.

Article 11.1.aiii: *to ensure that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in the Croatian language:*

187. See point 67 of the common information on Article 11.

Table 30: Hours of RTVS radio and television broadcasts in the national minority language in the monitored period

National minority language	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television
Croatian	5	0.88	5	0	5	0.89	10	0.43

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.bii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in the Croatian language on a regular basis:

188. See point 69 of the common information on Article 12 for the legislation.

189. See points 75, 77 and 85 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 31: Number of supported projects of the Croatian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.cii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in the Croatian language on a regular basis:

190. See point 68 of the common information on Article 12 and Article 11.1.bii.

Article 11.1.d: to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the Croatian language:

191. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.1.ei: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in the Croatian language:

192. See point 74 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 32: In the monitored period, the following number of periodical titles were published in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Croatian	1	1	1	1

Source: MoC SR

193. See point 80 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 33: Number of supported projects of the Croatian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	1	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.fii: to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the Croatian language:

194. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.2:

- to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Croatian language

- not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Croatian language

- to ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in the Croatian language

195. See points 70 to 72 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 11.3: to ensure that the interests of the users of the Croatian language are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:

196. See point 73 of the common information on Article 12.

1.3.3.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

12.1.a: to support the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in the Croatian language:

197. Distribution of 5 audiovisual works in the original version with Slovak subtitles/dubbing.

198. See points 78 to 79 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 34: Number of supported projects of the Croatian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.1.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

199. See points 82 to 83 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 35: Number of supported projects of the Croatian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

200. See point 84 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 36: Number of supported projects of the Croatian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

201. See points 86 to 87 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 37: Number of supported projects of the Croatian national minority under the Sub-programme 3.5.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 12.1.b: to foster access in other languages to works produced in the Croatian language by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

202. See Article 12.1.a – by making available audiovisual works in the national minority languages with Slovak subtitles.

Article 12.1.e: to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the Croatian language:

203. SNM – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava.

Article 12.1.f: to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of the Croatian language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

204. According to the Fund Act, the majority of the members of the Expert Council of the Croatian national minority culture is established on the basis of the nomination of cultural organizations of the Croatian national minority and subsequently the election of candidates for members of the Expert Councils by the gathering of cultural organizations of the Croatian

national minority, who register in the register of cultural organizations managed by the Fund. See point 76 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.g: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the Croatian language:
205. SNM – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava.

1.3.3.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

206. See the common information on Article 13.

1.3.3.7 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

207. See the common information on Article 14.

1.4 HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE

1.4.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

208. Despite the new methodology and interpretation of the 2021 Census results compared to the 2011 census, the number of members of the Hungarian national minority decreased by 2,313 inhabitants. In the case of the Hungarian minority, the number of residents who stated Hungarian as their mother tongue decreased by 46,539 compared to 2011. See point 3 of the general information.

209. In 2021, elections were held for CNMEG members and alternates. 5 full members and 3 alternates were elected for the Hungarian national minority. Consultations with representatives of the Hungarian national minority are the most intensive ones and regularly take place at various levels even outside of the CNMEG meetings.

1.4.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

210. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

1.4.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14

1.4.3.1 Article 8 – Education

211. See the common information on Article 8.

Articles 8.1ai to 8.1.di: pre-school, primary, secondary and vocational education in the Hungarian language:

212. The aim of the national project *"Educational process of teaching the Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with the Hungarian language of instruction"* implemented until 31 December 2021 was to increase the quality of teaching the Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with the Hungarian language of instruction (hereinafter referred to as "HLI") and monitor the implementation of the updated NEP. One of the main project outputs was the development of the concept and methodological model for teaching the Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with the HLI. Publications of the methodological model were distributed to every school with the HLI and are also published on the methodological portal of the MESRS SR and NIEY.[23]

[23] https://www.statpedu.sk/sk/metodicky-portal/projekty/koncepcia-vyucovania-sjsl-zs-vjm.html (in Slovak)

213. In cooperation with the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Slovakia, the MESRS SR and the NIEY workplace in Komárno organized online education focusing on the teaching methodology of the *Slovak language and Slovak literature* subject. The aim of the education was to increase the quality of teaching the Slovak language and Slovak literature in schools with the HLI. 36 teachers from schools with the HLI participated in the education.

214. In the field of teaching methodology of the Slovak language and Slovak literature, education for the first grade as well as the second grade of primary school continues to be implemented. From September 2022, the NIEY workplace in Komárno intensively educates teachers from primary schools with the HLI in the field of curriculum reform and is also a partner of schools in updating education in this area. The attestation process of teachers continues to be carried out at the workplace.

215. MESRS SR in cooperation with the NIEY workplace in Komárno, coordinates the creation of didactic aids for primary schools with the HLI entitled *SLOVENČINA INAK* (Slovak language differently), which are available for the 1st - 6th grade of primary schools with the HLI[24], but the digital educational content will also be gradually published for kindergartens and other grades of primary schools with the HLI.

216. See point 28 of the common information on Article 8 for more information on the subsidy call "*Support for regional and multicultural education of pupils belonging to national minorities*".

217. For schools with the HLI, videos were created *for the* Mathematics in the Hungarian language *and* Hungarian language and literature subjects for the 6th grade of primary school, in accordance with the NEP. See points 24 to 25 of the common information on Article 8 for the NEP.

218. Videos portraying literary works and theatre plays also contribute to the development of online forms of education and training in schools and school facilities with the Hungarian language of instruction. The 45-minute videos performed by the Jókai Theater in Komárno are intended for teaching the Hungarian language and literature in schools with the Hungarian language of instruction in the distance learning format.[25]

219. MESRS SR is the administrator and co-organizer of the annual competition for pupils of schools with the Hungarian language of instruction *"Know the Slovak language"* and *"Nice Hungarian language"*. MESRS SR is also the organizer of the recitation competition in the Slovak language *"Good word"*, *"Mihály Tompa National Competition"*, *"National Slovak Correspondence Competition of Primary and Secondary School Pupils in the Hungarian Language – DESK COMPETITION"*, *"National Exhibition of Pupil Works in Natural Science, Social Science Subjects and Practical Professional Activities in the Hungarian language – Young Talent Competition – TUDOK"* and the competition *"Danube Spring"* for pupils of the Hungarian national minority. See point 29 of the common information on Article 8.

220. In secondary vocational schools with the HLI, education and training take place according to education programmes that respect the specifics of schools with the national minority language of instruction. The NEP for vocational education and training for all groups of study fields includes framework curricula for study fields with the national minority language of instruction, in which the minimum hourly allocation for the national minority language and literature is defined as part of general education subjects. In secondary vocational schools with the national minority language of instruction, vocational subjects are

[24] https://viki.iedu.sk/resources/browser/narodnostne-skolstvo-1 (in Slovak)
[25] https://viki.iedu.sk/landing (in Slovak)

taught in national minority languages with the same content and scope of education as in vocational education in the Slovak language. In addition to secondary medical schools with the language of instruction of the national minority, where professional subjects are taught in the Slovak language.

221. Effective from 1 September 2023, the MESRS SR approved amendments to the NEP for 9 groups of study fields, including study fields providing lower secondary vocational education. The amendments contain the addition of education to take the commission exam for obtaining a lower secondary education in accordance with the Education Act. The amendments include framework curricula for schools with the national minority language of instruction and an educational standard for the Hungarian language and literature.

222. Teaching continues in selected three secondary medical schools only in the Hungarian language. Secondary Medical School – Egészségügyi Középiskola, Dunajská Streda; Secondary Medical School – Egészségügyi Középiskola, Nové Zámky and Secondary Medical School – Egészségügyi Középiskola, Rožňava. The number of open classes reflects the requirements of interest in studying in the national minority language. In the past years, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic has not received a request from the founder, the management of secondary medical schools or any other entity to open classes with the language of instruction of another national minority.

Article 8.1.g: teaching the history and culture that affected the Hungarian language:

223. Effective from 1 September 2022, the MESRS SR approved the amendment to the NEP, supplemented by the educational standards for lower secondary education in schools with the national minority language of instruction (for the subjects of history and music education).

224. At the same time, the MESRS SR approved the amendment to the NEP for grammar schools with a four-year educational programme with the HLI (for the subject of history), effective from 1 September 2023.[26]

225. The teaching of history in schools with the Hungarian language of instruction is specific by a strong connection of the students attending these schools, their parents and teachers to the Hungarian cultural background. Learning about the history of the Hungarian nation in the context of learning about the history of the Slovak nation and other national and social groups is therefore one of the key elements for pupils in schools with the HLI, which cultivates their historical consciousness and enables the implementation of their constitutional right to preserve and develop their cultural and linguistic identity.

Article 8.1.ei: university and other higher education in the Hungarian language:

226. Regarding the education content, universities are autonomous and the MESRS SR does not have the competence to intervene in it. Public universities are provided with subsidies from the state budget for the purpose of conducting study programs. Currently, universities have dozens of accredited study programs in which some or all of the subjects are taught in the minority language.

227. The following universities offer university courses teaching the Hungarian language:

- Comenius University in Bratislava (Department of Hungarian Language and Literature);
- University of Prešov in Prešov (within the Institute of Hungarian Language and Culture of the Centre of Languages and Cultures of National Minorities);

[26] https://www.minedu.sk/narodnostne-skolstvo/ (in Slovak)

- Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (Institute of Hungarian Linguistics and Literary Science and Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures at the Faculty of Central European Studies);
- In Slovakia, the J. Selye University in Komárno remains the only independent public university where teaching takes place primarily in the Hungarian language. And it therefore completes continuous education and training in this language from kindergarten to university, being the only university to do so.

228. The Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (hereinafter referred to as "RICPaP") deals with the analysis of the impact of the counselling system transformation on a nationally mixed territory in cooperation with inclusion experts from national minorities.

1.4.3.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

229. See the common information on Article 9.

230. The working language group for the Hungarian language continued to translate legislation. In total, 14 translations of legal regulations were made in the monitored period, which were gradually published on the legal and informational portal Slov-lex.[27]

1.4.3.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

231. See the common information on Article 10 and point 2 of the general information.

Article 10.1.aii: to ensure that officers of local state administration bodies use the Hungarian language in their relations with persons applying to them in the Hungarian language:

232. In the Slovak Republic, in a linguistically mixed territory with the Hungarian national minority, there are several districts in which, in addition to the state language, the Hungarian language is also normally used. This applies both to state administration bodies and to local self-government bodies.

233. The city of Senec belongs to the list of municipalities whose citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up more than 15% of the population. Each department of the Senec District Office has an employee who speaks the national minority language.

234. At the Dunajská Streda District Office, 95% of employees speak and write in the national minority language. Approximately 5% of the employees do not speak the national minority language, only the Slovak language, and in that case clients communicate with the employee in the Slovak language. In the event that clients do not have a sufficient command of the Slovak language, the client is served by an employee who speaks the national minority language. In oral communication with clients of the District Office of Hungarian nationality, the employees largely use the national minority language.

235. The Galanta District Office is housed in two administrative buildings, both of which are bilingually designated. Information on the possibility of using the national minority language in official communication according to the Act on the use of national minority languages is located visibly in the premises of both buildings, with the designation of employees of the District Office ensuring the possibility of using the national minority language in official communication. In the monitored period, one request in the national minority language was

[27] https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin (in Hungarian)

received and processed. At the department of general internal administration, interpretation into the national minority language is provided by an employee of the District Office if requested. Information on the possibility of using the national minority language is published on the website of the District Office, the description of administrative operations is published at individual workplaces of the client centre.

236. At the Komárno District Office, 33 of 74 employees speak and write in the national minority language, and 22 employees speak it. Employees participated in training in the national minority language in 2021, and subsequently 5 employees completed language training in 2023. The language level is sufficient for regular communication with members of the national minority.

237. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, employees who are fluent in the national minority language in written and spoken form perform their duties.

238. The Štúrovo District Office and Client Centre informs on the website of the MoI SR and on the official notice board on the possibility of using the national minority language in official communication according to the Act on the use of national minority languages. This information is available also in the national minority language. The Štúrovo District Office and Client Centre ensures the possibility of using the national minority language through its employees.

239. At the Šaľa District Office, 8 of 48 employees speak and write in the national minority language, and 11 employees speak it. Employees participated in training in the national minority language in 2021, and subsequently 6 employees completed language training in 2023. The language level is sufficient for regular communication.

240. The Rimavská Sobota District Office ensures the use of the national minority language through its own employees who speak the national minority language.

241. The Košice – okolie District Office, the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace, ensures the use of the national minority language in official communication through its own employees.

242. At the Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, there are employees with the command of the national minority language who use it in communication with the Office's clients.

243. The Rožňava District Office ensures the use of the national minority language through its own employees. In the years 2019-2023, employees were trained in the national minority language (at all levels) under the auspices of the MoI SR.

244. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, has the workplace established in the town of Kráľovský Chlmec, where two departments operate, namely the Department of General Internal Administration and the Cadastral Department. At the Department of General Internal Administration, there are two employees who speak the national minority language and communicate in it, if necessary. There are ten employees working at the Cadastral Department speaking the national minority language and communicate in it in official personal contact with clients, if necessary. Increasing the level of communication in the national minority language is also supported by professional language training, in which selected employees of both departments and a filing office worker actively participate. The District Office did not receive any complaints due to the violation of the Act on the use of national minority languages, and no decision was issued in the monitored period, or other document in the national minority language.

245. Pursuant to the Act on the use of national minority languages, the language of the Hungarian national minority is used in 8 offices of the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration (hereinafter referred to as "RVFA").

Article 10.2.a: to use the Hungarian language within the framework of the regional or local authority:

246. The Senec District Office can ensure the use of the national minority language within the regional and local authority.

247. At the Dunajská Streda District Office, employees use the national minority language in oral form when performing their work in personal communication.

248. The Komárno District Office was not required to use the national minority language within the regional or local authority.

249. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, employees who are fluent in the national minority language in written and spoken form perform their duties.

250. The Štúrovo District Office and Client Centre allows the use of the national minority languages. The Act on the use of national minority languages is published on the MoI SR website.[28] This Act is available also in the national minority language.

251. The Šaľa District Office is not required to use the national minority language within the regional and local authority.

252. The Rimavská Sobota District Office ensures the use of the national minority language within the regional and local authority.

253. The Košice – okolie District Office, the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace, ensures the use of the national minority language: by the designation of the district office/workplace; official communication in oral and written form; bilingual forms; by publishing information on the possibility of using the national minority language; by publishing information in accordance with Act No. 211/2000 Coll. on free access to information also in the national minority language along with the state language.

254. At the Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, the national minority language is used.

255. The Rožňava District Office ensures the use of the national minority language at request. It was not necessary in practice since the inhabitants belonging to the national minority have a command of the state language both orally and in writing, or the inhabitants do not have a command of the national minority language in its written form, or they were not interested in communicating in the national minority language.

256. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, fully uses the national minority language in the system of local and regional authorities.

Article 10.2.b: the possibility for users of the Hungarian language to submit oral or written applications at the regional or local authority in the Hungarian language:

257. The Senec District Office allows members of the national minority to submit oral or written applications in the national minority language.

258. The Dunajská Streda District Office allows members of the national minority to submit oral applications/initiatives in the national minority language. If they do not speak the state language, they have the right to submit a written application in the national minority, but this

[28] https://www.minv.sk/?okresne-urady-klientske-centra (in Hungarian)

possibility has only been used exceptionally by the clients of the District Office. The District Office allows the provision of an answer in the national minority language, if clients request so.

259. Under the Act on the use of national minority languages, the Komárno District Office published information on the possibility of using the national minority language in official communication. The information is published on the official notice board, the information board, the Office website also in the national minority language.

260. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, employees who are fluent in the national minority language in written and spoken form perform their duties.

261. The Štúrovo District Office and Client Centre allows members of the national minority to submit oral or written applications in the national minority language. The Štúrovo District Office and Client Centre posted applications on the MoI SR website both in the Slovak language and in the national minority language (Organization Department and Trade Business Department). According to information provided by individual departments of the District Office and the Client Centre, no citizen requested the issuance of an official form in the national minority language, or to provide information on general binding legal regulations also in the national minority language.

262. Under the Act on the use of national minority languages, the Šaľa District Office published information on the possibility of using the national minority language in official communication. The information is published on the official notice board and the Office website.

263. Under the Act on the use of national minority languages, the Rimavská Sobota District Office published information on the possibility of using the national minority language in official communication. The information is published on the official notice board and the Office website also in the national minority language.

264. The Košice – okolie District Office, the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace, allows members of the national minority to submit oral or written applications.

265. The Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, provides information on the official notice board and the information board on the possibilities of using the national minority language in oral and written form in official communication in accordance with the Regulation of the Slovak Government No. 535/2011 Coll., implementing some provisions of the Act on the use of national minority languages.

266. The Rožňava District Office ensures the exercise of the right to oral and written communication in the national minority language through its own employees and through interpretation or translation services. Citizens can submit filings and written documents in the national minority language, and they are visibly informed about this possibility under the Act – the obligation to ensure the publication of information on the possibility of using the language of the relevant national minority in oral and written form in official communication in a visible place – on the information and official notice boards of the District Office and on the Office website. In the monitored period, one filing (registry) was submitted to the District Office in the national minority language.

267. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, receives oral or written applications in the national minority language.

Article 10.2.c: the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the Hungarian language:

268. If necessary, the Senec District Office is able to publish documents in the national minority language at the regional level.

269. The Dunajská Streda District Office issues official documents (decisions, statements, opinions, etc.) with legal relevance in the state language, documents that are issued for the purpose of informing about the activities of the District Office and contact persons, notices and signs of public areas are also published in the national minority language, as well as the names of the individual organizational units of the District Office.

270. The Komárno District Office published instructions, measures during the pandemic, office hours and important announcements also in the national minority language on the official notice board at the entrance to the building, on the information board, as well as on the Office website.

271. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, only the Department of Trade Business perform its activities, which has all documents only in electronic form, while these are published on the MoI SR web portal and are also available in the national minority language.

272. The Šaľa District Office published instructions, measures during the pandemic, office hours and important announcements also in the national minority language on the official notice board at the entrance to the building, on the information board, as well as on the Office website.

273. The Rimavská Sobota District Office ensures the publication of official documents by regional authorities also in the national minority language.

274. The Michalovce District Office, Veľké Kapušany workplace: see point 10.2.d.

275. The Rožňava District Office does not publish any official documents in the national minority language. In the context of providing information in the national minority language, the Act imposes an obligation on public administration bodies to provide an exhaustive list of important information on the official notice board, on the website also in the Hungarian language, and others only at request.

276. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, provides information in all public areas also in the national minority language (escape routes, sanitary requirements, templates of completed forms, etc.).

277. The Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (hereinafter referred to as the "COLSAF") has provided translations and publication of official documents related to the areas of employment services and the field of social affairs and family into the Hungarian language for the purposes of submitting applications. Since this is a large minority, several documents have been prepared for clients in their native language in the field of employment services. The conditions for registration of job applicants, rights and obligations of registered job applicants are regulated by Act No. 5/2004 on Employment Services, therefore the translated documents for minorities (applications, instructions and confirmations) was published pursuant to this Act.

278. The COLSAF ensured the translations and publication of the *Fire Alarm Guidelines and the Fire Evacuation Plan*.

279. Documents for claiming benefits and contributions (applications, affidavits, instructions, declarations, forms, etc.) have been translated into the Hungarian language.[29]

[29] Vzory žiadostí pre oblasť sociálnych vecí a rodiny > ÚPSVaR (gov.sk) (in Hungarian)

280. The State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "SVFA") ensured the translation of 5 forms in 2020, which are used for communication with natural persons – entrepreneurs when registering farms, reporting domestic slaughterhouses, and registering large-scale producers and sellers. Forms are available at the relevant RVFAs. In 2020, however, there was minimal demand from residents to use such forms. In 2021 and 2022, translations of forms were not carried out at the SVFA or RVFA.

281. It must be concluded that the use of the Hungarian language has improved at the level of public administration bodies (municipalities, higher territorial units, local state administration). According to the 2021 Census, the number of municipalities in which the Hungarian language is used in official communication has increased by 5 municipalities.

Article 10.2.d: the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the Hungarian language:

282. If necessary, the Senec District Office is able to publish documents in the national minority language at the local level.

283. The Dunajská Streda District Office publishes notices, signs of public areas, names of cities and municipalities, names of organizational units of local authorities in the national minority language, and translates the text of the forms necessary for the performance of local administration also into the national minority language .

284. The Komárno District Office published instructions, measures during the pandemic, office hours and important announcements also in the national minority language on the official notice board at the entrance to the building, as well as on the Office website.

285. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, only the Department of Trade Business perform its activities, which has all documents only in electronic form, while these are published on the MoI SR web portal and are also available in the national minority language.

286. The Štúrovo District Office and Client Centre does not currently publish official documents in the national minority language, because it does not have an employee – an official translator who would do so.

287. The Šaľa District Office published instructions, measures during the pandemic, office hours and important announcements on the official notice board at the entrance to the building, as well as on the Office website.

288. The Rimavská Sobota District Office ensures the publication of official documents also in the national minority language.

289. The Košice – okolie District Office, the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace, ensures the publication of official documents on the District Office website, as well as on the official notice board of the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace.

290. The Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, ensures the publication of information and notices for the public and official documents in the national minority language.

291. The Rožňava District Office: see point 10.2.c.

292. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, provides citizens at all

workplaces with the official forms in the national minority language.

Article 10.2.f: the use by local authorities of the Hungarian language in debates in their assemblies:

293. There was no need to use the national minority language in debates in of the Senec District Office assemblies. If necessary, the District Office shall ensure its use.

294. At the Dunajská Streda District Office, it is possible to use the national minority language in assemblies and debates of local public authorities, unless a participant who does not speak the national minority language is present. Official records are prepared in the state language.

295. The Komárno District Office debates in the state language pursuant to the State Language Act and Act No. 55/2017 Coll. on the civil service.

296. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, employees who are fluent in the national minority language in written and spoken form perform their duties.

297. The Šaľa District Office debates in the state language. There was no requirement to use the national minority language.

298. The Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, uses the state language and the national minority language, if necessary, in debates.

299. The Rožňava District Office does not use the national minority language in business dealings. It can be used in proceedings taking place in the field, as necessary and on request, if those present agree to it.

300. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, uses the national minority language in debates in assemblies of the local authorities.

Article 10.2.g: the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place-names in the Hungarian language:

301. There was no requirement submitted at the Senec District Office to accept a place-name in the national minority language.

302. The Dunajská Streda District Office indicates place-names in official documents in the state language, in the designations of public administration bodies in the official language and in the national minority language.

303. The building of the Komárno District Office is also designated in the national minority language.

304. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, employees who are fluent in the national minority language in written and spoken form perform their duties. For the above reason, it is common to accept and handle the files in the national minority language.

305. The building of the Šaľa District Office is also designated in the national minority language.

306. The Rimavská Sobota District Office ensures the use or acceptance of place-names in the national minority language, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language.

307. The Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, ensures the designation of the District Office on the workplace building in the state language and in the national

minority language. If necessary, the use of place names in the national minority language in conjunction with the name in the state language is ensured.

308. The Rožňava District Office ensures the above article in accordance with the Act on the use of national minority languages.

309. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, uses the place-names both in the state language and in the national minority language.

310. The COLSAF ensured the installation of official notice boards at individual offices.

Article 10.3.b: to allow users of the Hungarian language to submit a request and receive a reply in the Hungarian language from public service providers:

311. The Senec District Office allows to submit a request and receive a reply in the national minority language.

312. At the Dunajská Streda District Office, members of the national minority can submit a request in the national minority language to the public service provider, from whom they will receive a reply in the national minority language, if they request so. The translation of official documents and decisions with legal effect requires a certified translation.

313. At the Komárno District Office, no requests were made by the members of the national minority pursuant to the Act on the use of national minority languages. See point 10.2.b.

314. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, employees who are fluent in the national minority language in written and spoken form perform their duties. For the above reason, it is common to accept and handle the files in the national minority language.

315. At the Šaľa District Office, no requests were made by the members of the national minority pursuant to the Act on the use of national minority languages. See point 10.2.b.

316. The Rimavská Sobota District Office allows members of the national minority to submit an application and receive a reply from public service providers in the national minority language.

317. The Košice – okolie District Office, the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace, allows members of the national minority to submit an application and receive a reply from public service providers in the national minority language.

318. In the monitored period, the Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, did not register any submissions in the national minority language or submissions initiating administrative proceedings in the national minority language. In the published information on the possibilities of using the national minority language, the District Office shall provide a reply to the submission written in the national minority language also in the national minority language, in addition to the state language.

319. The Rožňava District Office provides official forms and forms according to ongoing demand and need using translation services or methodological assistance of the Office of the Plenipotentiary for NM. See point 10.2.b.

320. At the Trebišov District Office, Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, members of the national minority can submit applications in the national minority language together with a certified translation into the state language. Replies are issued in the state language.

Article 10.3.c: to allow users of the Hungarian language to submit requests to public service providers in the Hungarian language:

321. The Senec District Office allows to submit requests in the national minority language.

322. The Dunajská Streda District Office allows members of the national minority to submit applications to the public service provider in the national minority language.

323. At the Komárno District Office, no requests were made by the members of the national minority pursuant to the Act on the use of national minority languages. See point 10.2.b.

324. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, employees who are fluent in the national minority language in written and spoken form perform their duties. For the above reason, it is common to accept and handle the files in the national minority language.

325. At the Šaľa District Office, no requests were submitted by the members of the national minority pursuant to the Act on the use of national minority languages. See point 10.2.b.

326. The Rimavská Sobota District Office allows members of the national minority to submit applications to public service providers in the national minority language.

327. The Košice – okolie District Office, the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace, allows members of the national minority to submit requests to public service providers in the national minority language.

328. In the monitored period, the Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, did not register any submissions in the national minority language or submissions initiating administrative proceedings in the national minority language. In the published information on the possibilities of using the national minority language, the District Office states that a citizen of the Slovak Republic, who is a person belonging to a national minority, has the right in relation to the District Office at the Veľké Kapušany workplace to communicate orally and in writing, including the submission of written documents and evidence, also in the national minority language.

329. The Rožňava District Office: see point 10.3.b.

330. At the Trebišov District Office, Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, members of the national minority can submit applications in the national minority language together with a certified translation into the state language. Replies are issued in the state language.

Article 10.4.a: to ensure translation or interpretation:

331. The Senec District Office can provide translation and interpretation through the Bratislava Support Centre.

332. The Dunajská Streda District Office can provide translation or interpretation from the national minority language into the state language and vice versa for the client who requests so.

333. The Komárno District Office provides interpretation by its own employees to the extent necessary. In 2023, no request was made to provide a translator.

334. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, employees who are fluent in the national minority language in written and spoken form perform their duties, and it is therefore common to receive and handle files in the national minority language.

335. At the Štúrovo District Office and Client Centre, citizens use their right to communicate in the national minority language only in verbal communication. Bilingual verbal communication takes place continuously at the District Office and the Client Centre. The District Office and the Client Centre ensures the possibility of using the national minority language through its employees. Citizens do not use this right in written communication. If

necessary, the District Office can provide translation or interpretation through the Nitra Support Centre.

336. The Šaľa District Office provides interpretation by its own employees to the extent necessary. There was no request for the provision of a translator by the members of the national minority.

337. The Košice – okolie District Office, the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace, provides translation or interpretation if necessary.

338. In the monitored period, the Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, provided interpretation during oral hearings in proceedings on offences conducted by the Department of General Internal Administration of the District Office. The District Office ensures the possibility of using the national minority language through civil servants at the Veľké Kapušany workplace.

339. The Rožňava District Office provides the use of the national minority language in oral debates through its own employees, or through translation or interpretation services.

340. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, provides translation and interpretation at request.

341. The COLSAF provided for the signing of the *Framework Agreement on the provision of translation and interpretation services for the performance of translation from Slovak to Hungarian, from Hungarian to Slovak, and simultaneous and consecutive interpreting.*[30]

Article 10.4.c: to comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of the Hungarian language to be appointed in the territory in which this language is used:

342. The Senec District Office complies with the requests from employees having a knowledge of the national minority language according to staff possibilities.

343. At the Dunajská Streda District Office, public service employees speaking the national minority language and applying for employment in the territory where the national minority language is used are appointed in the majority of cases if there is a vacancy.

344. At the Komárno District Office, the hiring of employees is governed by Act No. 55/2017 Coll. on the civil service and internal regulations (selection procedures).

345. At the Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, employees who are fluent in the national minority language in written and spoken form perform their duties.

346. At the Šaľa District Office, the hiring of employees is governed by Act No. 55/2017 Coll. on the civil service.

347. At the Rimavská Sobota District Office, the hiring of employees is governed by Act No. 55/2017 Coll. on the civil service.

348. Employees having a knowledge of the national minority language work at the Košice – okolie District Office, the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace, where the national minority language is used.

349. At the Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, one of seven employees works in the Department of General Internal Administration in the section on dealing with offences having a knowledge of the national minority language both verbally and in writing. In addition, six employees of the Cadastral Department work at this workplace, of

[30] 318/SE/2021 | Centrálny register zmlúv (gov.sk) (in Slovak)

which five can speak and write in the national minority language, and one can only speak it. On the basis of the above, the necessary texts and working documents are translated from the Slovak language into the national minority language at the Cadastral Department.

350. The Rožňava District Office does not register any such request from an employee.

351. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, does not have information about the rejection of a request for the transfer of a public service employee who wants to apply his/her knowledge of the national minority language to the territory where the national minority language is used.

352. In 2021-2022, civil servants of the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family implemented education in the Hungarian language. Language education is planned also for 2023. See table No. 10 of the common information on Article 10.

Article 10.5: the use or adoption of family names in the Hungarian language:

353. The Senec District Office allows the use or adoption of family names in the national minority language under the applicable legislation.

354. The Dunajská Streda District Office allows the use or adoption of family names in the national minority language under the applicable legislation.

355. The Komárno District Office proceeds in accordance with Act No. 300/1993 Coll. on name and surname (hereinafter referred to as the "Act No. 300/1993 Coll.").

356. The Levice District Office, the Želiezovce workplace, proceeds in accordance with Act No. 300/1993 Coll.

357. The Štúrovo District Office and Client Centre allows the use or adoption of family names in the national minority language pursuant to Act No. 300/1993 Coll.

358. The Šaľa District Office proceeds in accordance with Act No. 300/1993 Coll.

359. The Rimavská Sobota District Office proceeds in accordance with Act No. 300/1993 Coll.

360. The Košice – okolie District Office, the Moldava nad Bodvou workplace proceeds in accordance with Act No. 300/1993 Coll.

361. Within the jurisdiction of the Michalovce District Office, the Veľké Kapušany workplace, it is possible to use or adopt family names in the national minority language.

362. At the Rožňava District Office, permission is not required to change the name and surname to the national minority language (decision issued by the District Office). The change is made at the registry offices in accordance with Act No. 300/1993 Coll, on the basis of a written declaration of the person whose name or family name is concerned, or of their legal representative. The registry office will issue an extract from the registry or a confirmation of the entry in the registry to the submitter. The entry of the family name of a person of non-Slovak nationality without the Slovak inflection is regulated by Act No. 154/1994 Coll. on Registry Offices.

363. The Trebišov District Office, the Kráľovský Chlmec workplace, does not have information on the rejection of a request to use or change a family name in the national minority language.

1.4.3.4 Article 11 – Media

364. See the common information on Article 11.

Article 11.1.aiii: to ensure that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in the Hungarian language:

365. See point 67 of the common information on Article 11.

Table 38: Hours of RTVS radio and television broadcasts in the national minority language in the monitored period

National minority language	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television
Hungarian	4392	121.90	4392	57.33	4392	96.43	4380	133.82

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.bii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in the Hungarian language on a regular basis:

366. In the monitored period, 1 private radio programme service broadcasted in the Hungarian language in territory of the Slovak Republic.

367. See point 69 of the common information on Article 12 for the legislation.

368. See points 75, 77 and 85 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 39: Number of supported projects of the Hungarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	2	4	2	4

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.cii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in the Hungarian language on a regular basis:

369. See point 68 of the common information on Article 12 and Article 11.1.bii.

Table 40: In the monitored period, the following number of broadcasters broadcast television programme services in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hungarian	18	17	16	16

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.d: to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the Hungarian language:

370. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.1.ei: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in the Hungarian language:

371. See point 74 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 41: In the monitored period, the following number of periodical titles were published in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hungarian	43	42	40	37

Source: MoC SR

372. See point 80 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 42: Number of supported projects of the Hungarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	22	20	21	20

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.2:
- to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Hungarian language
- not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Hungarian language
- to ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in the Hungarian language

373. See points 70 to 72 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 11.3: to ensure that the interests of the users of the Hungarian language are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:

374. See point 73 of the common information on Article 12.

1.4.3.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

375. See the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.a: to support the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in the Hungarian language:

376. Distribution of 22 audiovisual works in the original version with Slovak subtitles/dubbing.

377. See points 78 to 79 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 43: Number of supported projects of the Hungarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.1.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	14	22	31	25

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

378. See point 81 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 44: Number of supported projects of the Hungarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	50	66	76	70

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

379. See points 82 to 83 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 45: Number of supported projects of the Hungarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	2	2	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

380. See point 84 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 46: Number of supported projects of the Hungarian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	4	3

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

381. See points 86 to 87 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 47: Number of supported projects of the Hungarian national minority under the Sub-programme 3.5.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	19	11	7	10

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 12.1.b: to foster access in other languages to works produced in the Hungarian language by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

382. See Article 12.1.a – by making available audiovisual works in the national minority languages with Slovak subtitles.

Article 12.1.e: to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the Hungarian language:

383. SNM – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava, Slovak Film Institute.

Article 12.1.f: to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of the Hungarian language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

384. According to the Fund Act, the majority of the members of the Expert Council of the Hungarian national minority culture is established on the basis of the nomination of cultural organizations of the Hungarian national minority and subsequently the election of candidates for members of the Expert Councils by the gathering of cultural organizations of the Hungarian national minority, who register in the register of cultural organizations managed by the Fund. See point 76 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.g: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the Hungarian language:

385. SNM – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava.

1.4.3.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

386. See the common information on Article 13.

1.4.3.7 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

387. See the common information on Article 14.

Article 14.a: to apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which the Hungarian language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the Hungarian language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education:

388. Valid Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Hungary on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Education, Science, Sports and Youth.

1.5 GERMAN LANGUAGE

1.5.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

389. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the German national minority increased by 3,883 inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. In the case of the German minority, the number of residents who stated German as their mother tongue decreased by 1,227 compared to 2011. See point 3 of the general information.

390. In 2021, elections were held for CNMEG members and alternates. One full member and one alternate were elected for the German national minority. Consultations take place daily even outside of CNMEG meetings. The Plenipotentiary for NM regularly negotiates with representatives of the Carpathian German Association in Slovakia and consults with municipalities in which the German minority is numerously represented.

1.5.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

391. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

1.5.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14

1.5.3.1 Article 8 – Education

392. See the common information on Article 8 (in particular points 24 to 29).

Articles 8.1.aiii, 8.1.biii and 8.1.ciii: pre-school, primary and secondary education in the German language:

393. Currently, there is one state school in the Slovak Republic with the German language of instruction (Primary school with kindergarten in Chmeľnica, Stará Ľubovňa district) and 4 primary schools with German language teaching (Primary school, Hlboká cesta 4, Bratislava; Primary school, Nitrianske Pravno; Kežmarok Primary School and Medzev Primary School).

394. For the German national minority, the German-Slovak joint school with an international program with kindergarten, primary school and grammar school is also available in Bratislava – Deutsche Schule Bratislava. The school teaches according to German educational standards in the German language of instruction, but they also offer a school-leaving examination in Slovak language and literature, as well as a German international school-leaving examination.

395. Amendments to the NEP for primary schools with the national minority language of instruction and primary schools teaching the national minority language include educational standards for the German language and literature.

396. The MESRS SR is the administrator of the annual competition “Competition in the Recitation of German Poetry and Prose” for the promotion of the German language.

Article 8.1.eii: university and higher education of the German language:

- Comenius University in Bratislava; Department of German, Dutch and Scandinavian Studies and the Department of German Language and Literature within the Faculty of Education;
- University of Prešov in Prešov, Institute of German Studies within the Faculty of Arts;
- University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava; Department of German Studies within the Faculty of Arts;

- Catholic University in Ružomberok, Department of German Studies within the Faculty of Arts;
- Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra; Department of Romance and German Studies within the Faculty of Arts;
- Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica; Department of German Studies.

1.5.3.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

397. See the common information on Article 9.

398. The working language group for the German language continued to translate legislation into the German language. In total, 7 translations of legal regulations were made in the monitored period, which were gradually published on the legal and informational portal Slov-lex.[31]

1.5.3.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

399. See the common information on Article 10 and point 2 of the general information.

400. We must state that the use of the German language has slightly improved at the level of municipalities. Based on the results of 2021 Census, the number of municipalities in which the German language is used in official communication has increased by 1 municipality (Chmeľnica, Stará Ľubovňa district).

10.2.c: the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the German language:

401. The COLSAF has provided translations and publication of official documents related to the areas of employment services and the field of social affairs and family into the German language for the purposes of submitting applications.[32]

10.4.a: to ensure translation or interpretation:

402. If necessary, there are German-speaking colleagues present at the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family who assist in dealing with the client. At the same time, the Eures advisor for German-speaking EU member states can be contacted.

1.5.3.4 Article 11 – Media

403. See the common information on Article 11.

Article 11.1.aiii: to ensure that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in the German language:

404. See point 67 of the common information on Article 11.

Table 48: Hours of RTVS radio and television broadcasts in the national minority language in the monitored period

National minority language	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television
German	16	3.51	16	6.47	16	3.94	32	7.87

Source: MoC SR

[31] https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin (in German)
[32] Vzory žiadostí pre oblasť služieb zamestnanosti > ÚPSVaR (gov.sk) (in German)

Article 11.1.bii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in the German language on a regular basis:

405. See point 69 of the common information on Article 12 for the legislation.

406. See points 75, 77 and 85 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 49: Number of supported projects of the German national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.cii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in the German language on a regular basis:

407. See point 68 of the common information on Article 12 and Article 11.1.bii.

Table 50: In the monitored period, the following number of broadcasters broadcast television programme services in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
German	1	1	1	1

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.d: to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the German language:

408. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.1.ei: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in the German language:

409. See point 74 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 51: In the monitored period, the following number of periodical titles were published in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
German	4	3	2	2

Source: MoC SR

410. See point 80 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 52: Number of supported projects of the German national minority under the Sub-programme 2.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	1	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.fii: to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the German language:

411. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.2:
- to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the German language

- not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the German language
- to ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in the German language

412. See points 70 to 72 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 11.3: to ensure that the interests of the users of the German language are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:

413. See point 73 of the common information on Article 12.

1.5.3.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

414. See the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.a: to support the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in the German language:

415. Distribution of 43 audiovisual works in the original version with Slovak subtitles/dubbing.

416. See points 78 to 79 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 53: Number of supported projects of the German national minority under the Sub-programme 2.1.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	2	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

417. See point 81 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 54: Number of supported projects of the German national minority under the Sub-programme 2.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	1	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

418. See points 82 to 83 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 55: Number of supported projects of the German national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

419. See point 84 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 56: Number of supported projects of the German national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

420. See points 86 to 87 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 57: Number of supported projects of the German national minority under the Sub-programme 3.5.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022

Number of supported projects	0	1	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 12.1.b: to foster access in other languages to works produced in the German language by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

421. See Article 12.1.a – by making available audiovisual works in the national minority languages with Slovak subtitles.

Article 12.1.e: to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the German language:

422. SNM – Museum of Carpathian German Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava, Slovak Film Institute.

Article 12.1.f: to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of the German language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

423. According to the Fund Act, the majority of the members of the Expert Council of the German national minority culture is established on the basis of the nomination of cultural organizations of the German national minority and subsequently the election of candidates for members of the Expert Councils by the gathering of cultural organizations of the German national minority, who register in the register of cultural organizations managed by the Fund. See point 76 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.g: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the German language:

424. SNM – Museum of Carpathian German Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava.

1.5.3.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

425. See the common information on Article 13.

1.5.3.7 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

426. See the common information on Article 14.

427. *Article 14.a: to apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which the German language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the German language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education:*

428. Valid Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cultural Cooperation.

1.6 POLISH LANGUAGE

1.6.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

429. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the Polish national minority increased by 2,198 inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. In the case of the Polish minority, the number of residents who stated Polish as their mother tongue increased by 702 compared to 2011. See point 3 of the general information.

430. In 2021, elections were held for CNMEG members and alternates. One full member and one alternate were elected for the Polish national minority. Consultations take place daily even outside of CNMEG meetings.

1.6.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

431. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

1.6.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14

1.6.3.1 Article 8 – Education

432. See the common information on Article 8 (in particular points 24 to 25 and 27).

Articles 8.1.aiii and 8.1.biii: pre-school and primary education in the Polish language:

433. Education in the Polish language and education of children and youth belonging to the Polish national minority is provided exclusively by non-profit organizations in the Slovak Republic. The Polish Saturday-Sunday School in Žilina, located in the Romuald Zaymus Church Primary School in Žilina, is registered in the Polish school system. The Polish language club at the Church Leisure Centre in Nitra offers Polish language lessons for children of pre-school age and pupils of the first grade of primary school. The School Consultation Centre at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Bratislava was established in 2003 for the children of employees of the embassy and Polish companies delegated to Slovakia and for children from the Polish minority in Slovakia.

Article 8.1.eii: university and higher education of the Polish language:

434. The Department of Slavic Languages has been established at the Faculty of Humanities of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. As part of the *"Polish language and culture"* study programme, a second-level university education can be obtained.

Article 8.1.fii: adult education and further education of the Polish language:

435. Language education for adults is implemented within the Polonus Academy. Adult education is carried out in the field of Polish literature and the Polish language – Polish language courses, lectures and exhibitions in the field of Polish literature, history, culture, art and crafts. Textbooks and teaching aids are provided through the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

1.6.3.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

436. See the common information on Article 9.

1.6.3.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

437. See the common information on Article 10 and point 2 of the general information.

438. In official communication, the national minority language is used in municipalities where the given minority makes up at least 15% of the population. Not a single municipality with the Polish population meets this condition. However, the legally defined territorial competence to use the national minority language does not apply to oral communication. The condition is the consent of the employee of the public administration body and the person participating in the proceedings. In the monitored period, the Plenipotentiary for NM did not record any complaints related to a possible violation of the linguistic rights of the Polish national minority under the Act on the use of national minority languages. See point 50 of the common information on Article 10.

439. Clients of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family can use and adopt a surname in their native language. In addition, fluent Polish-speaking employees are also present in the border regions with Poland who can help handling the client issues, if needed.

1.6.3.4 Article 11 – Media

440. See the common information on Article 11.

Article 11.1.bii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in the Polish language on a regular basis:

441. See point 69 of the common information on Article 12 for the legislation.

442. See points 75, 77 and 85 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 58: Number of supported projects of the Polish national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	1	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.cii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in the Polish language on a regular basis:

443. See point 68 of the common information on Article 12 and Article 11.1.bii.

Table 59: In the monitored period, the following number of broadcasters broadcast television programme services in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Polish	1	1	0	0

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.d: to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the Polish language:

444. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.1.ei: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in the Polish language:

445. See point 74 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 60: In the monitored period, the following number of periodical titles were published in the Slovak Republic

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	1	1

Source: MoC SR

446. See point 80 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 61: Number of supported projects of the Polish national minority under the Sub-programme 2.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	1	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.fii: to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the Polish language:

447. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.2:
- to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Polish language
- not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Polish language
- to ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in the Polish language

448. See points 70 to 72 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 11.3: to ensure that the interests of the users of the Polish language are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:

449. See point 73 of the common information on Article 12.

1.6.3.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

450. See the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.a to support the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in the Polish language:

451. Distribution of 23 audiovisual works in the original version with Slovak subtitles/dubbing.

452. See points 78 to 79 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 62: Number of supported projects of the Polish national minority under the Sub-programme 2.1.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

453. See point 81 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 63: Number of supported projects of the Polish national minority under the Sub-programme 2.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

454. See points 82 to 83 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 64: Number of supported projects of the Polish national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

455. See point 84 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 65: Number of supported projects of the Polish national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

456. See points 86 to 87 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 66: Number of supported projects of the Polish national minority under the Sub-programme 3.5.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	2	1	2	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 12.1.b: to foster access in other languages to works produced in the Polish language by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

457. See Article 12.1.a – by making available audiovisual works in the national minority languages with Slovak subtitles.

Article 12.1.f: to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of the Polish language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

458. Cooperation with the Polish Institute in Bratislava in the implementation of the projections specified in point 12.1.a.

459. According to the Fund Act, the majority of the members of the Expert Council of the Polish national minority culture is established on the basis of the nomination of cultural organizations of the Polish national minority and subsequently the election of candidates for members of the Expert Councils by the gathering of cultural organizations of the Polish national minority, who register in the register of cultural organizations managed by the Fund. See point 76 of the common information on Article 12.

1.6.3.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

460. See the common information on Article 13.

1.6.3.7 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

461. See the common information on Article 14.

Article 14.a: to apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which the Polish language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the Polish language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education:

462. Valid Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation and the Cooperation Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sports of the Republic of Poland for the years 2021-2025 signed on 27 January 2021.

1.7 ROMA LANGUAGE

1.7.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

463. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the Roma national minority increased by 50,426

inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. In the case of the Roma minority, the number of residents who stated the Roma language as their mother tongue decreased by 21,992 compared to 2011. See point 3 of the general information.

464. In 2021, elections were held for CNMEG members and alternates. 4 full members and 4 alternates were elected for the Roma national minority. Consultations take place regularly even outside of CNMEG meetings. The Plenipotentiary for NM cooperates closely with the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as the "Plenipotentiary for RC").

1.7.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

465. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

Article 7.1.d: the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of the Roma language, in speech and writing, in public and private life:

466. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "Centre") is currently preparing a general leaflet about the Centre's services in the Roma language to provide better information on the provision of legal assistance to victims of discrimination.

467. In June 2023, the Centre sent a letter to members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic regarding the upcoming act on compensation for victims of illegal sterilizations. Taking into account the national and ethnic origin of potential applicants, the Centre suggested that the application could be submitted in the national minority language. The Centre also suggested that the authorized authorities, which are obliged to receive applications for recognition of entitlement and provide assistance to applicants, have sufficient personnel capacity to provide assistance also in the national minority languages to applicants. Beyond the scope of the act, the Centre recommended implementing an information campaign also in the national minority languages for potential victims of illegal sterilizations.[33] The Centre also addressed comments in this wording as part of the interdepartmental comment procedure on the proposal of Peter Pollák, a member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, to issue an act on one-time financial compensation for persons sterilized in violation of the law.[34]

468. Since the beginning of the implementation, the Healthy Communities project (2017 - up to now and in the upcoming project) has supported employment at the local level. When helping clients, emphasis is placed on the fact that the employee in the position of HSA is from the local Roma community and is fluent in the Roma language in addition to the Slovak language, or language that is used for communication in the community (usually Slovak, Roma or Hungarian). If necessary, HSAs therefore provide interpretation, both in cooperation with primary care physicians and in hospitals between medical staff and patients. The use of the local communication language is crucial for the effective implementation of health promotion activities.

1.7.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14

1.7.3.1 Article 8 – Education

469. See the common information on Article 8 (in particular points 22 to 24 and 26 to 29).

Article 8.1.aiii: pre-school education in the Roma language:

Grant Scheme to Support Early Care and Early Intervention for Children Aged 0-6

[33] https://www.snslp.sk/wp-content/uploads/list_poslancom.pdf (in Slovak)
[34] https://www.slov-lex.sk/legislativne-procesy/SK/LP/2023/388/pripomienky/zobraz (in Slovak)

470. The MESRS SR announced the Grant Scheme to Support Early Care and Early Intervention for Children Aged 0-6 (hereinafter referred to as the "Grant Scheme"). The aim is to reduce the number of pupils who do not even reach the basic level of skills, to promote equal opportunities in education and to reduce the socio-economic impact on pupils' educational results. Other goals of this activity include increasing the number of children in pre-primary education, reducing the rate of early school leaving with a special focus on children from socially disadvantaged environment and marginalized communities.

471. The early care provided through this Grant Scheme is not part of the work of kindergartens – the main target group is, in addition to the children themselves, also their families, and the place of work is the natural family environment. The element of the Roma language as a mother tongue is supported through the employment of early care assistants directly from the communities involved in the project, with the condition of employment being the command of the community's language (especially Slovak, Hungarian or Roma) and awareness of local conditions.

472. The link to the full text of the Grant Scheme for the Support of Early Care and Intervention is available on the website of the MESRS SR.[35]

National Project Support for Pre-Primary Education of Children from Marginalized Roma Communities II (PRIM II)

473. In the implementation period between January 2017 and October 2023, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities (hereinafter referred to as the "Office of the Plenipotentiary for RC") implemented the National Project Support for Pre-Primary Education of Children from Marginalized Roma Communities II (hereinafter referred to as "PRIM II").[36]

474. The first aim of the project was to get as many children from Roma communities as possible into kindergartens. The second aim of the project was to bring support measures to kindergartens in order to ensure the rapid integration of children from Roma communities into mixed groups of kindergartens (by introducing the positions of special pedagogue and parent assistant and creating inclusive teams from pedagogical and professional groups of kindergartens).

The outputs of the project included approximately 11,000 children who completed at least 1 school year in pre-primary education; inclusive teams using innovative approaches in 133 schools; verification and operation of the position of parent assistants directly from the involved communities; and a special stimulation programme developed for 3-4-year-old children to eliminate cognitive deficits and a methodology for family work, both aimed at the environment of marginalized Roma communities (hereinafter referred to as "MRC").

475. The outputs of the PRIM II project were communicated to the MESRS SR, which followed them up in the project *Support of helping professions (POP 3)*.[37] In the POP 3 project, administrated by the NIEY, the results of the good practice acquired during PRIM II are specified, namely the maintenance of the proven position of parent assistants in localities where at least 30% of children in kindergartens are from Roma communities (this also

[35] https://www.minedu.sk/grantova-schema-na-podporu-ranej-starostlivosti-a-intervencie/ (in Slovak)

[36] https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/narodne-projekty/np-prim-ii-projekt-inkluzie-v-materskych-skolach/ (in Slovak)

[37] https://nivam.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/IMPLEMENTACNY-MANUAL_POP-3_2023.pdf (in Slovak)

includes the application of temporary compensatory measures – primary employment of Roma from specific locations); special educators also continue in the POP 3 project; experience and recommendations from PRIM II, including the verified stimulation programme, continue to be used in the implementation of the POP 3 project.

476. The element of the Roma language as a mother tongue is again supported through the primary employment of parent assistants from the communities in which the project operated (PRIM II) and operates (POP 3), where knowledge of the community's language and community conditions were a condition for employment in the position of parent assistant.

Articles 8.1.biii and 8.1.ciii: primary, secondary and vocational education in the Roma language

477. There are 7 private schools in the Slovak Republic focused on the Roma national minority and teach the Roma language and literature and Roma realities in the teaching process.

List of schools in the Slovak Republic teaching the Roma language:

- Kružlová Primary School;
- Stropkov Primary School;
- Private Joint School – Private Primary School with Kindergarten in Kremnica;
- Private Primary School in Košice;
- Zefyrin Jiménez Malla Eight-Year Private Grammar School;
- Pedagogical and Social Private Secondary Vocational School in Košice;
- Private Music and Drama Conservatory in Košice;
- Private Music and Drama Conservatory in Rimavská Sobota;
- Private Secondary Vocational School in Kežmarok;
- University of Prešov in Prešov; Institute of Roma Studies (see Art. 8.1.eii).

478. Primary schools, secondary schools: the Roma language is not used as a language of instruction in any school, but it is taught as a foreign language with an allocation of 3 hours a week.

479. The MESRS SR allocated funds for development projects and subsidies through calls for schools:

- As part of the development project *"Support for the Teaching of the Mother Tongue of the National Minority"*, the MESRS SR in the 2022/2023 school year supported 8 projects from eligible applicants in the total amount of EUR 12,000, where the teaching of the Roma language was also supported.

480. As part of the Edu TV educational platform, videos were also created for *teaching the* Roma language subject. All videos were prepared for the 6th grade of primary school in accordance with the national educational programme.

481. MESRS SR also participates in the project *ROMANI/PLURILINGUAL POLICY EXPERIMENTATION – Inclusion of Roma children in education – plurilingual approach* (2022 – 2025). Slovenia, Greece and the Slovak Republic participate in the project. The aim of the pilot project is to create opportunities to raise the awareness of Roma and non-Roma pupils about the Roma language, culture and history and to create prerequisites for the teaching of the Roma language in primary schools on a more significant scale. The project's opening online conference took place in March 2022. In the 2022/2023 school year, several working meetings of the steering group in the Council of Europe were held and cooperation with representatives of schools in the Slovak Republic was coordinated.

482. The MESRS SR approved Amendments to the NEP for primary schools with the national minority language of instruction and primary schools teaching the national minority language, including educational standards for the Roma language and literature.

483. The MESRS SR developed a methodological framework for the analysis of social science textbooks (history, geography, civics, ethics) containing information about the Roma minority – work related to the development of the methodology, according to defined criteria, an overview of textbooks for the last 5 years with a valid clause; ensuring communication with the library and developing a list of available textbooks.

484. In cooperation with the Council of Europe, the MESRS SR monitors the implementation of the Roma language and realities in schools and school facilities to map the real situation. The obtained results showed that schools and school facilities use Roma realities and language in the educational process. Basic Roma language skills of teaching and professional staff is considered a professional competence with added value in school practice.[38]

485. The MESRS SR is the administrator and co-organizer of the annual competition *"Amari Romaňi Čhib – Our Roma language"* for pupils of the Roma national minority and the national artistic and literary competition for pupils of primary schools, primary art schools and centres for children and families *"Colourful world – Coloriskeri luma"*.

486. The global objective of the *Strategy for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma until 2030* (hereinafter referred to as the "2030 Strategy")[39] under the *Education* priority area is to ensure equal access of Roma to quality education in mainstream education from birth to employment in the labour market by 2030, with emphasis on the application of desegregation and inclusive measures in the educational process at all levels of education. Activities have established measurable indicators, objectives, responsible and cooperating entities and funding sources.

487. Under the Education priority area, the Roma language is addressed in the sub-goal 6 *To develop Roma national identity and support the implementation of the rights of Roma as a national minority with special attention to language rights*, the measure 6.2 *To support the development of national minority education for the Roma national minority at all levels of education* and activities:

- *6.2.1 To Support existing and emerging kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools with the teaching of the Roma language;*
- *6.2.3 To pilot the Strategy of the Council of Europe for the teaching of the Roma language with an emphasis on the role of the Roma language and multilingual education in the inclusion of Roma children.*

Article 8.1.eii: higher education, university education, adult education and further education of the Roma language:

488. Currently, only the University of Prešov in Prešov – The Institute of Roma Studies provides university studies in an accredited pedagogical study program – Roma language, literature and reality in combination with other subjects in the study field Teaching Academic Subjects.

---

[38] https://nivam.sk/krajske-pracovisko-narodneho-institutu-vzdelavania-a-mladeze-v-presove-zorganizovalo-odborny-seminar-so-zamerom-prezentovat-vysledky-monitoringu-romskeho-jazyka-a-realii-v-skolach-a-skolskych-zariaden/ (in Slovak)

[39] Strategy of equality, inclusion and participation of Roma until 2030 | Úrad splnomocnenca vlády SR pre rómske komunity (gov.sk)

489. Under the *Education* priority area of the 2030 Strategy, the Roma language is addressed in the sub-goal 6 *To develop Roma national identity and support the implementation of the rights of Roma as a national minority with special attention to language rights* and activities:

- *6.2.2 To create and implement a programme proposal to support university students in the study program Teaching Roma language, literature and realities* under the supervision of the MESRS SR;
- *6.4.2 To implement language competence education aimed at maintaining and improving the level of command of the language of national minorities for civil servants, including command of the Roma language* under the supervision of the Slovak Government, the Office of the Plenipotentiary for NM.

490. According to Act No. 269/2018 Coll. on Quality Assurance in Higher Education, universities are currently not authorized to create new study programmes in any study field (with the exception of those with no accredited study programme) until a positive assessment of the internal quality assurance systems by the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education is received. For this reason, the MESRS SR was not able to create a new programme of the Roma language and realities in 2022.

Universities

491. The Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra – the Institute of Roma Studies offers the subject Roma language as a foreign language in the study field *Social work*.

492. The University of Prešov in Prešov – the Institute of Roma Studies offers a pedagogical study programme *Roma language, literature and realities* in combination with other subjects in the study program Teaching Academic Subjects, as the only educational institution in Slovakia and the third in Europe preparing Roma language teachers. Since the academic year 2019/2020, a new accredited study field Roma language and literature has been introduced as a pedagogical, i.e. teaching study field, in combination with more than twenty specializations. In the school year 2024/2025, the first teachers with the specialization of the Roma language will be prepared, who will be able to teach the Roma language in primary and secondary schools.

493. The University of Prešov in Prešov – the Faculty of Pedagogy offers the subject Roma language as a foreign language in the study field Pre-school and Elementary Education.

Article 8.1.g: teaching the history and culture that affected the Roma language:

494. By the Resolution of the Slovak Government from April 2021 on the 2030 Strategy, the Ministry of Culture was obliged for the first time in the history of planning inclusive policies to develop the *Vision for the development of Roma culture, language and identity support* and the Action Plan for the years 2022-2024. The document is directly related to the goals of the 2030 Strategy. The document was adopted in a participatory manner, in consultation with members of the Fund's expert councils and representatives of the Roma minority in CNMEG.

495. By the implementation of the Vision of Roma Culture, Language and Identity Support, the Slovak Government has committed itself to:

- expand and stabilize the public media with the aim of wider news and journalistic activity aimed both at the Roma and the majority population and to create space for the use of the Roma language in broadcasts;
- increase the quality and targeting of national minority broadcasting in public media;

- support high-quality film and documentary production about the history, life and culture of the Roma;
- support the quality of non-profit and private media and independent content creators with an emphasis on ensuring objectivity and plurality of opinions;
- support the regular publication of Roma periodicals aimed at adult and child readers and improve the quality of the content, focus contributions on a specific target group and obtain feedback from them in order to improve the quality of periodicals.

Modification and change of diagnostic procedures

496. RICPaP is currently revising and finalizing standards for the diagnosis of cognitive abilities, *Differential Diagnosis of Cognitive Abilities of Children from Socially Disadvantaged Environment*, and other professional and diagnostic procedures, methodical and methodological manuals focused on children and youth of Roma nationality. RICPaP also implements educational activities in the area of innovative psychodiagnostics and the implementation of a system of support measures.

497. Under the *Education* priority area of the 2030 Strategy, the Roma language is addressed in the sub-goal 6 *To develop Roma national identity and support the implementation of the rights of Roma as a national minority with special attention to language rights*, the measure 6.1 To enable education in the mother tongue for children and pupils from the Roma communities at all levels of education and the activity 6.1.4:

- *6.1.4 To incorporate Roma history and literature, including the Roma holocaust, into the NEP at all levels of education in accordance with Recommendation CM/Rec (2020)2 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on the inclusion of Roma and/or nomadic history in curricula and educational materials.*

Article 8.1.h: basic and further training of the Roma language teachers (in the Roma language):

The project Innovative Teacher Training to Increase Intercultural Competences in the Education of Roma pupils or We can achieve more with Roma II

498. The project builds on the successful project *We can achieve more with Roma I. It aims to develop teaching materials, publications and methodologies for the Roma language, culture and history; support intercultural and inclusive education in schools with pupils from Roma communities and to increase the professional competence of teaching and professional staff and school management. The project is implemented by NIEY, an* organisation directly managed by the MESRS SR. As part of the project, various target groups were trained (school management; teachers of kindergarten, primary and secondary schools; academics) and a limited edition of 11 teaching materials was prepared. As part of the project *We can achieve more with Roma II*, another 12 types of teaching materials are being prepared.

The project Innovative Teacher Training to Increase Intercultural Competences in the Education of Roma pupils or We can achieve more with Roma II

499. The project builds on the successful project We can achieve more with Roma I. It aims to develop teaching materials, publications and methodologies for the Roma language, culture and history; support intercultural and inclusive education in schools with pupils from Roma communities and to increase the professional competence of teaching and professional staff and school management. The project is implemented by NIEY, an organisation directly managed by the MESRS SR. As part of the project, various target groups were trained (school management; teachers of kindergarten, primary and secondary schools; academics) and a

limited edition of 11 teaching materials was prepared. As part of the project We can achieve more with Roma II, another 12 types of teaching materials are being prepared.

Professional development of teaching and professional staff

500. The MESRS SR continued to provide professional development for teaching and professional staff who educate children and pupils belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups, as well as children and pupils from socially disadvantaged environment (hereinafter referred to as the "SDE") and MRC. Education was focused on the following topics: inclusive education; intercultural and interethnic dialogue; supporting the use of the Roma language and culture in the teaching process; methodology of teaching the Slovak language and literature in schools with the Hungarian language of instruction and curriculum reform. Two innovative education programs and education material sets were created. Additional education material sets are ready for approval.

501. Under the *Education* priority area of the 2030 Strategy, the Roma language is addressed in the sub-goal 2 To increase the number and quality of pedagogical, professional and support staff in the education of children and pupils from MRC; the measure 2.2 To increase the competence of professional, pedagogical and other employees of schools and school facilities to work with pupils from MRC through qualification courses, education and methodological support; and the activity 2.2.1:

- *2.2.1 To create and implement professional development programmes for pedagogical, professional and other employees of schools and school facilities to work with pupils from MRC at all levels of education with an emphasis on inclusive, distance education and the development of functional literacy of children and pupils from MRC* under the supervision of the MESRS SR.

502. As part of the *Innovative teacher training with the aim of increasing their intercultural competence in the educational process of Roma pupils* project (financed from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism), the *Intercultural education in schools with pupils from Roma communities for kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools* programme was developed.[40]

503. The aim of the project is to systematically support the introduction of the teaching of the Roman language and literature at all levels of education within the school educational programme of schools with pupils from Roma communities, support of intercultural education and a democratic and inclusive school environment. More than 40 teaching staff and experts in the field of education of pupils from Roma communities were recruited for the educational training *Intercultural education in schools with pupils from Roma communities*. Sixty managers were trained as part of school management training and ten teachers were trained to prepare for the state language exam in the Roma language.

504. RICPaP collaborated with the MESRS SR in the development of the professional procedure *Child with a different mother tongue in the counselling and educational process – child with the Roma mother tongue*. This material is available on the RICPaP website[41] and is included in professional pedagogical and counselling procedures and represents an output from the *National Project Standardization of the Counselling and Prevention System for Inclusion and Success on the Labour Market*.

[40] https://www.minedu.sk/interkulturne-vzdelavat-v-skolach-so-ziakmi-z-romskych-komunit/ (in Slovak)
[41] https://vudpap.sk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Dieta-s-odlisnym-materinskym-jazykom-v-poradenskom-a-edukacnom-procese-%E2%80%93-dieta-s-romskym-materinskym-jazykom.pdf (in Slovak)

505. Under the *Education* priority area, the Roma language is addressed in the sub-goal 6 *To develop Roma national identity and support the implementation of the rights of Roma as a national minority with special attention to language rights*, the measure 6.1 To enable education in the mother tongue for children and pupils from the Roma communities at all levels of education and activities:

- *6.1.1 To create support measures for children and pupils from Roma communities with insufficient knowledge of the language of instruction, which is not their mother tongue* under the supervision of the MESRS SR;
- *6.1.2 To create (professional development) programmes for teaching the Roma language to strengthen the inclusion of Roma students in their education* under the supervision of the MESRS SR. As part of the project *Innovative teacher training with the aim of increasing their intercultural competence in the educational process of Roma pupils* (financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism), 2 programs were developed:
    - 1st programme – Preparation of teachers for the state language exam in the Roma language;
    - 2nd program – Intercultural education in schools with pupils from Roma communities for kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools.

506. The innovative education program was created and included in the education offer with the aim of increasing the number of teaching staff with the competence to use the Roma language in order to strengthen the inclusion of Roma pupils in their education.

Article 8.1.i: a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress:

507. In Slovak, the State School Inspection is the main supervisory body responsible for monitoring the pedagogical management, education and training and material and technical conditions, including practical training in schools and school facilities, practical training workplaces and the level of activities in special educational facilities and school facilities of educational counselling and prevention. It carries out its activities through school inspectors and takes measures to correct the situation if any deficiencies are identified. It publishes its findings publicly on its website as summary reports and reports from individual schools and school facilities.

508. Links:

- legal framework of competences of the State School Inspection – Act No. 596/2033 Coll. on State Administration in Education and School Administration;[42]
- reports from individual schools and school facilities;[43]
- summary reports.[44]

1.7.3.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

509. See the common information on Article 9.

510. The working language group for the Roma language continued to translate legislation into the Roma language. In total, 14 translations of legal regulations were made in the monitored period, which were gradually published on the legal and informational portal Slov-lex.[45]

[42] https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2003/596/20230530 (in Slovak)
[43] https://www.ssi.sk/spravy-z-jednotlivych-skol-a-skolskych-zariadeni/ (in Slovak)
[44] https://www.ssi.sk/spravy-z-inspekcii/ (in Slovak)
[45] https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin (in Roma)

1.7.3.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

511. See the common information on Article 10 and point 2 of the general information.

Article 10.2.g the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place-names in the Roma language:

512. The Office of the Plenipotentiary for RC participates in the working group supervised by the Slovak Government, the Office of Plenipotentiary for NM. The Office of the Plenipotentiary for RC cooperated and provided assistance in connection with the amendment to Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll. (the regulation was repealed by Government Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll.).

513. In connection with the amendment, the Office of the Plenipotentiary for RC cooperated in the distribution and creation of a questionnaire survey in the form of video and audio recordings. In selected municipalities, after completing the training (methodological guidance), the employees of the Office of the Plenipotentiary for RC collected data regarding the names of municipalities in Roma and historical names of municipalities in Roma. The survey was carried out in 3 self-governing regions in 81 municipalities.

Article 10.4.a: additional information:

514. The use of translations into the Roma language in official communication is rather occasional. This applies mainly to instructions regarding current events such as elections, population census, medical forms for women (informed patient consent before medical intervention), official announcements, declarations, notices, designations of official buildings and occasional forms.

515. In the register of job applicants, there is a negligible number of clients who claim to be of Roma nationality. Most of these clients claim to be of Hungarian or Slovak nationality. For both groups of clients, all the necessary forms are published at the labor, social affairs and family offices. The handling of the official affairs of the mentioned clients is fully ensured.

516. Public radio announcements in the Roma language are rare and can only be implemented in villages with the Roma population (Lomnička, Jurské, Luník IX housing estate).

517. In 2022 and 2023, the Office of the Plenipotentiary for RC cooperated with the MoI SR on the translation of several information leaflets into the Roma language – it concerned the information brochure *Don't become a victim of human trafficking* published in 6 languages, including Roma, and it was used primarily in connection with the war conflict in Ukraine and the leaflet *Forced marriages*. Leaflets are published on the MoI SR website.[46]

518. As part of improving the access of residents from the MRC environment, whose mother tongue is Roma, but also Hungarian, to health services and information, the Healthy Regions organization employs HSAs, who carry out health education at the community level. One of the supporting activities is also overcoming language barriers in relation to the health system and health care providers in Slovakia. Within the network of hospitals, Zdravé regions operate in catchment hospitals in districts with more than 20% of the population from the MRC environment. In these facilities, employees of the organization work in the position of health support assistant in the hospital environment (hereinafter referred to as "HSAH"). Among other things, their task is to overcome language barriers between clients and hospital staff. In the case of both job positions, knowledge of the language of the target group (Roma, Slovak,

[46] https://www.minv.sk/?brozury-a-letaky (in Slovak)

Hungarian) is a qualification condition for the job position. Currently, Healthy Regions have 285 HSAs located in less developed regions and 15 HSAs in more developed regions. There are 14 HSAHs located in medical facilities in less developed regions, and 1 HSAH in a more developed region. This number will be increased in the next program period.

Articles 10.2.b, 10.4.a and 10.4.c: to submit oral or written applications to regional or local authorities in the Roma language; to ensure translation or interpretation; public service employees having a knowledge of the Roma language:

519. See Article 7.1.d on this language.

520. We must state that the use of the Roma language has slightly improved at the level of municipalities.

521. According to the 2021 Census, the number of municipalities in which the Roma language is used in official communication has increased by 64 municipalities.

522. In 2021-2022, civil servants of the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family implemented education in the Roma language. Language education is planned also for 2023. See Table No. 10 of the common information on Article 10.

1.7.3.4 Article 11 – Media

523. See the common information on Article 11.

Article 11.1.aiii: to ensure that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in the Roma language:

524. See point 67 of the common information on Article 11.

Table 67: Hours of RTVS radio and television broadcasts in the national minority language in the monitored period

National minority language	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television
Roma	173	40,36	173	40.83	173	56.09	213	57.33

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.bii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in the Roma language on a regular basis:

525. See point 69 of the common information on Article 12 for the legislation.

526. See points 75, 77 and 85 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 68: Number of supported projects of the Roma national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	2	2	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.cii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in the Roma language on a regular basis:

527. See point 68 of the common information on Article 12 and Article 11.1.bii.

Article 11.1.d: to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the Roma language:

528. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.1.ei: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in the Roma language:

529. See point 74 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 69: In the monitored period, the following number of periodical titles were published in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Slovak/Roma	1	1	1	1

Source: MoC SR

530. See point 80 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 70: Number of supported projects of the Roma national minority under the Sub-programme 2.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	1	2

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.fii: to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the Roma language:

531. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.2:

- to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Roma language
- not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Roma language
- to ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in the Roma language

532. See points 70 to 72 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 11.3: to ensure that the interests of the users of the Roma language are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:

533. See point 73 of the common information on Article 12.

1.7.3.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

534. See the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.a: to support the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in the Roma language:

535. Distribution of 4 audiovisual works in the original version with Slovak subtitles/dubbing.

536. See points 78 to 79 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 71: Number of supported projects of the Roma national minority under the Sub-programme 2.1.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022

Number of supported projects	1	2	3	2

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

537. See point 81 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 72: Number of supported projects of the Roma national minority under the Sub-programme 2.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	3	5	6	8

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

538. See points 82 to 83 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 73: Number of supported projects of the Roma national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

539. See point 84 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 74: Number of supported projects of the Roma national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	2	2

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

540. See points 86 to 87 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 75: Number of supported projects of the Roma national minority under the Sub-programme 3.5.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	7	7	14	7

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Action Plans to the Strategy of Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma until 2030 for 2022-2024

541. Action plans to the Strategy of Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma until 2030 for 2022-2024 (hereinafter referred to as "Action Plans") were adopted by the Slovak Government in April 2022. Action plans define specific measures and activities in the priority areas of 2030 Strategy.

542. Under the *Education* priority area, the Roma language is addressed in the *sub-goal 6 To develop Roma national identity and support the implementation of the rights of Roma as a national minority with special attention to language rights*, the measure 6.3 To support scientific, educational and research activities in the field of the Roma language and realities, Roma culture and art and the activity 6.3.1:

- *6.3.1 To support the activities of museums, galleries, cultural centres, cultural education centres, research and documentation centres (with the exception of contribution and budget organizations of the MoC SR)* under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Fund for the years 2022 to 2024.

543. In 2022, the Fund supported 55 projects supported through subsidies and scholarships. In 2022, the Fund provided funds for the fifth time to support the preservation, expression, protection and development of the identity and cultural values of national minorities. A total

of 55 projects were supported in the field of publications, conferences, courses and exhibitions presenting Roma culture.

Call for Subsidy Applications to Support Social and Cultural Needs, the Office of the Plenipotentiary for RC

544. A special form of subsidy support in the area of the culture of the Roma community is provided by the Slovak Government, and the *Call for Subsidy Applications to Support Social and Cultural Needs and Solutions to Extremely Unfavourable Situations of the Roma Community for 2023* was announced on 7 July 2023.[47] The Call administrator is the Plenipotentiary for RC. The available financial resources is EUR 650,000. Funds from the call can also be used to support artistic creation, cultural and sports activities. Municipalities, non-governmental organizations, registered social enterprises, church organizations and other eligible applicants can receive the subsidy.

Article 12.1.b: to foster access in other languages to works produced in the Roma language by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

545. See Article 12.1.a – by making available audiovisual works in the national minority languages with Slovak subtitles.

546. At the end of 2022, RTVS broadcast a cycle of television programs for Roma children with difficult access to education during the quarantine due to a lack of IT equipment.

Article 12.1.d: to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of the Roma language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing:

547. By approving the *Vision for the Development of Roma Culture, Language and Identity Support*, the Ministry of Culture undertook to develop opportunities for professional Roma artists by providing individual support and creating opportunities for the presentation of author's work, by preparing an exhibition for professional Roma artists.

Article 12.1.f: to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of the Roma language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

548. By approving the *Vision for the Development of Roma Culture, Language and Identity Support*, the Ministry of Culture undertook to develop non-professional Roma art by providing collective and individual support, and by creating opportunities for the presentation of non-professional works at the annual exhibition for non-professional Roma artists.

549. According to the Fund Act, the majority of the members of the Expert Council of the Roma national minority culture is established on the basis of the nomination of cultural organizations of the Roma national minority and subsequently the election of candidates for members of the Expert Councils by the gathering of cultural organizations of the Roma national minority, who register in the register of cultural organizations managed by the Fund. See point 76 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.g: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the Roma language:

550. Documentation and information centre of Roma culture of the State Science Library in Prešov, SNM – MM – Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia.

[47] https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/dotacna-schema/vyzva-na-predkladanie-ziadosti-na-rok-2023/ (in Slovak)

1.7.3.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

551. See the common information on Article 13.

552. See point 514.

1.7.3.7 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

553. See the common information on Article 14.

1.8 RUTHENIAN LANGUAGE

1.8.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

554. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the Ruthenian national minority increased by 30 074 inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. In the case of the Ruthenian nationality, the number of residents who stated Ruthenian as their mother tongue decreased by 16,790 compared to 2011. See point 3 of the general information.

555. In 2021, elections were held for CNMEG members and alternates. 2 full members and 2 alternates were elected for the Ruthenian national minority. Consultations take place daily even outside of CNMEG meetings. The Plenipotentiary for NM regularly visits municipalities and local Ruthenian organizations and consults on current issues with representatives of the Round Table of Ruthenians in Slovakia, as well as with representatives of the Institute of Ruthenian Language and Culture of the University of Prešov.

1.8.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

556. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

1.8.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14

1.8.3.1 Article 8 – Education

557. See the common information on Article 8.

Articles 8.1.aii, 8.1.bii and 8.1.cii: pre-school, primary and secondary education in the Ruthenian language:

558. As of 15 September 2022, there are 4 kindergartens in Slovakia: two in primary schools in Kalná Roztoka and Klenová, one in Čabiny and one Private Kindergarten in Prešov.

559. As of 15 September 2022, there are two primary schools with kindergartens in Slovakia – Kalná Roztoka (12 pupils) and Klenová (70 pupils) (as mentioned above). In addition, there are 4 schools with Ruthenian language teaching (Michal Sopira Primary School with Kindergarten in Radvaň nad Laborcom – 48 pupils, Komenského Primary School in Medzilaborce – 127 pupils, Duchnovič Primary School in Medzilaborce – 84 pupils, Joined School – Primary School in Svidník – 119 pupils).

560. *List of videos of distance lessons* from the project *Distance lessons of the Ruthenian language* supported by the MESRS SR and implemented by OZ Kolysočka-Kolíska.[48]

[48] https://www.minedu.sk/distancne-hodiny-rusinskeho-jazyka/ (in Ruthenian)

561. As part of the Edu TV educational platform, videos were also created for the Ruthenian language and literature *subject* for the 6th grade of primary school in accordance with the NEP. See point 22 of the common information on Article 8.

562. MESRS SR is the administrator and co-organizer of the annual competition "Duchnovič's Prešov" for pupils of the Ruthenian national minority. See point 29 of the common information on Article 8.

563. In collaboration and in cooperation with the MESRS SR, the NIEY ensured the translation of professional terminology and the necessary pedagogical documentation for educational practice in the Ruthenian language. The result of the activity and this cooperation is the processing and publication of the online *Slovak/Ruthenian glossary of school terminology* freely available on the MESRS SR website.[49]

564. As part of the development project *"Support for the Teaching of the Mother Tongue of the National Minority"*, the MESRS SR in the 2022/2023 school year supported 8 projects from eligible applicants in the total amount of EUR 12,000, where the teaching of the Ruthenian language was also supported. See point 27 of the common information on Article 8.

565. On 30 August 2019, the MESRS SR approved the *Educational Standard of the Ruthenian language and literature subject for upper secondary education* for schools with the Ruthenian language of instruction and Ruthenian language teaching, effective from 1 September 2019.

Article 8.1.g: teaching the history and culture that affected the Ruthenian language

566. To support the teaching of the Ruthenian history and culture, the NIEY participated in the creation of supporting didactic materials in the form of so-called short methodological inspirations (hereinafter referred to as "SMI"). These are currently freely available in the Moodle course environment designed for teacher forum events for schools with RLI.50 At the same time, the above link became a place for sharing asynchronous communication on specific professional topics within the framework of individual teacher forum meetings, where participants had an immediate opportunity to present their experiences and outputs from individual sub-activities. At the same time, participants have active access to the above SMI in the course dedicated to the issue of Ruthenian history and dialects in Slovakia. These topics are still not relevantly addressed in textbooks for teaching the Ruthenian language, but they are required for practical purposes. Here is a list of individual SMI published:

- Ruthenian origin and history I. – Slavs in the Early Middle Ages;
- Ruthenian origin and history II. – The earliest mentions of the Ruthenians;
- Ruthenian origin and history III. – Separation of native Slavs in the 9th – 12th centuries
- Ruthenian origin and history IV. – Ruthenians and formation of the Kingdom of Hungary;
- Ruthenian origin and history IV. – The first written mentions of the Ruthenians of the Kingdom of Hungary;
- Ruthenian origin and history VI. – 1241 and 1242 – Challenging years for the Árpád dynasty in the Kingdom of Hungary;
- Ruthenian dialects in Slovakia I.;
- Ruthenian dialects in Slovakia II.

Article 8.1.h: basic and further training of the Ruthenian language teachers (in the Ruthenian language):

[49] https://www.minedu.sk/data/files/9497_final_svk_rus.pdf (in Slovak-Ruthenian)
[50] https://moodle.mpc-edu.sk/course/view.php?id=797 (in Slovak)

567. Professional development of pedagogical staff teaching Ruthenian language and literature in classroom practice is provided by the NIEY Regional workplace in Prešov. From 2019 to the end of July 2023, 21 thematic webinars took place. Within the NP Teachers, teaching staff had the opportunity to meet and consult current educational problems on selected topics also within the framework of the teacher forum for schools with the Ruthenian language of instruction. 4 meetings were held (between April 2021 and February 2022) in this format, attended by 7 pedagogical employees.

568. Pedagogical staff from schools with the Ruthenian language of instruction and teaching were given the opportunity to study within the framework of accredited programmes of innovative education. Within the MPC offers, pedagogical staff took advantage of the opportunity to complete the innovative education program *Use of the portfolio in the process of self-development of the pedagogical employee*. Specifically, 9 participants from schools teaching the Ruthenian language took part in the education group (Michal Sopira Primary School with Kindergarten in Radvaň nad Laborcom; Joined School Centrálna 464, Svidník), where part of the education (reflection of distance tasks) was also carried out in the Ruthenian language.

569. For teachers of the Ruthenian language and literature, the NIEY has made available several teaching resources in the form of worksheets and presentations with recommendations for teaching practice. Documents were offered and made available to the participants during individual professional events.[51]

1.8.3.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

570. See the common information on Article 9.

571. The working language group for the Ruthenian language continued to translate legislation into the Ruthenian language. In total, 8 translations of legal regulations were made in the monitored period, which were gradually published on the legal and informational portal Slov-lex.[52]

1.8.3.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

572. See the common information on Article 10 and point 2 of the general information.

573. It must be concluded that the use of the Ruthenian language has positive trend at the level of public administration bodies (municipalities, higher territorial units, local state administration).

574. According to the 2021 Census, the number of municipalities in which the Ruthenian language is used in official communication has increased by 87 municipalities.

Article 10.1.aiii: to ensure that users of the Ruthenian language may submit oral or written applications to local state administration authorities and receive a reply in the Ruthenian language:

575. At the Humenné District Office, the Medzilaborce workplace, employees ensure the performance of state administration in the offence section through the client centre, in the agriculture, forestry, hunting and land management sections and in the trade business section. Translations are provided by an employee – translator of the Medzilaborce District Office.

576. The topic in question does not concern the Medzilaborce District Office.

[51] https://moodle.mpc-edu.sk/enrol/index.php?id=797 (in Slovak)

[52] https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin (in minority languages)

577. The Svidník District Office as a local state administration authority, which is an advance payment organization of the MoI SR, performs state administration through the departments of the district office. It does not implement the charter directly in its professional activities, because the building in which the district office carries out its activities is managed by the Prešov Support Centre. According to the request of the District Office, a designation in the Ruthenian language is being prepared for the building façade. If a citizen expresses a request in the national minority language in oral communication, the employees of the District Office can handle it in the national minority language. In written communication, the problem is that the national minority language uses the Cyrillic alphabet, which few citizens know. In the monitored period, the District Office does not register any written request, or other written request (announcement, etc.) in the national minority language.

Article 10.1.aiv: to ensure that users of the Ruthenian language may submit oral or written applications to local state administration authorities in the Ruthenian language:

578. The Humenné District Office, the Medzilaborce workplace, provides translations through an employee – translator of the Medzilaborce District Office.

579. The topic in question does not concern the Medzilaborce District Office.

Article 10.2.b: the possibility for users of the Ruthenian language to submit oral or written applications to regional or local authorities in the Ruthenian:

580. The Humenné District Office, the Medzilaborce workplace, provides translations through an employee – translator of the Medzilaborce District Office.

581. At the Medzilaborce District Office, members of the national minority have the opportunity to submit oral or written applications to the regional or local authority in the national minority language.

Article 10.2.c: the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the Ruthenian language:

582. The COLSAF ensured the translations and publication of the *Fire Alarm Guidelines and the Fire Evacuation Plan* into the Ruthenian language.

Article 10.2.d: the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the Ruthenian language:

583. The Humenné District Office, the Medzilaborce workplace, ensures the publication of official documents in the Ruthenian language.

584. The Medzilaborce District Office ensures the possibility of using the national minority language in official communication through its own employees. It ensures the publication of official documents, notices informing the public also in the national minority language on the official notice board, information board and on its website. In practice, it applies the obligations for designations in the national minority language pursuant to the the Act on the use of national minority languages.

Article 10.2.f: the use by local authorities of the Ruthenian language in debates in their assemblies:

585. The Humenné district office, the Medzilaborce workplace, allows the use of the Ruthenian language in debates.

586. The Medzilaborce District Office uses the national minority language in oral debates.

Article 10.2.g: the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place-names in the Ruthenian language:

587. The Humenné district office, the Medzilaborce workplace, ensures the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place-names in the Ruthenian language.

588. At the Medzilaborce District Office, the names of cities and municipalities located in the Medzilaborce District and according to the population census with a 15% representation of members of the national minority are indicated in the state language as well as in the national minority language.

589. The COLSAF ensured the installation of official notice boards at individual offices.

Article 10.3.c: to allow users of the Ruthenian language to submit requests to public service providers in the Ruthenian language:

590. The Humenné District Office, the Medzilaborce workplace, ensures submission of requests, but without use by citizens.

591. The Medzilaborce District Office ensures the submission of requests.

Article 10.4.a: to ensure translation or interpretation:

592. The Humenné District Office, the Medzilaborce workplace, provides translation or interpretation through an employee.

593. The Medzilaborce District Office provides translation or interpretation through a translator.

594. The Medzilaborce District Office provides translation and interpretation for members of the national minority through its employee.

Article 10.4.c: to comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of the Ruthenian language to be appointed in the territory in which this language is used:

595. The Humenné District Office, the Medzilaborce workplace, allows to comply with requests from employees.

596. The Medzilaborce District Office complies with requests from employees to be appointed in the territory in which the national minority language is used.

Article 10.5: the use or adoption of family names in the Ruthenian language:

597. The Humenné District Office, the Medzilaborce workplace, does not register any request to use or adopt a family name in the national minority language.

598. The Medzilaborce District Office: the office does not register such a request.

599. Clients of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family can use and adopt a surname in their native language.

1.8.3.4 Article 11 – Media

600. See the common information on Article 11.

Article 11.1.aiii: to ensure that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in the Ruthenian language:

601. See point 67 of the common information on Article 11.

Table 76: Hours of RTVS radio and television broadcasts in the national minority language in the monitored period

National minority language	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television
Ruthenian	342	23.66	342	17.78	342	24.94	266	27.33

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.bii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in the Ruthenian language on a regular basis:

602. See point 69 of the common information on Article 12 for the legislation.

603. See points 75, 77 and 85 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 77: Number of supported projects of the Ruthenian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.cii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in the Ruthenian language on a regular basis:

604. See point 68 of the common information on Article 12 and Article 11.1.bii.

Article 11.1.d: to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the Ruthenian language:

605. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.1.ei: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in the Ruthenian language:

606. See point 74 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 78: In the monitored period, the following number of periodical titles were published in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ruthenian	3	3	3	3

Source: MoC SR

607. See point 80 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 79: Number of supported projects of the Ruthenian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	3	3	3	3

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.fii: to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the Ruthenian language:

608. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.2:

- to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Ruthenian language
- not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Ruthenian language
- to ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in the Ruthenian language

609. See points 70 to 72 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 11.3: to ensure that the interests of the users of the Ruthenian language are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:

610. See point 73 of the common information on Article 12.

1.8.3.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

611. See the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.a: to support the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in the Ruthenian language:

612. See points 78 to 79 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 80: Number of supported projects of the Ruthenian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.1.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	1	2	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

613. See point 81 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 81: Number of supported projects of the Ruthenian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	10	16	20	15

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

614. See points 82 to 83 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 82: Number of supported projects of the Ruthenian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

615. See point 84 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 83: Number of supported projects of the Ruthenian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

616. See points 86 to 87 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 84: Number of supported projects of the Ruthenian national minority under the Sub-programme 3.5.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	5	1	2

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 12.1.e: to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the Ruthenian language:

617. SNM – Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov, Slovak Film Institute.

Article 12.1.f: to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of the Ruthenian language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

618. According to the Fund Act, the majority of the members of the Expert Council of the Ruthenian national minority culture is established on the basis of the nomination of cultural organizations of the Ruthenian national minority and subsequently the election of candidates for members of the Expert Councils by the gathering of cultural organizations of the Ruthenian national minority, who register in the register of cultural organizations managed by the Fund. See point 76 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.g: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the Ruthenian language:

619. SNM – Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov.

1.8.3.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

620. See the common information on Article 13.

1.8.3.7 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

621. See the common information on Article 14.

1.9 RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

1.9.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

622. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the Russian national minority increased by 6,119 inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. See point 3 of the general information.

623. In 2021, elections were held for members and alternates of CNMEG for all national minorities. One full member with voting rights and one alternate were elected for the Russian national minority.

1.9.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

624. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

625. Beyond its obligations in the Charter, the Slovak Republic contributes to the education of pupils from the Russian national minority.

626. By its decision, the MESRS SR included the Private Primary School, Частная основная школа, Strečnianska 20, Bratislava, with Slovak and Russian language of instruction in the network of schools and school facilities of the Slovak Republic, starting from 1 September 2017.

627. The MESRS SR is the administrator and co-organizer of the annual competition *"Russian Word"* for the promotion of Russian culture.

628. The following universities offer university courses teaching the Russian language:

- Comenius University in Bratislava (Department of Russian and East European Studies);
- University of Prešov in Prešov (Institute of Russian Studies);
- University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (Department of Russian Studies);
- Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (Department of Slavic Languages).

629. Clients of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family can use and adopt a surname in their native language.

1.10 SERBIAN LANGUAGE

1.10.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

630. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the Serbian national minority increased by 1,178 inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. See point 3 of the general information.

631. In 2021, elections were held for members and alternates of CNMEG for all national minorities. One full member with voting rights and one alternate were elected for the Serbian national minority. Consultations take place on a regular basis even outside of CNMEG meetings. The Plenipotentiary for NM regularly visits the Serbian national minority organizations, informs and consults current tasks with the representatives of the Serbian national minority.

1.10.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

632. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

633. Beyond its obligations in the Charter, the Slovak Republic contributes to the education of pupils from the Serbian national minority.

634. Higher education:

- Comenius University in Bratislava; Department of Slavic Studies within the Faculty of Arts;
- Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica; Department of Slavic Languages within the Faculty of Arts.

635. The Department of Slavic Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava is an institution that enables the teaching of the Serbian language in Slovakia. The department also implements a purely Slavic-oriented study programme *Slavic Studies*, which offers the option of choosing two of the five Slavic languages (Bulgarian, Croatian, Polish, Slovenian, Serbian). Within the framework of linguistic research, it mainly focuses on the following areas: contrast and applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, ecolinguistics, comparative phraseology and ethnolinguistics, history and development of South Slavic languages, methodology of teaching Bulgarian, Croatian, Polish, Slovenian and Serbian languages. Literary research is focused on the history of individual Slavic literatures, Slovak-Slavic inter-literary relations, literary comparative studies and translation studies.

636. Clients of Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family can use and adopt a surname in their native language.

1.11 UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

1.11.1 Part I. / Article 6 – Information

– ensure that the authorities, organisations and persons concerned are informed of the rights and duties established by the Charter:

637. Pursuant to the change in methodology and approval of the interpretation of 2021 Census results, the number of members of the Ukrainian national minority increased by 3,607 inhabitants compared to the 2011 census. In the case of the Ukrainian minority, the number of residents who stated Ukrainian as their mother tongue increased by 1,919 compared to 2011. See point 3 of the general information.

638. In 2021, elections were held for members and alternates of CNMEG for all national minorities. Two full members with voting rights and two alternates were elected for the Ukrainian national minority. Consultations take place on a regular basis even outside of CNMEG meetings. The Plenipotentiary visits Ukrainian minority institutions and organisations on a regular basis.

1.11.2 Part II. / Article 7 – Objectives and principles

639. See the general and common information on minority languages for Article 7.

Article 7.1.d: the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of the Ukrainian language, in speech and writing, in public and private life:

640. The Centre provides help in the Slovak, English, Ukrainian and Russian languages pursuant to personnel capacities. Clients most often contact the Centre (except Slovak) in Ukrainian, English and Russian. In 2023, the Centre provided legal assistance to 8 clients in the Ukrainian language (these were complaints outside the competence of the Centre), 1 complaint in the Ukrainian language is under assessment as of the date of this response. The Centre handled 9 complaints in English, with another 5 complaints in English being under assessment.

641. After the start of the war on the territory of Ukraine in 2022 and in connection with the influx of exiles to Slovakia, the Centre began distributing information leaflets for persons seeking legal assistance or general information about discrimination, forms and areas of discrimination and how to proceed if a person is subject to discrimination. Leaflets were distributed in Slovak, English, Ukrainian and Russian.[53] It also created an e-mail account intended for legal assistance to people coming from Ukraine.[54]

1.11.3 Part III. / Articles 8 – 14

1.11.3.1 Article 8 – Education

642. See the common information on Article 8.

Articles 8.1.aii, 8.1.bii and 8.1.cii: pre-school, primary and secondary education in the Ukrainian language:

643. As of 15 September 2022, there is one school in Slovakia with the Ukrainian language of instruction: Joined School – Primary School and Kindergarten in Prešov with 50 pupils as of the above date.

[53] https://www.snslp.sk/aktuality/informacie-o-poskytovani-pravnej-pomoci-osobam-ktore-prichadzaju-z-ukrajiny/ (in Slovak and minority languages)
[54] pravnapomocutecencom@snslp.sk

644. As of 15 September 2022, there is one school in Slovakia with the Ukrainian language of instruction: Joined School – Grammar School in Prešov with 142 pupils and one school teaching the Ukrainian language: Primary School with Kindergarten in Jarabina with 74 pupils as of the above date.

645. The MESRS SR prepared Amendments to the NEP for primary schools with the national minority language of instruction and primary schools teaching the national minority language, including educational standards for the Ukrainian language and literature. See points 24 to 25 of the common information on Article 8.

646. MESRS SR is the administrator and co-organizer of the annual competition *"Alexander Duchnovič Drama and Artistic Word Festival"* for pupils of the Ukrainian national minority. See point 29 of the common information on Article 8.

647. The Ministry of Education allocated funds for the development project and subsidy through the call for schools:

- *Summer Schools* Call could be organized during the entire summer holiday 2022 by all primary schools, special primary schools, special educational facilities, combined schools. The main aim of the Summer Schools 2022 was to support schools in organizing their activities to eliminate gaps in knowledge, skills and abilities of pupils, including pupils from SDE and to integrate pupils from Ukraine.[55]
- The call for applications for the provision of funds for the development project *Support for regional and multicultural education of pupils belonging to national minorities*. See point 28 of the common information on Article 8.

648. In the first hours after the outbreak of war on the territory of Ukraine, the MESRS SR issued basic recommendations for teachers and students on how to handle the situation. In connection with the arrival of a large number of children from Ukraine (there are almost 10,000 students from Ukraine in the Slovak education system), several measures were taken that primarily concern foreigners – Ukrainians and not the national minority in Slovakia. However, some publications also help the development of Ukrainian national education. These are, for example, methodological guidelines, a glossary, a webinar and a contact book. A website was created, through which the Ministry of Education communicates its guidelines, measures taken and supporting materials. The Action Plan is being prepared in connection with the increase in the number of Ukrainian children and pupils in Slovakia.

Article 8.1.eii: university and higher education of the Ukrainian language:

649. Higher education: The University of Prešov in Prešov, the Institute of Ukrainian Studies offers the possibility of bachelor's and master's studies.

1.11.3.2 Article 9 – Judicial authorities

650. See the common information on Article 9.

651. The working language group for the Ukrainian language continued to translate legislation into the Ukrainian language. In total, 5 translations of legal regulations were made in the monitored period, which were gradually published on the legal and informational portal Slov-lex.[56]

1.11.3.3 Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

[55] https://www.minedu.sk/vyzva-letna-skola-2022-vyhodnotenie/ (in Slovak)
[56] https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin (in minority languages)

652. See the common information on Article 10 and point 2 of the general information.

Article 10.2.b: the possibility for users of the Ukrainian language to submit oral or written applications to regional or local authorities in the Ukrainian language:

653. See point 7.1.d on this language.

Article 10.2.c: the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the Ukrainian language:

654. According to the Plenipotentiary for NM, the use of the Ukrainian language has positive trend at the level of public administration bodies (municipalities, higher territorial units, local state administration).

655. Despite the fact that the number of members of the Ukrainian national minority does not reach the 15% threshold pursuant to the 2021 Census in all 18 municipalities according to Slovak Government Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll., or their number even dropped to 0 in some of them, legal obligations are still valid until 2031 for them. The use of the Ukrainian language is also limited due to the fact that these are municipalities with a low population. In the monitored period, the Plenipotentiary for NM and its Office did not have any complaints related to a possible violation of the linguistic rights of the Ukrainian national minority specified by the the Act on the use of national minority languages. See point 50 of the common information on Article 10.

656. Several forms and information have been translated into Ukrainian in connection with the provision of assistance in material need and subsidies for children to emigrants from Ukraine (persons with special protection).[57] See points 54 to 55 of the common information on Article 10.

657. Regarding monetary contributions to compensate for severe disability, a person with special protection is provided with a repeated subsidy to support humanitarian aid in connection with his/her serious medical condition. Sample application (Slovak/Ukrainian language) for a subsidy to support humanitarian aid for persons with special protection due to their serious health condition.[58]

658. In relation to a serious health condition, a natural person who is granted temporary protection or is an applicant for asylum or supplementary protection and the provision of temporary protection has ceased due to an application for asylum or the provision of supplementary protection, may be provided with a returned functional aid or returned functional lifting device.

Article 10.4.a to ensure translation or interpretation:

659. See Article 7.1.d on this language.

1.11.3.4 Article 11 – Media

660. See the common information on Article 11.

Article 11.1.aiii: to ensure that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in the Ukrainian language:

[57] Vzory žiadostí pre oblasť sociálnych vecí a rodiny > ÚPSVaR (gov.sk) (in Ukrainian)
Корисна інформація для громадян України > ÚPSVaR (gov.sk) (in Ukrainian)

[58] https://lnk.sk/qzu9 (in Slovak-Ukrainian)

661. See point 67 of the common information on Article 11.

Table 85: Hours of RTVS radio and television broadcasts in the national minority language in the monitored period

National minority language	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television	Radio	Television
Ukrainian	301	10.68	301	10.00	301	7.98	161	31.88

Source: MoC SR

Article 11.1.bii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in the Ukrainian language on a regular basis:

662. See point 69 of the common information on Article 12 for the legislation.

663. See points 75, 77 and 85 of the common information on Article 12 for the project support.

Table 86: Number of supported projects of the Ukrainian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.cii: to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television radio programmes in the Ukrainian language on a regular basis:

664. See point 68 of the common information on Article 12 and Article 11.1.bii.

Article 11.1.d: to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the Ukrainian language:

665. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.1.ei: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in the Ukrainian language:

666. See point 74 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 87: In the monitored period, the following number of periodical titles were published in the Slovak Republic

National minority language	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ukrainian	2	3	3	3

Source: MoC SR

667. See point 80 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 88: Number of supported projects of the Ukrainian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	3	3	3	3

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 11.1.fii: to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in the Ukrainian language:

668. See Article 12.1.a.

Article 11.2:
- to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Ukrainian language
- not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in the Ukrainian language
- to ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in the Ukrainian language

669. See points 70 to 72 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 11.3: to ensure that the interests of the users of the Ukrainian language are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:

670. See point 73 of the common information on Article 12.

1.11.3.5 Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

671. See the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.a: to support the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in the Ukrainian language:

672. Distribution of 21 audiovisual works in the original version with Slovak subtitles/dubbing.

673. See points 78 to 79 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 89: Number of supported projects of the Ukrainian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.1.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	1	0	1	1

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

674. See point 81 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 90: Number of supported projects of the Ukrainian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.3

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	2	2	6	3

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

675. See points 82 to 83 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 91: Number of supported projects of the Ukrainian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

676. See point 84 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 92: Number of supported projects of the Ukrainian national minority under the Sub-programme 2.4.2

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

677. See points 86 to 87 of the common information on Article 12.

Table 93: Number of supported projects of the Ukrainian national minority under the Sub-programme 3.5.1

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of supported projects	0	0	0	0

Source: the Minority Culture Fund

Article 12.1.b: to foster access in other languages to works produced in the Ukrainian language by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

678. See Article 12.1.a – by making available audiovisual works in the national minority languages with Slovak subtitles.

Article 12.1.c: to foster access in the Ukrainian language to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

679. Providing subtitles for a distribution title in the series Restored Classics: Amélie of Montmartre (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001).

Article 12.1.e: to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the Ukrainian language:

680. SNM – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník, Slovak Film Institute.

Article 12.1.f: to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of the Ukrainian language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

681. Cooperation with informal associations of emigrants from Ukraine in the implementation of the projections specified in Article 12.1.a in the years 2022-2023.

682. According to the Fund Act, the majority of the members of the Expert Council of the Ukrainian national minority culture is established on the basis of the nomination of cultural organizations of the Ukrainian national minority and subsequently the election of candidates for members of the Expert Councils by the gathering of cultural organizations of the Ukrainian national minority, who register in the register of cultural organizations managed by the Fund. See point 76 of the common information on Article 12.

Article 12.1.g: to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the Ukrainian language:

683. SNM – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník.

1.11.3.6 Article 13 – Economic and social life

684. See the common information on Article 13.

1.11.3.7 Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

685. See the common information on Article 14.

Article 14.a: to apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which the Ukrainian language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the Ukrainian language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education:

686. Valid Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Information.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

687. The Charter is available to the public on the Slov-Lex legislation portal in Slovak[59], Hungarian, Roma, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and German languages.[60] The Slovak version of the Charter is also available on the website of the Office of the Plenipotentiary for NM.[61]

688. Reports on the implementation of the Charter are published on the MFEA SR website[62] in Slovak. The page also contains reports of the Committee of Experts on Slovakia, opinions of the Slovak Government on these reports and resolutions of the CDM.

689. The results of the fifth monitoring cycle were discussed by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 11 November 2020 by approving the *Report on the progress and results of the fifth monitoring cycle of the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic*.[63] The Government of the Slovak Republic imposed on the relevant ministers, the Plenipotentiary for NM, the Plenipotentiary for RC and other relevant entities the obligation to study the results of the monitoring and the resolution of the CM, assess the possibility of its implementation and inform about the measures for its implementation. CNMEG and GCHR members, advisory bodies of the Slovak government in the field of human rights, discussed the material in question. The results of the fifth monitoring cycle were published in Slovak also on the MESRS SR website.[64]

690. The Slovak Republic submitted information on immediate action to the Council of Europe on 15 December 2020, based on documents from the relevant ministries. On 22 March 2021, the Committee of Experts adopted the *Evaluation of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Fifth Evaluation Report on the Slovak Republic*.[65] On June 16, 2021, CDM adopted a decision in which it took note of the Evaluation of the Committee of Experts and called on the state authorities to share it with the responsible authorities and entities. CNMEG discussed the Evaluation at the 41st meeting in May 2021.[66] Information on the fulfilment of obligations arising from the Charter and recommendations of the CDM is regularly discussed at CNMEG meetings in accordance with its Activity Plan.

[59] https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2001/588/20011229 (in Slovak)
[60] https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy-v-jazyku-narodnostnych-mensin (in minority languages)
[61] https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/ramcovy-dohovor-a-europska-charta/?csrt=17206844897107309282 (in Slovak)
[62] https://mzv.sk/sk/web/sk/diplomacia/temy/ludske-prava/narodnostne-mensiny-a-ochrana-mensinovych-jazykov (in Slovak)
[63] https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25320/1 (in Slovak)
[64] https://www.minedu.sk/23884-sk/dokumenty-a-materialy/ (in Slovak)
[65] https://rm.coe.int/slovakiaevaliria5-en/1680a26ef2
[66] https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/vybor-pre-narodnostne-mensiny-a-etnicke-skupiny/zasadnutia-vnmes/?csrt=9400757558776987912 (in Slovak)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- Act No. 300/1993 Coll.: NC SR Act No. 300/1993 Coll. on Name and Surname, as amended
- Act No. 564/2001 Coll.: Act No. 564/2001 Coll. on the Public Defender of Rights
- Act No. 596/2003 Coll.: Act No. 596/2003 Coll. on State Administration in Education and School Self-Government and on Amendments to Certain Acts
- Act on the use of national minority languages: Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities, as amended
- Action Plans: Action Plans to the Strategy of Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma until 2030 for 2022-2024
- Centre: Slovak National Centre for Human Rights
- CDM: Committee of Deputies of the Ministers of the Council of Europe
- CNMEG: Committee on National Minorities and Ethnic Groups of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality
- Constitution: Constitution of the Slovak Republic
- COLSAF: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
- CPC: Criminal Procedure Code of the Slovak Republic
- Decree: MESRS SR Decree No. 202/2022 Coll. of 3 June 2022, establishing the criteria for determining the maximum number of students in the first year of secondary schools
- Education Act: Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (Education Act) and on amendments to certain acts, as amended
- Evaluation Report: Evaluation Report on the Support of Cultures of National Minorities, the State of National Minority Education and the Use of Languages of National Minorities
- Fund: Fund for the Promotion of Culture of National Minorities
- Fund Act: Act No. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund for the Promotion of Culture of National Minorities and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended
- GCHR: The Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality
- Grant Scheme: Grant Scheme to Support Early Care and Early Intervention for Children Aged 0-6
- HLI: Hungarian language of instruction
- HSA: health support assistant
- HSAH: health support assistant in a hospital environment
- Charter: European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
- LAC: Legal Aid Centre
- Language Report: Report on the State of Use of Languages of National Minorities in the Slovak Republic
- Media Services Act: Act No. 264/2022 Coll. on Media Services and on Amendments to Certain Acts (Media Services Act)
- MESRS SR: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
- MFEA SR: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
- MoC SR: Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
- MoI SR: Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
- MRC: marginalized Roma communities
- MSHC: Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minority Affairs
- NC SR: National Council of the Slovak Republic
- NEP: National Education Programme
- NIEY: National Institute of Education and Youth
- Office of the Government: Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic

- Office of the Plenipotentiary for NM: The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for National Minorities
- Office of the Plenipotentiary for RC: The Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities
- Plenipotentiary for NM: Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for National Minorities
- Plenipotentiary for RC: Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities
- PRIM II: National Project Support for Pre-Primary Education of Children from Marginalized Roma Communities II
- Regulation No. 35/2023 Coll.: Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 35/2023 Coll., issuing a list of municipalities where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 15% of the population
- Regulation No. 221/1999 Coll.: Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 221/1999 Coll., issuing a list of municipalities where citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to a national minority make up at least 20 % of the population
- RICPaP: Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology
- RTVS: Radio and Television of Slovakia
- RVFA: Regional Veterinary and Food Administration
- SDE: socially disadvantaged environment
- Slovak Railways: Railways of the Slovak Republic
- SMI: short methodological inspirations
- SNM: Slovak National Museum
- Slovak Government: Government of the Slovak Republic
- State Language Act: Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language, as amended
- Structure: structure of the Fund's support activity for individual calendar years
- SVFA: State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic
- 2021 Census: 2021 Population and Housing Census
- 2030 Strategy: Strategy of Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma until 2030