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SIXTH EVALUATION REPORT ON THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

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Adopted on 12 June 2025

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages provides for a control mechanism to evaluate how the Charter is applied in a state party with a view to, where necessary, making recommendations for improving its legislation, policy and practices. The central element of this procedure is the Committee of Experts, set up under Article 17 of the Charter. Its principal purpose is to report to the Committee of Ministers on its evaluation of compliance by a party with its undertakings, to examine the real situation of regional or minority languages in the state and, where appropriate, to encourage the party to gradually reach a higher level of commitment.

To facilitate this task, the Committee of Ministers adopted, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, an outline for periodical reports that a party is required to submit to the Secretary General. This outline requires the state to give an account of the concrete application of the Charter, the general policy for the languages protected under Part II and, in more precise terms, all measures that have been taken in application of the provisions chosen for each language protected under Part III of the Charter. The Committee of Experts' first task is therefore to examine the information contained in the periodical report for all the relevant regional or minority languages on the territory of the state concerned. The periodical report shall be made public by the state in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2.

The Committee of Experts' role is to evaluate the existing legal acts, regulations and real practice applied in each state for its regional or minority languages. It has established its working methods accordingly. The Committee of Experts gathers information from the respective authorities and from independent sources within the state, in order to obtain a fair and just overview of the real language situation. After a preliminary examination of a periodical report, the Committee of Experts submits, if necessary, a number of questions to each party to obtain supplementary information from the authorities on matters it considers insufficiently developed in the report itself. This written procedure is usually followed up by an on-the-spot visit by a delegation of the Committee of Experts to the state in question. During this visit the delegation meets bodies and associations whose work is closely related to the use of the relevant languages and consults the authorities on matters that have been brought to its attention. This information-gathering process is designed to enable the Committee of Experts to evaluate more effectively the application of the Charter in the state concerned.

Having concluded this process, the Committee of Experts adopts its own report. Once adopted by the Committee of Experts, this evaluation report is submitted to the authorities of the respective state party for possible comments within a given deadline. A confidential dialogue may, at this stage, be requested by this state party. The final evaluation report is made public, together with the comments, if any, which the authorities of the state party may have made. This document is then transmitted to the Committee of Ministers for the adoption of its recommendations to the state party, on the basis of the proposals for recommendations contained in the evaluation report.

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Executive Summary

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages entered into force in the Slovak Republic in 2002 and applies to the following languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian (Part II and Part III), Serbian and Russian (Part II), and Yiddish (Part II, non-territorial language).

The Slovak Republic continues to protect and promote the minority languages in the country in the framework of the national legislation for national minorities and enables their use in the fields of education, judicial authorities, administration, media or cultural life. In addition, the authorities have taken commendable measures concerning several minority languages that are relevant in accordance with Charter undertakings not yet ratified (e.g. in the field of administration). The authorities are therefore encouraged to consider ratifying the undertakings concerned. Nevertheless, several aspects of policies, legislation and practice in the Slovak Republic are not in conformity with the ratified Charter undertakings, resulting in a number of undertakings not being fulfilled. Legislation continues to contain provisions that exclude, restrict or discourage the use of minority languages, particularly in the fields of judiciary, administration, media and economic and social life.

In education, the situation of minority languages varies greatly. While Hungarian is used as a medium of instruction at all levels, the offer for most languages still does not fully correspond to the commitment to make available teaching in or of these languages as an integral part of the curriculum at different levels of education.

Before judicial authorities, minority languages are used to some extent in criminal and civil proceedings, but very rarely in administrative proceedings. However, it is still necessary to create a clear legal basis for the use of minority languages in criminal proceedings in conformity with the Charter.

Legal and practical measures need to be taken to ensure that the minority languages concerned can be used in oral and written communication with local branches of the state authorities, regional authorities, local authorities and public service providers in accordance with the ratified Charter undertakings.

Minority languages continue to have a very limited presence in public broadcasting and are largely absent from private broadcasting. Measures should be taken to extend the duration and regularity of broadcasting in minority languages and develop and implement a structured policy to encourage private television and radio broadcasters to broadcast programmes in minority languages as well as print media.

The authorities have provided support to museums of several national minorities and to cultural activities carried out by national minority organisations through subsidy programmes.

Oral communication in healthcare is possible in Hungarian due to the high number of speakers and vocational training of nurses in this language, which is unique to Hungarian. The use of Romani in healthcare is facilitated through projects. There is a need of a structured policy to ensure that social care facilities offer the possibility of using all languages covered by Part III.

Several minority languages are also promoted through cross-border co-operation. However, a more structured approach is needed in this field.

This sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts' on-the-spot visit to the Slovak Republic in April 2025.

Chapter 1 The situation of the regional or minority languages in the Slovak Republic – Recent developments and trends

1. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereafter referred to as "the Charter") is a treaty of the Council of Europe putting obligations on its states parties to protect and promote the country's traditional minority languages in all fields of public life: education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and transfrontier exchanges. The Slovak Republic signed the Charter on 20 February 2001 and ratified it on 5 September 2001. The Charter entered into force in the Slovak Republic on 1 January 2002 and applies to the following languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian (Part II and Part III), Serbian and Russian (Part II), and Yiddish (Part II, non-territorial language).

2. States parties are required to submit reports every five years[1] on the implementation of the Charter. On 28 February 2024, the authorities of the Slovak Republic submitted their sixth periodical report. This sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts is based on the information contained in the periodical report, additional information received from the authorities and statements made by representatives of the speakers of the minority languages during the on-the-spot visit (1-4 April 2025) and/or submitted in written form pursuant to Article 16.2 of the Charter.

3. Chapter 1 of this evaluation report focuses on the general developments and trends regarding the regional or minority languages in the Slovak Republic and the situation of these languages. It examines in particular the measures taken by the Slovak authorities to respond to the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers at the end of the fifth monitoring cycle and also highlights new issues. Chapter 2 provides a detailed overview of the state of implementation of each undertaking of the Slovak Republic in respect of the given language as well as the recommendations addressed to the Slovak authorities. On the basis of its evaluation, the Committee of Experts proposes, in Chapter 3, recommendations to the Committee of Ministers to be addressed to the Government of the Slovak Republic, as provided in Article 16.4 of the Charter. The Committee of Experts encourages the Slovak authorities to translate this report into the regional or minority languages with a view to supporting the authorities, organisations, advisory bodies and persons concerned in the process of fully implementing the Charter, in accordance with Articles 6 and 7.4.

4. This report is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts' on-the-spot visit to the Slovak Republic in April 2025. This evaluation report was adopted by the Committee of Experts on 12 June 2025.

1.1 General developments in policies, legislation and practice concerning the regional or minority languages in the Slovak Republic

General issues

Information about the Charter

5. To inform users of minority languages about the Charter provisions applying to their languages, the authorities, in co-operation with the Charter Secretariat, translated the Council of Europe's *Language Guides*[2] into Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian and distributed them to national minority organisations and the media. The Committee of Experts welcomes this initiative, which makes a valuable

[1] Article 15.1 of the Charter provides that states parties submit periodical reports every three years. However, following the entry into force of the reform of the monitoring mechanism of the ECRML on 1 July 2019, states parties are now to submit their reports every five years instead of every three years. See Committee of Ministers Decisions "Strengthening the monitoring mechanism of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages" (CM/Del/Dec(2018)1330/10.4e, para. 1.a.).

[2] Language Guides provide a reader-friendly overview of the Charter provisions applying to a particular minority language in that language.

contribution to the implementation of Article 6 and encourages the further dissemination of all Language Guides in minority languages of the Slovak Republic.

Ratification instrument

6. The Committee of Experts notes that the authorities have taken measures concerning several minority languages that are relevant in accordance with Charter undertakings not ratified (see paras. 27, 88, 98, 117, 130, 143). It welcomes these measures and encourages the authorities to consider ratifying the undertakings concerned.

Structured approach to the implementation of the Charter

7. Several aspects of policies, legislation and practice in the Slovak Republic are not in conformity with the ratified Charter undertakings, resulting into a number of undertakings not being entirely fulfilled. Legislation continues to contain provisions that exclude, restrict or discourage the use of minority languages (Article 7.2), particularly in the fields of administration, media, and economic and social life,[3] which the Committee of Experts will address in the relevant sections below. The Committee of Experts reiterates that the Charter creates the obligation to take "resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them" (Article 7.1.c). In its monitoring practice, the Committee of Experts has emphasised that "resolute action" includes, *inter alia*, the adoption and implementation of language-specific strategies and action plans on the application of the Charter. The fact that the situation of minority languages in the Slovak Republic is very diverse makes such language-specific planning all the more important. In this context, it is commendable that aspects relating to the promotion of the use of Romani are included in the "Strategy for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma until 2030". As part of its implementation, in 2021, the authorities adopted the "Vision for the Development of Roma Culture, Language and Identity Support" and an action plan. The Committee of Experts considers that there is a need to develop, implement and monitor a strategy and action plan for the promotion of the use of each minority language in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d).

8. In October 2024, the authorities established the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities as the successor to the Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups. It comprises representatives of the authorities and the national minorities. Furthermore, it includes the Chamber of National Minorities that is composed of only the representatives of the national minorities. According to its statute,[4] the Government Council may advise on the implementation of the Charter and could thus be an institutional framework for the elaboration of the aforementioned strategies and action plans (Article 7.4). The Committee of Experts looks forward that the Government Council, including the Chamber of National Minorities, will make an effective contribution to the promotion of the minority languages.

9. The elaboration of language-specific strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Charter also requires the development of links and co-ordination within/between groups using a minority language (Article 7.1.e). This could be largely ensured by the umbrella associations of the national minorities concerned, which, however, have limited administrative capacity and generally receive no institutional funding from the authorities. The Committee of Experts considers that the authorities should take measures to build the capacity of these associations, including to support the Government Council's work concerning the implementation of the Charter.[5]

Population and Housing Census 2021

10. A new census took place in the Slovak Republic in 2021. Regarding "nationality" (*národnost'*, i.e. ethnic affiliation), two questions were included in the questionnaire, one about the nationality of the

[3] Due to the mutual intelligibility of Czech with Slovak and the special status of Czech in accordance with Slovak legislation, the use of Czech in public life faces no legal barriers.
[4] In particular Articles 2.3, 3.1 and 3.4.
[5] See also Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Czechia, MIN-LANG(2024)4, para. 9.

respondent and the other about affiliation with a possible additional nationality. In practice, the sum of the census findings concerning single nationality and double nationality must be considered when determining the total number of persons belonging to a national minority. This is a commendable step that accommodates a proposal made by the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. Regarding language, the questionnaire included a single question on "mother tongue" (*materinský jazyk*) allowing only one answer and dismissed the question on the most frequently used language (*najčastejšie používaný jazyk*) from the 2011 census. This is regrettable, as it results in less information about the actual use of minority languages. In this respect, the Committee of Experts reiterates that "[i]n the sense of Article 1, the Charter concerns not only the [first language] speakers of the regional or minority languages, but the users of these languages in general[,] irrespective of their ethnicity"[6] and "irrespective of how the language skills were, or are being, acquired (mother tongue/first language acquisition, second language acquisition or other acquisition)."[7] In practical terms, people who are not fully proficient in a minority language can also benefit from Charter provisions, and some provisions can be enjoyed by people having no skills in a minority language (e.g. Article 7.1.g). The Committee of Experts invites the authorities to take these aspects into account when preparing future census questions on language. Furthermore, the Committee of Experts reiterates that census data should be complemented by sociolinguistic surveys or other means of collecting data concerning the use of minority languages and their geographic distribution, and it encourages the authorities to develop such tools and use them when planning their action to protect minority languages.

11. As regards "double nationality" and "mother tongue", respectively, the 2021 census had the following individual results: Bulgarian (1 552/907), Croatian (2 001/923), Czech (45 711/33 864), German (8 573/3 959), Hungarian (456 154/462 175), Polish (5 282/3 821), Romani (156 164/100 526), Russian (8 116/4 947), Ruthenian (63 556/38 679), Serbian (1 876/1 229) and Ukrainian (11 037/7 608).[8]

15% threshold for using minority languages

12. When depositing the instrument of ratification on 5 September 2001, the Slovak Republic declared with regard 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, shall refer to the municipalities in which the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minorities form at least 20% of the population, according to the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic N. 221/1999 Coll., dated 25 August 1999." This regulation was last updated in 2023 by 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, which reflected also the amendment to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities. While the declaration aims at all undertakings applying in the "territory in which the regional or minority language is used", the 15% threshold affects in practice primarily the implementation of undertakings under Article 10 and Article 13.2.c.

13. In accordance with the results of the 2021 census, the 15% threshold is reached by the Hungarian (517 municipalities or parts of municipalities), Ruthenian (142), Romani (121), Ukrainian (18) and German (two) minorities. However, the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Polish, Russian and Serbian minorities do not reach this threshold in any municipality or parts of a municipality, and the German and Ukrainian minorities in only a small part of the areas where these languages are traditionally used. The Committee of Experts notes that the reduction of the 20% threshold to 15% has not resolved the problem that national legislation leads to an unjustified exclusion or restriction relating to the use of several languages covered by the Charter (Article 7.2). In this context, the Committee of Experts reiterates again that the Charter undertakings entered into by the Slovak Republic need to be implemented in practice. Considering the demographic structure of some of the linguistic groups mentioned above, it is obvious that implementation cannot be based on a general percentage threshold, since it would be difficult to establish a single percentage

[6] Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Serbia, MIN-LANG(2023)3, para. 12; Third evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Serbia, ECRML(2016)1, para. 19.
[7] Outlines for the periodical reports on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to be presented by the States Parties, section A.2., CM(2019)69 final.
[8] See Sixth periodical report by the Slovak Republic on the application of the Charter, MIN-LANG (2024) PR2, para. 6.

threshold that could serve as a basis for applying the Charter to all minority languages. Given that the 15% threshold limits the application of the Charter and constitutes an insurmountable obstacle for several linguistic groups, the Committee of Experts invites the authorities to replace it with a more flexible arrangement. For example, the authorities, in co-operation with the representatives of the national minorities, could determine the areas in which each minority language is traditionally used, taking into account the situation of each language and the demographic structure of the area over a longer period than the ten-year census intervals. In these areas, the Charter undertakings and the measures currently based on the 15% threshold could be applied on a sustainable basis, without census-related fluctuations.[9]

Amendments to the State Language Act

14. The authorities are preparing a bill amending the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic, as amended (hereafter: State Language Act). During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed by representatives of various linguistic groups and the authorities that some of the planned amendments negatively affect areas covered by the Charter, in particular mandatorily prescribing the additional use of Slovak alongside other languages (e.g. minority languages) in public information and not providing a clear basis for the use of minority languages in public services (including in various areas of transport, communications and postal services).

15. As the bill has not yet been finalised, the Committee of Experts is not in a position to evaluate it. Nevertheless, the Committee of Experts reiterates again that the Charter obliges the authorities to take "resolute action" to promote the oral and written use of minority languages in public and private life. Taking resolute action implies that policies, legislation and practice must not discourage those who wish to use minority languages in public. However, it would discourage the use of minority languages if equivalent information in Slovak had to be added in additional areas. Therefore, the Committee of Experts calls on the authorities not to include provisions in the said bill that could directly or indirectly discourage the use of minority languages and hamper the application of the Charter. Furthermore, it calls on the authorities to consult the representatives of the minority language users on the bill.

Raising awareness of minority languages

16. In the previous monitoring cycle, the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers recommended that the authorities continue to raise awareness and promote tolerance in Slovak society as a whole vis-à-vis minority languages and the cultures they represent. The Committee of Experts received very little information from the authorities in this respect in the sixth monitoring cycle. It is unclear to what extent teaching content aimed at raising awareness of all minority languages is integrated into education, particularly into the educational area "Man and Society" and the cross-cutting topic "Multicultural Education". It is also uncertain whether the mass media integrate content raising awareness of all minority languages into programmes addressing the majority population (Article 7.3). The Committee of Experts recalls that the way a minority language is protected and promoted is also linked to its perception among majority language speakers. Therefore, awareness raising among the majority is of the utmost importance and requires constant efforts in both education and the media. The aim is for the majority population not only to be informed about, but to value the fact that minority languages form part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the state with their different languages and cultures. From this perspective, further steps are needed to promote awareness and tolerance towards the minority languages in the Slovak Republic. The authorities should continue to raise awareness of the general public in mainstream education, notably in the curricula, educational materials and teacher training, regarding the minority languages and their contribution to the cultural heritage. Media should be encouraged, while respecting their independence, to pay more attention to these languages and cultures as integral parts of the Slovak Republic's history and culture. In addition, awareness of minority languages should be raised as a component and as an expected result of journalist training, as well as of teacher training.[10]

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[9] See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Czechia, MIN-LANG(2024)4, para. 15; Recommendation CM/RecChL(2024)3 of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Czechia.

[10] See also Fourth evaluation report on Poland, MIN-LANG (2023)11, para. 27.

Use of the regional or minority languages in education

17. The situation of minority languages in education varies greatly. While Hungarian is used as a medium of instruction at all levels of education, the offer for most languages still does not fully correspond to the commitment to make available teaching in or of these languages an integral part of the curriculum at different levels of education. Shortcomings concern primarily a too low number of schools in the areas where minority languages are traditionally used, the lack of continuity between different educational levels and a too small proportion of the use of the minority language (number of lessons per week) in light of the ratified Charter undertaking. Furthermore, minority languages are hardly used in pre-school education. Apart from Hungarian and Romani, there is no teaching in or of minority languages in vocational education. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of users of minority languages expressed concern about the lack of initiative of municipalities in organising minority language education and sometimes a lack of financial means. The Committee of Experts was also informed that in some cases the organisation of minority language education is made dependent on minimum numbers of pupils.

18. The Committee of Experts reiterates that several of the undertakings under Article 8 require the authorities to provide minority language education at the different levels of education as an integral part of the curriculum for all pupils in the area, regardless of requests from families or minimum numbers of pupils.[11] This implies that the education has to be planned and organised on the initiative of the authorities. It is also necessary to ensure the availability and continuity of such teaching from pre-school to technical and vocational level in all geographical areas where the minority languages are used.[12] Moreover, in those cases where (at least) a substantial part of education must be provided in the minority language,[13] the proportion of minority language instruction should be at least 50%. In order to ensure a structured approach to minority language education, the national authorities should initiate, coordinate and monitor implementation by, *inter alia*, identifying and approaching the schools concerned in co-operation with the local authorities, providing financial support to the local authorities and ensuring the training of teachers.

19. The Committee of Experts further reiterates that more awareness raising among parents and pupils about the benefits of, and opportunities for, minority language education is needed. This information should be provided regularly, as early as possible (for example, as part of an information package for parents of new-born children) and underline the value of minority languages for the Slovak society as a whole and the possibilities that should be available, in line with the Charter, to make use of them in various areas of public life, such as relations with administrative authorities, media, or economic and social life.

20. Teacher training (Article 8.1.h) is organised for teachers teaching in Hungarian. The basic and further training of teachers for subject-teaching in Ruthenian and Ukrainian, for which a “substantial part of education” has to be made available (bilingual education), is still not yet in place. Steps are being taken to develop training of Romani language teachers.

21. The authorities do not offer minority languages as subjects of adult or continuing education (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fii) or arrange for such courses in Hungarian (Article 8.1.fi). The Committee of Experts stresses that such courses must actually be made available, since the undertakings ratified require the authorities “to offer” (Article 8.1.fii) or “to arrange for the provision” (Article 8.1.fi) of these courses.

22. The State School Inspection is the main supervisory body responsible for monitoring the quality of education. It carries out its activities through school inspectors and takes measures to correct the situation if any deficiencies are identified. While it publishes its findings on its website as summary reports and reports from individual schools and school facilities, these reports do not usually deal specifically with the minority languages. The Committee of Experts underlines that the regular publication of reports on the quality of minority language education provide the opportunity to assess such education over time, thereby making it possible to adjust methods and measures according to the experiences acquired through the reports. Publication of the reports makes the monitoring system transparent and creates opportunities for

[11] Articles 8.1.ai, 8.1.aii, 8.1.bi, 8.1.bii, 8.1.biii, 8.1.ci, 8.1.cii, 8.1.ciii, 8.1.di, 8.1.dii, 8.1.diii.
[12] See Fourth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the Slovak Republic, ECRML(2016)2, para. 319.
[13] Articles 8.1.aii, 8.1.aiii, 8.1.bii, 8.1.cii, 8.1.dii.

representatives of minority language speakers and civil society to take part in a public discussion on the development of minority language education, based on the measures taken and progress achieved (Article 8.1.i).[14]

23. The teaching of the history and culture reflected by the minority languages (Article 8.1.g) is organised in schools providing minority language education. However, there are no such courses for pupils belonging to the majority population, as required by this undertaking.

24. The organisation of Romani-language education is situated within a broader debate about whether education in, or the teaching of, Romani contributes to the long-standing issue of segregation of Roma children.[15] During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts received reports that avoiding segregation is used by authorities either as a reason not to organise teaching of Romani, or to organise such teaching in schools that are already, *de facto* segregated. In the view of the Committee of Experts, the teaching in or of Romani must not be used as a means of segregation, nor should concerns about segregation be used as a pretext to avoid organising such teaching. Education in or teaching of Romani should be implemented in an inclusive manner, made available to non-Roma pupils, and designed to prevent and oppose any form of segregation.[16] The Committee of Experts notes the legislative and policy measures[17] taken by the authorities to eradicate segregation and support inclusive education, and considers that they should be strengthened.[18]

Use of the regional or minority languages by judicial authorities

25. The Code of Criminal Procedure[19] still provides that if the accused declares not to speak the language of the proceedings, he/she has the right to an interpreter and translator. This also applies if the legal representative of the accused, suspect, victim, interested party or witness does not speak the language of the proceedings. According to the authorities, once such a declaration is made, the accused's language proficiency is not examined, and an interpreter or translator must be assigned. In accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure, an interpreter or translator must also be appointed if during the proceedings the authorities find that, regardless of the initial declaration, the accused cannot sufficiently understand the language used.[20]

26. The Committee of Experts reiterates that Article 9.1.aii guarantees the accused the right to use her/his minority language.[21] To be effective, this right cannot be conditioned on the inability to speak Slovak, also keeping in mind that users of minority languages usually master Slovak. In its present wording, the Code of Criminal Procedure therefore does not guarantee the right to use the respective minority language. This circumstance is not remedied by the fact that the statements of the accused regarding her/his language proficiency are not "examined" and checked for their truthfulness. The implementation of Article 9.1.aii cannot rely on a tacit encouragement of users of minority languages to make inaccurate declarations concerning their (in)ability to speak Slovak.[22] The Committee of Experts reiterates its recommendation

[14] See Sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Germany, CM(2018)142, para. 15.
[15] Many Roma children continue to be placed in special schools and classes for pupils with "mild mental disabilities" or are segregated into separate classrooms and schools within mainstream education. This segregation often results from broader spatial segregation or from parents' decisions to withdraw non-Roma children from schools attended by Roma pupils. Various legal challenges have been brought against this practice at both national and European levels. See Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Fifth Opinion on the Slovak Republic, ACFC/OP/V(2022)8, paras. 205-224; Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Memorandum on the human rights of Roma in the Slovak Republic, paras. 15-17.
[16] See on this matter: Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), Feasibility study on desegregation and inclusion policies and practices in the field of education for Roma and Traveller children, CDADI(2024)19rev, pp. 58-59; The educational inclusion of Romani children: a policy experimentation. Handbook for participating schools and teachers, pp. 7-8.
[17] See Sixth periodical report by the Slovak Republic on the application of the Charter, MIN-LANG (2024) PR2, para. 486.
[18] See Third evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the Slovak Republic, ECRML(2013)1, para. 522.
[19] Section 2(20) of the Code of Criminal Procedure: "If the accused, his/her legal representative, suspect, victim, interested party or witness declares that he/she does not know the language in which the proceedings are conducted, he/she shall have the right to an interpreter and a translator."
[20] See Sixth periodical report by the Slovak Republic on the application of the Charter, MIN-LANG (2024) PR2, paras. 45-49.
[21] See First evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Croatia, ECRML(2001)2, para. 62.
[22] See also Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Czechia, MIN-LANG(2024)4, para. 41.

made in the previous monitoring cycle that there is a need to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to bring it into conformity with the Charter.[23]

27. At the same time, the Committee of Experts appreciates that the present wording of Section 2(20) of the Code of Criminal Procedure addresses not only the accused, but all persons involved in criminal proceedings. This aspect goes beyond the scope of application of Article 9.1.aii and would be relevant under Article 9.1.ai. Therefore, the Committee of Experts invites the authorities to consider accepting the undertaking under Article 9.1.ai for all the languages protected under Part III of the Charter.[24]

28. In civil proceedings, § 155 of Act No. 160/2015 Coll. (Code of Civil Procedure) regulates the right of every person to speak before a court in their "mother tongue" or in a language they understand, with interpretation costs covered by the court (§ 155(2)). This provision applies both to the conduct of the proceedings and to the submission of documents in the person's "mother tongue" or a language they understand, which are then translated at the state's expense (Article 9.1.d of the Charter). A similar provision is included in Act No. 162/2015 Coll. (Code of Administrative Procedure) for administrative court proceedings. Minority languages are used to some extent in criminal and civil proceedings,[25] but very rarely in administrative proceedings.

Use of the regional or minority languages by administrative authorities and public services

29. Administrative divisions have not constituted an obstacle to the promotion of minority languages during the sixth monitoring cycle (Article 7.1.b).

30. Persons belonging to the Czech minority can submit requests in Czech to any administrative authority in the Slovak Republic due to the mutual intelligibility with Slovak. According to the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities (§ 2(3)), citizens belonging to a national minority (other than Czech) have the right to use their language in oral and written communication with local state administration bodies (district offices) in municipalities where they constitute at least 15% of the population.[26] In practice, only the Hungarian and Ruthenian minorities meet this requirement. However, this provision does not allow users of Romani, Ukrainian and German residing in municipalities where the respective national minority meets the 15% threshold, but where no national authorities are located, to use the minority language in communication with those local branches of national authorities that have jurisdiction over the municipalities. Furthermore, already owing to the 15 % threshold as such, users of Bulgarian, Croatian and Polish cannot submit oral or written applications to local branches of the state authorities[27] and receive a reply in these languages, as required by Article 10.1.aiii.

31. As regards the regional level (self-governing regions/higher territorial units), all self-governing region capitals are cities where no national minority reaches the 15 % threshold. Consequently, there is no domestic legal right to use minority languages in official communication at the regional level (Article 10.2.b), nor do regional authorities publish their official documents also in these languages (Article 10.2.c).

32. Hungarian, Ruthenian, Romani, Ukrainian and German may be used in communication with certain local authorities. In practice, Hungarian and to a limited extent Ruthenian are used mainly in oral communication with local authorities, in particular in those municipalities where their users represent a more significant share. Written submissions in Hungarian occur mainly in municipalities where the Hungarian minority forms an absolute majority of the population. Minority languages may be used in debates of local

[23] See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the Slovak Republic, CM(2019)126, para. 30.
[24] See also Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Czechia, MIN-LANG(2024)4, para. 41.
[25] See Sixth periodical report by the Slovak Republic on the application of the Charter, MIN-LANG (2024) PR2, para. 50.
[26] The Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities provides in § 2(1): "If citizens of the Slovak Republic who are persons belonging to a national minority and who permanently reside in a given municipality make up at least 15% of the population of the municipality according to two consecutive censuses, they have the right to use the language of the minority in official communication in that municipality."
[27] Local state administration authorities in the Slovak Republic include district offices, labour, social affairs and family offices, tax offices, customs offices, regional veterinary and food administrations, regional public health offices and state archives. District Offices act as local state administration authorities performing state administration (e.g. in the fields of agriculture, forestry, hunting, land management, trade business).

assemblies,[28] which in practice also only happens in Hungarian and Ruthenian. The translation of official documents largely depends on the size and initiative of the municipality. Users of Bulgarian, Croatian and Polish do not have a domestic legal right to use their language in written or oral communication with local authorities.

33. Place names in Hungarian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian and German appear mainly on signs marking the entrance and exit of a settlement. On street name signs, Hungarian is also used. Furthermore, railway stations/stops signpost also place names in Hungarian and Ruthenian. The Committee of Experts reiterates its observations made in the previous evaluation reports that the term "place names" ("*toponymie"* in the French version of the Charter) within the meaning of the Charter concerns not only the name of the settlement, but all topographical names in that municipality that can be officially used, for example in texts produced by the local authority (e.g. documents, forms, public relations material, websites) or in signage (e.g. street name signs, signposts and public transport signs, inscriptions for tourists). Therefore, the authorities should use traditional place names in minority languages in additional domains, but also in additional places. In this context, it must also be taken into account that place name signs in minority languages that are still standing in municipalities where the respective national minority met the threshold in the past, but no longer reached it in the 2021 census, are planned to be ultimately removed. The Committee of Experts strongly recommends the authorities not to remove the signs concerned, as it would result in a further decrease in the visibility of minority languages.

34. The Committee of Experts welcomes the fact that in many municipalities the previous smaller place name signs, on which the name in the minority language was written in smaller letters, have been replaced by signs on which the names in the minority languages and in Slovak appear in similar design. However, not all older place name signs have been replaced. As they do not comply with one of the purposes of Article 10.2.g, which is to give the minority language public visibility, the authorities are encouraged to complete the replacement of the signs in question.

35. As far as public services are concerned, the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities (§ 2(3)) provides that citizens belonging to a national minority have the right to use their language in oral and written communication with legal entities established by territorial self-government in municipalities[29] where they constitute at least 15% of the population. It is not clear to what extent this provision covers all public services in the sense of Article 10.3 of the Charter. In practice, mainly Hungarian is used in communication with public service providers. However, this is primarily a reflection of the high number of users of Hungarian rather than of a structured approach to enabling the use of minority languages in this field. While the (state-owned) Railways of the Slovak Republic uses place names in some minority languages on signs, it does not use minority languages in applications or oral announcements. The Committee of Experts reiterates that Article 10.3 concerns public services such as railways, urban transport, electricity, water and gas, cleaning and sanitation, telephone services, refuse collection and disposal, sporting facilities or entertainment venues, even when provided by private companies on behalf of the public authorities.[30]

36. In conclusion, there is a need for the authorities to take legal and practical measures to ensure that the minority languages concerned can be used in oral and written communication with local branches of the state authorities, regional authorities, local authorities and public service providers in accordance with the ratified Charter undertakings. Practical measures should comprise the introduction of procedures facilitating the recruitment or allocation of officials (see Article 10.4.c) able to work in the minority languages, support to regional and local authorities for the publication of their official documents in these languages and the encouragement of users of minority languages to use them – including in written form – in communication with authorities.

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[28] According to § 3(1), (2) of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities.
[29] Legal entities established by municipalities and self-governing regions: e.g. social services, municipal services, property management, technical services, healthcare, tourism, recreation and sports, housing management, public and communal works, telecommunications, vocational education, forestry and culture.
[30] See Fourth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the Slovak Republic, ECRML(2016)2, para. 150; Sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Germany, CM(2018)142, para. 17.

Use of the regional or minority languages in the media

37. In accordance with the 2024 Act on Slovak Television and Radio (§ 6), Slovak Television and Radio (Slovenská televízia a rozhlas, STVR) is obliged to broadcast at least 500 hours of programming for all national minorities combined on television each year. In practice, the broadcast duration for an individual national minority depends on the number of people who identified themselves as belonging to that national minority in the census. Currently, the broadcast duration *in minority languages* is less than 500 hours per year.[31] Furthermore, broadcasts in the minority languages, including in Hungarian, are too short and they are not broadcast frequently enough. In the case of Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Polish and Ukrainian, the total number of hours per year ranges from two to eight. The allocated time includes reruns, and the programmes are broadcast outside prime time. While the total annual broadcast duration on public radio is higher for all languages compared to television, reaching daily periodicity for Hungarian, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian, there is still no adequate provision for Bulgarian, Croatian, German and Polish. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the public broadcast media stressed that there is a need to amend the legislation to ensure that public broadcasters produce and broadcast a sufficient amount of content in the minority languages.

38. The Committee of Experts regrets that minority languages continue to have a very limited presence in public broadcasting. As the Committee of Experts found in its previous evaluation reports, the broadcast duration is too short and the periodicity too infrequent for all languages, in particular Bulgarian, Croatian, German and Polish. These programmes do not make a sufficient contribution to the promotion of the use of minority languages and therefore do not meet the requirements of the Charter.[32] Furthermore, the Committee of Experts notes that the calculation key applied for the allocation of broadcast time, which is based on the size of national minorities, is not sufficiently adapted to the Charter. In the current approach, minority languages are seen as a matter for national minorities alone, but not as an integral part of the cultural heritage of the country as a whole. However, in order to follow a television or radio programme in a minority language and benefit from Article 11.1.aiii, it is not necessary to belong to a national minority, but to have some proficiency in that language. Considering its evaluation in the previous monitoring cycles and the information obtained during the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts considers that that there is a need for the authorities to change the current system of minority language broadcasting, including by amending the relevant legislation as needed, with a view to allocating to each minority language time slots for a television programme and a radio programme to be broadcast at more frequent intervals and of a sufficient duration.[33] The broadcast duration should enable the programmes to cover content from various genres such as local and national news, entertainment and culture. In addition, they should address different generations, including children and young people to support language learning, use and transmission, and be accessible, including on the internet.

39. Minority languages are almost absent from private broadcasting. Considering the undertakings in this field, it is necessary that the authorities develop and implement a structured policy to encourage private television and radio broadcasters to broadcast programmes in minority languages, for example through a subsidy programme or license requirements. Furthermore, although financial assistance may be applied to audiovisual productions in minority languages (Article 11.1.fii), there is in practice a lack of support to such productions (other than television and radio), in accordance with Article 11.1.d. The Committee of Experts notes in this context that the production of sufficient digital media content (e.g. podcasts, video) in minority languages is crucial, *inter alia*, to encourage and support the learning and use of minority languages among younger people.

40. The State Language Act (§ 5(1)) continues to establish a general obligation for subtitling in Slovak for all television programmes broadcast in a language other than Slovak, except in cases where the same programme is broadcast in Slovak before or after the minority-language broadcast. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the media and the users of minority languages, in particular Hungarian, underlined

[31] For example, the broadcast time allocated to the Roma minority comprises content in Slovak.
[32] See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the Slovak Republic, CM(2019)126, paras. 37-38.
[33] See also Seventh evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Croatia, MIN-LANG (2024) 5, paras. 80-82; Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on Serbia, MIN-LANG (2023) 3, paras. 54-55.

that the requirement to subtitle in Slovak makes live broadcasts (e.g. interviews) largely impossible. The Committee of Experts reiterates that the obligation to subtitle in Slovak and the resulting inability to broadcast live not only limits the attractivity of programmes in minority languages, but also constitutes an unjustified restriction to the use of such languages. Consequently, it is necessary to amend the legislation so as to enable live broadcasting in minority languages, including by use of modern technology.

41. Newspapers within the meaning of the Charter (published at least weekly) exist only in Hungarian. In accordance with their relevant undertaking (Article 11.1.ei), the authorities should support the creation of newspapers in the languages concerned (including online), for example through the further development of existing magazines.

42. The Media Services Council is in charge of promoting the public interest in the fields of broadcasting, retransmission, on-demand audio-visual media services, content-sharing platforms and internet search engine and, among other things, to protect freedom of expression. The Committee of Experts understands that the Media Services Council is the relevant body in accordance with Article 11.3. According to the authorities, a person belonging to the Hungarian minority is a member of the Media Services Council, but it is not clear if this person officially represents the users of Hungarian in this body. The interests of the users of Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Ukrainian are not represented or taken into account within the Media Services Council.

Use of the regional or minority languages in cultural activities and facilities

43. The authorities have provided support to cultural activities carried out by national minority organisations through subsidy programmes. However, the funded activities corresponded only partially to the Slovak undertakings under Article 12. Furthermore, the Committee of Experts was informed during the on-the-spot visit that considerable delays persist in receiving the funds granted for various projects, and their duration remains limited to one year. This affects the ability of the minority associations to adequately plan and implement their activities. Moreover, the application procedure is reportedly complex, further increasing the difficulty for the national minority association.

44. In addition to project activities, the authorities support museums of individual national minorities. For most minority languages, these museums are the main cultural facilities using minority languages. However, in view of Article 12.1.d, the Committee of Experts considers that there is a need to ensure that also mainstream bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing. This concerns notably municipalities in the areas where minority languages are traditionally used.

45. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of different linguistic groups expressed concern about plans to unify the different museums of national minorities, which are currently separate structures under the auspices of the Slovak National Museum, into a single museum, which would transform the individual museums into departments without legal personality of their own. According to the interlocutors, such a restructuring would have a negative impact, among other things, on the ability of the museums to organise projects and pursue their co-operation with external partners, including abroad. However, representatives of the national authorities informed the Committee of Experts that there were currently no restructuring plans. The Committee of Experts observes that the current network of national minority museums constitutes a good practice in Europe and that these museums play an important role in the application of the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts encourages the authorities to maintain the museums as separate structures, in co-operation with the speakers.

46. The establishment of cultural relations between the groups using minority languages and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic has to some extent been supported by the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups (Article 7.1.e). The new Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities, especially its Chamber of National Minorities, is expected to continue this work. Furthermore, the Fund for the Support of the Culture of National Minorities may support the establishment of cultural relations between linguistic groups. However, it is unclear what relevant activities have been carried out during the sixth monitoring cycle.

Use of the regional or minority languages in economic and social life

47. In the sixth monitoring cycle, the Committee of Experts has not received reports of practices designed at discouraging the use of any minority language in connection with economic or social activities (Article 13.1.c).

48. Minority languages can be used in instructions for the use of products and installations in accordance with Article 13.1.a.[34] However, the State Language Act provides in Article 8(2) that all documents and written communication with legal effect in the employment or a similar working relationship shall be executed in the state language; in addition to the version in the state language, a version in another language that is identical in content can also be executed. As the Committee of Experts noted in the fifth monitoring cycle, this provision is not in conformity with Article 13.1.a of the Charter whose objective is, *inter alia,* to ensure that the legislation does not limit the use minority languages in documents relating to social and economic life, including contracts of employment. Currently, a contract of employment cannot be drafted in a minority language only. This, however, is the purpose of the Charter provision, as otherwise a contract in a minority language would not have any significance in its own right. The Committee of Experts reiterates that the legal framework limits the use of minority languages in contracts of employment and needs to be amended. Furthermore, there remains a need for the Slovak Republic to prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of minority languages, at least between users of the same language, in accordance with their undertaking under Article 13.1.b.

49. As regards the use of minority languages by social care facilities (Article 13.2.c), the authorities state that, in accordance with the State Language Act, "[s]taff members are not required to speak … the language of a national minority"[35] and that a patient or client who belongs 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 relations according to a special regulation, i.e. where the 15% threshold is met. In practice, oral communication in the healthcare sector is possible in Hungarian due to the high number of users and vocational training in this language, and the use of Romani is facilitated through projects. According to the authorities, no other minority language is used by social care facilities.

50. The Committee of Experts reiterates that Article 13.2.c obliges the authorities *to ensure* that social care facilities offer the possibility of using the minority languages concerned, which requires a structured policy. As part of such a policy, the national authorities should identify the social care facilities located in the areas where the languages concerned are used, inform them of this obligation, and support them taking the necessary practical measures to implement it. In particular, the authorities should ensure in the framework of their commitments under Article 8.1.d that a sufficient number of medical and social care staff is trained in the minority languages and that the facilities have linguistically qualified staff at their disposal on a sustainable basis. In addition, the use of minority languages by social care facilities should be monitored.

Use of the regional or minority languages in transfrontier exchanges

51. The use of some minority languages is promoted in the framework of bilateral agreements, even though the authorities have provided few examples of activities carried out. There exists no structured approach to the promotion of minority languages in the context of cross-border co-operation between local and regional authorities.

[34] See Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the Slovak Republic, CM(2019)126, para. 45.
[35] Sixth periodical report of the Slovak Republic on the application of the Charter, MIN-LANG(2024)PR2, p. 23.

1.2 The situation of the individual regional or minority languages in the Slovak Republic

Bulgarian (Part II and Part III language)

52. As far as education is concerned, Bulgarian is the medium of instruction at the Christo Botev Private Kindergarten, the Christo Botev Private Primary School and the Christo Botev Private Grammar School in Bratislava. This school facility was founded by the Republic of Bulgaria and is included in the network of schools of the Slovak Republic (Articles 7.1.f, 8.1.aiii, 8.1.biii, 8.1.ciii). However, Bulgarian is not taught in technical and vocational education (Article 8.1.diii). Bulgarian can be studied at the universities of Bratislava and Banská Bystrica (Articles 7.1.h, 8.1.eii). However, there is no indication that the authorities support the basic and further training of teachers of Bulgarian (Article 8.1.h). The Bulgarian Cultural Institute in Bratislava offers Bulgarian language courses. Given that this institute is an institution of Bulgaria and that the Slovak authorities do not fund its language courses (which also do not extend to continuing education), this offer does not fulfil the Slovak Republic's undertaking to offer Bulgarian as a subject of adult and continuing education (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fii). Furthermore, the progress of Bulgarian-language education is not specifically monitored (Article 8.1.i). The history and culture which is reflected by Bulgarian is not taught to all pupils in the area where this language is used (Article 8.1.g).

53. As regards judicial authorities, interpretation involving Bulgarian has been provided in criminal proceedings (Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii) and in civil proceedings, where also translation was provided (Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii). Bulgarian was not used in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle.

54. The use of Bulgarian in the field of administrative authorities is limited to very few domains, namely the possibility to adopt and use family names in Bulgarian (Article 10.5) and to obtain translation and interpretation involving Bulgarian on an ad-hoc basis at the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, which is not yet widely used (Article 10.4.a). As the Bulgarian minority does not reach the 15% threshold in any municipality, the authorities have not taken more general measures to ensure that Bulgarian can be used in contacts with, and by, local branches of the state authorities, regional authorities, local authorities and public service providers in accordance with the ratified Charter undertakings.[36]

55. In the broadcast media, STVR broadcasts a public radio programme (four hours/year) and a public television programme (two hours/year) in Bulgarian (Article 11.1.aiii). Private radio programmes (Article 11.1.bii) or television programmes (Article 11.1.cii) are not broadcast in this language. The Committee of Experts has not been informed of obstacles to the direct reception and retransmission of radio and television broadcasts in Bulgarian from abroad (Article 11.2). The production of audio and audiovisual works in Bulgarian has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle (Articles 11.1.d). As regards print media, there is no daily or weekly newspaper in Bulgarian (Article 11.1.ei).

56. The authorities have provided little information about support to cultural activities using Bulgarian (Article 12.1.a). In the sixth monitoring cycle, two audiovisual works in Bulgarian were distributed with Slovak subtitles or dubbing. Moreover, the Bulgarian Film Festival 2024 was organised at the Slovak Film Institute to present contemporary Bulgarian cinema in Bulgarian with subtitles (Article 12.1.b). The Expert Council on Bulgarian national minority culture (Fund for the Support of the Culture of National Minorities) involves representatives of the Bulgarian minority (Article 12.1.f). A museum dedicated to the Bulgarian minority, similar to those of other national minorities, or another body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Bulgarian has not been established (Article 12.1.g). There is no indication that additional activities have been supported in accordance with the ratified Charter undertakings.[37]

57. As regards economic and social life, the authorities do not ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of Bulgarian (Article 13.2.c).

[36] Articles 10.1.aiii, 10.2.b, 10.2.c, 10.2.d, 10.2.f, 10.2.g, 10.3.c, 10.4.a, 10.4.c.
[37] Articles 12.1.c, 12.1.d, 12.1.e, 12.2, 12.3.

58. In co-operation with Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Film Festival was organised at the Slovak Film Institute in 2024 (Article 7.1.i). Furthermore, the Slovak Republic and Bulgaria co-operate with regard to the Christo Botev Private Kindergarten, Primary School and Grammar School in Bratislava. Activities fostering contacts between users of Bulgarian have also been carried out in the framework of the Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Education, Science and Culture between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Bulgaria and the Agreement on Co-operation between the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria on Co-operation in the field of Culture (Article 14.a).

59. The Bulgarian minority is represented by a member of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (Article 7.4). At present, there is not yet a strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Bulgarian in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d).

60. Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Bulgarian, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[38]

Croatian (Part II and Part III language)

61. Croatian is traditionally used near Bratislava in the municipalities of Chorvátsky Grob, Čunovo, Devínska Nová Ves and Jarovce. This language has only a very limited presence in education (Article 7.1.f). Croatian is not used in pre-school education (Article 8.1.aiii) and not taught in primary education (Article 8.1.biii). At secondary level, Croatian is taught at the Private Slavic Grammar School in Bratislava (Article 8.1.ciii), but it is not taught in technical and vocational education (Article 8.1.diii). Croatian can be studied at the University of Bratislava (Article 7.1.h, 8.1.eii). However, there is no indication that the authorities support the basic and further training of teachers of Croatian (Article 8.1.h). The authorities do not support an offer of Croatian as a subject of adult and continuing education (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fii). Furthermore, the progress of Croatian-language education is not specifically monitored (Article 8.1.i). The history and culture which is reflected by Croatian is not taught to all pupils in the area where this language is used (Article 8.1.g).

62. As regards judicial authorities, interpretation involving Croatian has been provided in criminal proceedings (Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii) and in civil proceedings, where also translation was provided (Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii). Croatian was not used in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle.

63. The use of Croatian in the field of administrative authorities is limited to very few domains, namely the possibility to adopt and use family names in Croatian (Article 10.5) and to obtain translation and interpretation involving Croatian on an ad-hoc basis at the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (Article 10.4.a), which is not yet widely used. As the Croatian minority does not reach the 15% threshold in any municipality, the authorities have not taken more general measures to ensure that Croatian can be used in contacts with, and by, local branches of the state authorities, regional authorities, local authorities and public service providers in accordance with the ratified Charter undertakings.[39] In addition, place names in Croatian are not officially used (Article 10.2.g), including in places whose Slovak name refers to the Croatian population (*Chorvátsky* Grob).

64. In the broadcast media, STVR broadcasts a public radio programme (four hours/year) and a public television programme (two hours/year) in Croatian (Article 11.1.aiii). Private radio programmes (Article 11.1.bii) or television programmes (Article 11.1.cii) are not broadcast in this language. The Committee of Experts has not been informed of obstacles to the direct reception and retransmission of radio and television broadcasts in Croatian from abroad (Article 11.2). The production of audio and audiovisual works in

[38] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7,13), 7.3 (para. 16), 9.1.d (para. 28), 10.4.c (para. 36), 11.1.fii (para. 39), 11.3 (para. 42), 13.1.a (para. 48), 13.1.b (para. 48), 13.1.c (para. 47).
[39] Articles 10.1.aiii, 10.2.b, 10.2.c, 10.2.d, 10.2.f, 10.3.c, 10.4.a, 10.4.c, 10.5.

Croatian has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle (Article 11.1.d). As regards print media, there is no daily or weekly newspaper in Croatian (Article 11.1.ei).

65. In the field of culture, the "Slovak National Museum – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava" has organised activities related to the folk traditions of the Croatian minority. The Expert Council on Croatian national minority culture involves representatives of the Croatian minority (Article 12.1.f). However, there is no information about support by the authorities to additional cultural activities and facilities using Croatian in the sixth monitoring cycle (Article 12.1.a). The "Slovak National Museum – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava" has Croatian-speaking staff at its disposal and is responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Croatian (Articles 12.1.e, 12.1.g). Apart from this museum, there is no indication that bodies organising or supporting cultural activities, including municipalities where Croatian is traditionally used, incorporate the knowledge and use of the Croatian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing (Article 12.1.d). In the sixth monitoring cycle, five audiovisual works in Croatian were distributed with Slovak subtitles and dubbing. However, there has been neither support to subtitling in Croatian, nor to translation, dubbing or post-synchronisation of cultural works involving this language (Articles 12.1.b, 12.1.c). Cultural activities and facilities in Croatian have not been supported outside the area where this language is traditionally used (Article 12.2). No measures have been taken to include the Croatian language and culture in cultural policy abroad (Article 12.3).

66. As regards economic and social life, the authorities do not ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of Croatian (Article 13.2.c).

67. In the field of cross-border co-operation (Article 7.1.i), several activities fostering contacts between users of Croatian have been carried out in the framework of bilateral agreements with Croatia (Article 14.a), including scholarships for minority pupils and students, language seminars/summer courses, teacher and lecturer exchanges, and co-operation in cultural and academic matters.

68. The Croatian minority is represented by a member of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (Article 7.4). At present, there is not yet a strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Croatian in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d).

69. Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Croatian, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[40]

Czech (Part II and Part III language)

70. The authorities emphasize "that the relatedness and intelligibility of the [Czech] language [with Slovak] is almost absolute"[41] and have for this reason not taken measures implementing the Charter in different fields of public life. In particular, Czech is not used or taught at any level of education in accordance with the ratified Charter undertakings.[42] The Committee of Experts reminds the authorities that they have ratified Part III for Czech as a language in its own right. It therefore invites the authorities to start a procedure to take resolute action to promote the use of Czech in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language, especially in education.

71. As regards the judiciary, the authorities state that interpretation involving Czech has been provided in criminal proceedings (Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii) and in civil proceedings, where also translation was provided (Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii). Czech was not used in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle.

[40] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para.29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13), 7.3 (para. 16), 9.1.d (para. 28), 11.1.fii (para. 39), 11.3 (para. 42), 13.1.a (para. 48), 13.1.b (para. 48), 13.1.c (para. 47).
[41] Sixth periodical report of the Slovak Republic on the application of the Charter, MIN-LANG(2024)PR2, p. 30.
[42] Articles 7.1.f, 7.1.g, 7.1.h, 8.1.aiii, 8.1.biii, 8.1.ciii, 8.1.diii, 8.1.eii, 8.1.fii, 8.1.g, 8.1.h, 8.1.i.

72. Although the Czech minority does not reach the 15% threshold in any municipality, persons belonging to this minority can submit requests in Czech to any administrative authority in the Slovak Republic due to the mutual intelligibility with Slovak (Articles 10.1.aiii, 10.2.b). However, for the same reason, the authorities usually respond to such submissions only in Slovak, which is not in conformity with Article 10.1.aiii. Translation and interpretation involving Czech is rather provided on an ad-hoc basis only, including by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (Article 10.4.a). The authorities have no information about the number of oral or written submissions in Czech, including to public service providers (Article 10.3.c), or on the frequency of the use of Czech in debates of local assemblies (Article 10.2.f). Regional and local authorities have not published their official documents also in Czech (Articles 10.2.c, 10.2.d). Place names in the areas inhabited by users of Czech are identical in Czech and Slovak (Article 10.2.g). It is possible to adopt and use family names in Czech (Article 10.5).

73. In the broadcast media, STVR broadcasts a public radio programme (24 hours/year; periodicity: biweekly) and a public television programme (29 hours/year; periodicity: biweekly) in Czech (Article 11.1.aiii). In the private media, a radio programme (Article 11.1.bii) and a television programme (13 hours in 2022) are broadcast in Czech (Article 11.1.cii). There are no obstacles to the direct reception and retransmission of radio and television broadcasts in Czech from abroad (Article 11.2). The production of audio and audiovisual works in Czech has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle (Article 11.1.d). As regards print media, there is no daily or weekly newspaper in Czech (Article 11.1.ei).

74. In the field of culture, the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia”, which is located in Martin, organised concerts in Czech during the sixth monitoring cycle. The authorities have also facilitated cultural activities using Czech in additional fields (Article 12.1.a). The Expert Council on Czech national minority culture involves representatives of the Czech minority (Article 12.1.f). According to the authorities, audiovisual works in Czech were distributed with subtitles in Slovak (Article 12.1.b) as well as audiovisual works in Slovak with subtitles in Czech (Article 12.1.c). However, there has been no support to translation, dubbing or post-synchronisation of cultural works involving Czech. The “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia” has Czech-speaking staff at its disposal and is responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Czech (Articles 12.1.e, 12.1.g). Apart from this museum, there is no indication that bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Czech language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing (Article 12.1.d). Cultural activities and facilities using Czech, in accordance with Article 12.2, have not been organised or set up, respectively. No measures have been taken to include the Czech language and culture in cultural policy abroad (Article 12.3).

75. Due to the mutual intelligibility of Czech with Slovak and the special status of Czech in accordance with Slovak legislation, the use of Czech in public life and in particular in economic and social life faces no legal barriers (Articles 7.2, 13.1.a, 13.1.b). At the same time, the authorities do not ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of Czech (Article 13.2.c).

76. As regards cross-border co-operation (Article 7.1.i), activities fostering contacts between users of Czech have been carried out in the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Czech Republic on Co-operation in the Field of Culture, Education and Science, as well as other bilateral agreements in the field of education and science (Article 14.a). Furthermore, a high number of town twinnings between local authorities in the Slovak Republic and in Czechia exist in whose framework Czech has been promoted (Article 14.b).

77. The Czech minority is represented by two members of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (Article 7.4). At present, there is not yet a strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Czech in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d).

78. Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Czech, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[43]

German (Part II and Part III language)

79. German is traditionally used in and around Bratislava, around Kremnica, in Spiš and the Bodva Valley. German-language education (Article 7.1.f) with local continuity from pre-school to vocational education is not available in any municipality. There are no kindergartens which provide pre-school education entirely in German or at least a substantial part of pre-school education in this language (bilingual education, i.e. half of the weekly time the children spend in kindergarten), in accordance with Article 8.1.aiii. The kindergarten in Chmeľnica/Hopgarten uses German during only one lesson per week. In primary education (Article 8.1.biii), German is taught five to six lessons per week in grades 1-4 in Chmeľnica/Hopgarten where, in addition to the subject "Language and Literature of the National Minority", some other subjects (e.g. music education, art education, home science, science education, elementary education) are taught in German. In Bratislava, Kežmarok, Medzev and Nitrianske Právno, German is taught as a minority language only at grades 1-2, and the number of weekly lessons is unclear. At some secondary schools (Article 8.1.cii), bilingual education in Slovak and German (foreign language teaching) is organised. According to the authorities, German is not taught as a minority language either at secondary or at technical and vocational levels (Articles 8.1.ciii, 8.1.diii). German can be studied at the universities of Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Nitra, Prešov, Ružomberok and Trnava (Articles 7.1.h, 8.1.eii). However, basic and further training of teachers of German minority language education is not organised (Article 8.1.h). In addition, the authorities do not support an offer of German as a subject of adult and continuing education (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fii), and the progress of German-language education is not specifically monitored (Article 8.1.i). The history and culture which is reflected by German is not taught to all pupils in the areas where this language is used (Article 8.1.g).

80. Before judicial authorities, interpretation involving German has been provided in criminal proceedings (Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii) and in civil proceedings, where also translation was provided (Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii). German was not used in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle.

81. As far as administrative authorities are concerned, the German minority reaches the 15% threshold only in two small municipalities (Chmeľnica/Hopgarten, Kunešov/Kuneschhau). As neither local branches of the state authorities nor regional authorities are located there, the authorities have not taken measures to ensure that German can be used in contacts with, and by, these authorities (Articles 10.1.aiii, 10.2.b, 10.2.c). According to the authorities of both municipalities, German is not used in applications submitted to them, in their official documents or in debates of the local assemblies (Articles 10.2.b, 10.2.d, 10.2.f). The adoption and use of family names in German is allowed (Article 10.5), and the electronic system for registry offices can issue registry statements in German. The German names Hopgarten and – in smaller font – Kuneschhau are displayed on place name signs, and Railways of the Slovak Republic announced to display the name Hopgarten at the local train stop in 2025 (Article 10.2.g). In addition, the German name of the municipality of Krahule/Blaufuβ, where the German minority no longer reaches the threshold, is still displayed on place name signs. In general, the German language and place names have little visibility in public (including tourist) signage in the areas where German is traditionally used (e.g. Bratislava). No legal or practical measures have been taken to promote the use of German in contacts with public service providers (Article 10.3.c). Some authorities have provided translations into German (e.g. methodological guideline for the application of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities) or may provide translation and interpretation from/into German on an ad-hoc basis (e.g. Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Article 10.4.a).

82. In the public media, STVR broadcasts a public radio programme (14 hours/year) and a public television programme (six hours/year) in German (Article 11.1.aiii). Private radio programmes (Article

[43] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras.9, 46), 7.3 (para. 16), 9.1.d (para. 28), 10.4.c (para. 36), 11.1.fii (para. 39), 11.3 (para. 42), 13.1.c (para. 47).

11.1.bii) or television programmes (Article 11.1.cii) are not broadcast in this language. The Committee of Experts has not been informed of obstacles to the direct reception and retransmission of radio and television broadcasts in German from abroad (Article 11.2). The production of audio and audiovisual works in German has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle (Article 11.1.d). As regards print media, there is no daily or weekly newspaper in German (Article 11.1.ei). The association Karpatendeutscher Verein is interested in developing the monthly "Karpatenblatt" into an online-supported newspaper.

83. The promotion of cultural activities and facilities in German by the authorities (Article 12.1.a) consists primarily in support to the "Slovak National Museum – Museum of Carpathian German Culture in Bratislava" which collects, presents and publishes works in German (Article 12.1.g). The Expert Council on German national minority culture involves representatives of the German minority (Article 12.1.f). There is no indication that other organisers or supporters of cultural activities, including municipalities in the areas where German is traditionally used, incorporate the knowledge and use of the German language and culture in the activities in which they are involved (Article 12.1.d). While the Slovak Film Institute has German-speaking staff (Article 12.1.e), it is not clear to what extent it promotes films in German. Support has been granted to the distribution of cultural works in German with subtitling in Slovak. However, during the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the users of German confirmed that there has been neither support to subtitling in German, nor to translation, dubbing or post-synchronisation of cultural works involving this language (Articles 12.1.b, 12.1.c). Cultural activities and facilities in German have not been supported outside the area where German is traditionally used (Article 12.2). No measures have been taken to include the German language and culture in cultural policy abroad (Article 12.3).

84. As regards economic and social life, the authorities do not ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of German (Article 13.2.c).

85. In cross-border co-operation (Article 7.1.i), the work programme of the Slovak-Bavarian Commission for the years 2023-2025 foresees measures relating to the digitisation of documents and periodicals about the culture of the German minority and the preservation and maintenance of its culture (educational, cultural and historical seminars). At the same time, it is unclear what activities fostering contacts between users of German have been carried out in the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on Cultural Co-operation (Article 14.a). According to information received during the on-the-spot visit, there are town twinnings between, *inter alia*, Handlová, Kežmarok and Košice and cities in Germany, but there is no information about the promotion of German in this framework (Article 14.b).

86. The German minority is represented by a member of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (Article 7.4). At present, there is not yet a strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of German in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d).

87. Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to German, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[44]

88. The authorities have taken commendable measures concerning German that are relevant in accordance with Charter undertakings not yet ratified for this language; for example, a specialised working group translates legislation into German and publishes it on the portal Slov-lex (relevant under Article 9.3), and administrative texts, forms, documents and signs in German are used by national or local authorities (relevant under Articles 10.1.b, c, 10.2.a). The Committee of Experts invites the Slovak Republic to consider extending their instrument of ratification accordingly.

Hungarian (Part II and Part III language)

[44] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13), 7.3 (para. 16), 9.1.d (para. 28), 10.4.c (para. 36), 11.1.fii (para. 39), 11.3 (para. 42), 13.1.a (para. 48), 13.1.b (para. 48), 13.1.c (para. 47).

89. Hungarian is traditionally used in the south of the Slovak Republic. Education with Hungarian as the medium of instruction is available at all levels (Article 7.1.f). Hungarian is used in pre-school education (Article 8.1.ai). In primary and secondary education, all subjects are taught in Hungarian except for the subjects “Slovak language and Slovak literature/Slovak language and literature” and foreign language (Articles 8.1.bi, 8.1.ci). Hungarian is also a language of instruction in vocational education (Article 8.1.di). For example, specialisations in secondary medical schools located in Dunajská Streda/Dunaszerdahely, Nové Zámky/Érsekújvár and Rožňava/Rozsnyó are taught through the medium of Hungarian. University education primarily in Hungarian (Article 8.1.ei) is organised at the University of Komárno/Komárom. However, the authorities do not arrange for the provision of Hungarian courses or adult and continuing education courses which are taught mainly or wholly in Hungarian (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fi). In schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction, the curriculum includes the teaching of history and music with a focus on the history and culture of the Hungarian minority (Article 8.1.g). Basic and further training of teachers of Hungarian is organised at the universities of Bratislava, Komárno/Komárom, Nitra and Prešov (Article 8.1.h). The progress of education in Hungarian is not specifically monitored (Article 8.1.i).

90. Before judicial authorities, interpretation involving Hungarian has been provided in criminal proceedings (Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii) and in civil proceedings, where also translation was provided (Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii). In addition, Hungarian was used in interpretation provided in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle. Documents in Hungarian may be validly submitted (Article 9.2.a). During the sixth monitoring cycle, a specialised working group has produced 14 translations of legal regulations into Hungarian, which were gradually published on the portal Slov-lex (Article 9.3). Representatives of the Hungarian linguistic group stressed the need to ensure also the timely translation of amendments to already translated legal texts.

91. The Hungarian minority reaches the 15% threshold in 517 municipalities or parts of municipalities, in several of which Hungarian is used by the majority of the population. As regards national administrative authorities, the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family uses Hungarian in contacts with the population (Article 10.1.aii). While Hungarian is employed in offices of the Regional Veterinary and Food Administration, the Committee of Experts lacks a more comprehensive overview of the use of this language by, and in contacts with, regional authorities in accordance with the relevant Charter undertakings.[45] As the Committee of Experts noted during its on-the-spot visit, local authorities use Hungarian in their oral and written external communication, including in the form of signage at and inside administrative buildings (e.g. doorplates). However, Hungarian is not commonly used as an internal working language of local authorities (Article 10.2.a). Notice boards in Hungarian inform the population that they may address the local authorities in this language (Article 10.2.b). In practice, Hungarian is used primarily orally with local authorities. Municipalities publish forms (also electronically) and other official documents in Hungarian (Article 10.2.d), which includes public information of various kinds (e.g. office hours, important announcements, safety instructions, sanitary requirements, municipality website). The use or adoption of family names in Hungarian is allowed (Article 10.5), and the electronic system for registry offices can issue registry statements in this language. However, according to the periodical report, some official documents are provided in Hungarian only at request, which implies that not all official documents are translated. Few local authorities (e.g. Kráľovský Chlmec/Királyhelmec) use Hungarian in debates in their assemblies (Article 10.2.f). According to the periodical report, other local authorities see “no need” to do so, do not feel to be legally obliged (“no requirement”), enable it only “if necessary” or make it dependent on whether all participants of the debate speak Hungarian,[46] which reveals a widespread lack of awareness of the relevant Charter undertaking. Official records of local council meetings are prepared in Slovak. Place names in Hungarian are used on place name signs at the entrance and exit of populated places, on signs at administrative buildings, on some websites of municipalities, and on signs at a high number of railway stations and stops of Railways of the Slovak Republic (Article 10.2.g). Not all municipalities in the Hungarian-speaking area use Hungarian names on street name signs, and not all that do so signpost all their streets bilingually (e.g. Rožňava/Rozsnyó). Hungarian place names are not used on directional traffic signs or other topographic (including touristic) signs at roads falling outside municipal competence. Moreover, Railways of the Slovak Republic use Hungarian place names only on the signs at railway stations and stops, but not in other fields

[45] Articles 10.2.a, 10.2.b, 10.2.c, 10.2.f, 10.2.g, 10.3.b, 10.4.a, 10.4.c.
[46] Sixth periodical report of the Slovak Republic on the application of the Charter, MIN-LANG(2024)PR2, p. 46.

(e.g. in timetables, online applications). In municipalities where Hungarian is widely used, requests can, *de facto,* be submitted to public service providers in Hungarian. Some public service providers reply in Hungarian (Article 10.3.b), although this may require a request by the applicant. Other public service providers request a certified translation of the application into Slovak or reply in Slovak. Administrative authorities provide translation and interpretation from/into Hungarian with the assistance of their employees, in co-operation with other municipalities where Hungarian is used, through external translation or interpretation services or with the assistance of "support centres" in Bratislava or Nitra (Article 10.4.a). Representatives of local authorities stated during the on-the-spot visit that there is a need to receive funding from the national authorities to ensure certified translations of all relevant documents into Hungarian. Some authorities comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Hungarian to be appointed in an area of work where they can apply these skills (Article 10.4.c). However, there does not exist a standard procedure at national, regional and local levels on how to handle such requests.

92. Broadcasting in Hungarian covers a variety of thematic genres (e.g. music, news, politics, culture, church) and addresses different target groups (including children). STVR broadcasts radio (4 380 hours/year; periodicity: daily) and television (296 hours/year; periodicity: twice a week) programmes in Hungarian (Article 11.1.aiii). During the sixth monitoring cycle, a private radio programme was broadcast in Hungarian (Article 11.1.bii), and 16 private television broadcasters offered programmes in this language (Article 11.1.cii). As it was confirmed during the on-the-spot visit, radio and television broadcasts in Hungarian from Hungary can be received and are included in subscription packages of television providers in the Slovak Republic (Article 11.2). However, it is unclear if the production of audio and audiovisual works in Hungarian has been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle (Article 11.1.d). There exists no general funding scheme to cover the additional costs of those media which use Hungarian, including the reimbursement of the costs of subtitling in Slovak (Article 11.1.fi). In the print media, a daily newspaper (Új Szó) and three weeklies (Remény, Vasárnap, Magyar7) are published in Hungarian (Article 11.1.ei). A person belonging to the Hungarian minority is a member of the Media Services Council, but it is not clear if that person officially represents the users of Hungarian in this body (Article 11.3).

93. During the sixth monitoring cycle, the authorities have supported a number of activities relating to the creation and translation of literature, publishing of audiobooks and theatre in Hungarian (Article 12.1.a). In addition, they have supported several translations of literary works in Hungarian into Slovak and the distribution of audiovisual works in Hungarian with subtitles and dubbing in Slovak (Article 12.1.b). However, it is unclear if cultural works have been subtitled, translated, dubbed or post-synchronised in Hungarian (Article 12.1.c). The Expert Council on Hungarian national minority culture involves representatives of the users of Hungarian (Article 12.1.f). During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts obtained confirmation that local authorities also support cultural activities in Hungarian. However, it seems that the granting of subsidies for cultural activities in general is not made dependent on the incorporation and use of the Hungarian language and culture in the activity (Article 12.1.d). The "Slovak National Museum – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava" acts as a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Hungarian (Article 12.1.g) and has, for example, organised traveling exhibitions in this language. Both this museum and the Slovak Film Institute have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Hungarian (Article 12.1.e). No measures have been taken to promote cultural activities and facilities in Hungarian outside the area where this language is traditionally used (Article 12.2). The folklore ensemble Ifjú Szívek operating within the Ministry of Culture is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and development of Hungarian folk dances and music and frequently performs abroad to represent the Hungarian culture of the Slovak Republic at international festivals and events (Article 12.3).

94. Communication in Hungarian in social care facilities is possible (Article 13.2.c). However, this is not the result of a structured policy, but of the high number of Hungarian speakers in the local population. The Committee of Experts was informed during the on-the-spot visit of a lack of Hungarian-speaking doctors. Training of nurses in Hungarian is ensured at medical vocational schools such as the one in Rožňava/Rozsnyó (practical nurse study programme) which the Committee of Experts visited. Hungarian is commonly used in private signs and inscriptions visible to the public (e.g. shops).

95. In the field of cross-border co-operation (Article 7.1.i), the Mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission for Minority Affairs has continued to meet regularly in the framework of the Treaty on Good Neighbourhood and Friendly Co-operation between the Slovak Republic and Hungary. Activities promoting Hungarian may also be organised in the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of Hungary on Co-operation in the Field of Culture, Education, Science, Sports and Youth (Article 14.a). Measures promoting bilingualism are carried out in the framework of the Interreg Hungary–Slovakia programme (2023–2027). Furthermore, a number of town twinnings between local authorities in the Slovak Republic and in Hungary exist in whose framework Hungarian has been promoted (Article 14.b).

96. The Hungarian minority is represented in the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities by seven members (Article 7.4). At present, however, there is no strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Hungarian in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d).

97. Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Hungarian, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[47]

98. The authorities have taken commendable measures concerning Hungarian that are relevant in accordance with Charter undertakings not yet ratified for this language. Administrative texts, forms and other documents in Hungarian have been published by national authorities (relevant under Articles 10.1.b, c). Moreover, language courses in Hungarian have been organised for civil servants of national authorities (Article 10.4.b). The Committee of Experts invites the Slovak Republic to consider extending their instrument of ratification accordingly.

Polish (Part II and Part III language)

99. While Polish is not taught in mainstream education (Articles 7.1.f, 8.1.aiii, 8.1.biii, 8.1.ciii, 8.1.diii, 8.1.i), the University of Banská Bystrica offers a “Polish language and culture” study programme (Article 7.1.h, 8.1.eii). However, there is no indication that the authorities support the basic and further training of teachers of Polish (Article 8.1.h). Courses of Polish are organised by associations at the Polish Saturday-Sunday School in Žilina and the Polish language club in Nitra (Article 7.1.g), which addresses children of pre-school age and pupils of the first grade of primary school. It is not clear if the authorities support these courses. In addition, the authorities do not support an offer of Polish as a subject of adult and continuing education (Article 8.1.fii). The history and culture which is reflected by Polish is not taught to all pupils in the area where this language is used (Article 8.1.g).

100. As regards judicial authorities, interpretation involving Polish has been provided in criminal proceedings (Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii). Furthermore, interpretation and translation were provided in civil proceedings and in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii, 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle.

101. The use of Polish in the field of administrative authorities is limited to very few domains, namely the possibility to adopt and use family names in Polish (Article 10.5) and to obtain translation and interpretation involving Polish on an ad-hoc basis at the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, which is not yet widely used (Article 10.4.a). As the Polish minority does not reach the 15% threshold in any municipality, the authorities have not taken more general measures to ensure that Polish can be used in contacts with, and by, local branches of the state authorities, regional authorities, local authorities and public service providers in accordance with the ratified Charter undertakings.[48]

102. In the broadcast media, STVR broadcasts a public radio programme (14 hours/year) and a public television programme (four hours/year) in Polish (Article 11.1.aiii). Private radio programmes (Article 11.1.bii) or television programmes (Article 11.1.cii) are not broadcast in this language. The Committee of

[47] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13), 7.3 (para. 16), 9.1.d (para. 28), 13.1.a (para. 48), 13.1.b (para. 48), 13.1.c (para. 47).
[48] Articles 10.1.aiii, 10.2.b, 10.2.c, 10.2.d, 10.2.f, 10.2.g, 10.3.c, 10.4.a, 10.4.c.

Experts has not been informed of obstacles to the direct reception and retransmission of radio and television broadcasts in Polish from abroad (Article 11.2). The production of audio and audiovisual works in Polish has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle (Article 11.1.d). As regards print media, there is no daily or weekly newspaper in Polish (Article 11.1.ei).

103. The support of cultural activities and facilities using Polish is very limited. In the sixth monitoring cycle, the authorities supported a literature project in Polish (Article 12.1.a). The Expert Council on Polish national minority culture involves representatives of the Polish minority (Article 12.1.f). In addition, audiovisual works in Polish were distributed with Slovak subtitles or dubbing. However, there has been neither support to subtitling in Polish, nor to translation, dubbing or post-synchronisation of cultural works involving this language (Articles 12.1.b, 12.1.c). A museum dedicated to the Polish minority, similar to those of other national minorities, or another body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Polish has not been established (Article 12.1.g). There is no indication that additional activities have been supported in accordance with the ratified Charter undertakings.[49]

104. As regards economic and social life, the authorities do not ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals or retirement homes offer the use of Polish (Article 13.2.c).

105. Cross-border co-operation promoting Polish (Article 7.1.i) has been carried out in the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Co-operation and the Co-operation 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 (Article 14.a). The agreement provides reciprocal opportunities for universities for short-term scholarships, scientific research stays and language courses. It also sets the framework of the activities of lecturers of Slovak language and culture at three Polish universities as well as Polish studies at three universities in the Slovak Republic. Activities promoting Polish are also carried out in the framework of the Interreg programme VI-A Poland-Slovakia 2021-2027 (Article 14.b).

106. The Polish minority is represented by a member of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (Article 7.4). At present, there is not yet a strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Polish in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d).

107. Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Polish, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[50]

Romani (Part II and Part III language)

108. Romani is mainly used in the regions of Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Košice. In education (Article 7.1.f), the authorities have made available a “Grant Scheme to Support Early Care and Early Intervention for Children Aged 0-6”, that, *inter alia,* aims at increasing the number of children in pre-primary education and enables employment of Romani-speaking early care assistants. Romani is to some extent used in pre-school education, for example in a private kindergarten in Kremnica. According to information received during the on-the-spot visit, there are also public kindergartens that are attended exclusively by Roma children, many of whom speak Romani, so that their language is, *de facto,* also used. Nevertheless, there is no indication that kindergartens provide at least a substantial part of pre-school education in Romani (bilingual education, i.e. half of the weekly time the children spend in kindergarten), in accordance with Article 8.1.aiii. In primary education (Article 8.1.biii), four private primary schools located in Košice, Kremnica, Kružlová and Stropkov teach Romani as a subject during three hours per week. Romani is also taught as a subject at a private secondary school (Article 8.1.ciii) and at private vocational schools located in Kežmarok, Košice and Rimavská Sobota during three hours a week (Article 8.1.diii). These private schools have been established by Roma associations and are state-funded on a per-capita basis. The subject “Romani as a foreign language” is offered by the universities of Nitra and Prešov in the study fields

[49] Articles 7.1.e, 12.1.d, 12.1.e, 12.2, 12.3.
[50] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13), 9.1.d (para. 28), 10.4.c (para. 36), 11.1.fii (para. 39), 11.3 (para. 42), 13.1.a (para. 48), 13.1.b (para. 48), 13.1.c (para. 47).

"Social work" and "Pre-school and Elementary Education", respectively (Articles 7.1.h, 8.1.eii). The Institute of Romani Studies at the University of Prešov offers a pedagogical study programme "Roma language, literature and realities" in combination with other subjects in the study programme "Teaching Academic Subjects". In the school year 2024/2025, the first graduates with the specialisation of Romani will leave the institute. As the programme leads to a bachelor and not a master's degree required for teachers, the graduates will only be able to work as assistant teachers in primary and secondary schools. As of the next academic year, the institute will offer a master's programme that is going to enable its graduates to be fully qualified teachers of Romani. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the institute described that the availability of teachers of Romani is in a vicious circle: The number of graduates from the institute will be very low, which means that the number of teachers of Romani in schools and universities also remains very low, which in turn creates a bottleneck in future teacher training. Further training for educational staff has been organised by the authorities to support the use of Romani language and culture in education (Article 8.1.h). However, the authorities do not support an offer of Romani as a subject of adult and continuing education (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fii). Moreover, the progress of Romani-language education is not specifically monitored (Article 8.1.i). In the schools teaching Romani, the history and culture which is reflected by this language is taught (Article 8.1.g). However, as these schools are mostly attended by Roma only, pupils belonging to the majority population do not attend such classes. An activity of the "Strategy for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma until 2030" (no. 6.1.4) envisages to incorporate Roma history and literature at all levels of education in accordance with the Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)2 on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials.[51] The project "Romani/Plurilingual policy experimentation (2022-2025)" aims to raise the awareness of Roma and non-Roma pupils about Romani language, culture and history (Article 7.3). Apart from this project activity, it is unclear to what extent teaching content raising awareness of Romani as a minority language is integrated into the (regular) educational area "Man and Society" and the cross-cutting topic "Multicultural Education".

109. Before judicial authorities, interpretation involving Romani has been provided in criminal proceedings (Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii) and in civil proceedings (Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii). Romani was not used in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle.

110. With regard to administrative authorities and public services, the Roma minority reaches the 15% threshold in 121 municipalities or parts of municipalities. As neither local branches of the state authorities nor regional authorities are located in the municipalities concerned, the authorities have not taken measures to ensure that Romani can be used in contacts with, and by, these authorities (Articles 10.1.aiii, 10.2.b, 10.2.c). Romani is not used in applications submitted to local authorities (Article 10.2.b). As regards local official documents, the authorities refer to the provision of bilingual forms in Slovak and Romani in some municipalities without providing more specific information. In general, local authorities have not published their official documents in Romani (Article 10.2.d). At the same time, Romani has been used, orally and in writing, in debates of local assemblies, including with interpretation (Article 10.2.f). The adoption and use of family names in Romani is allowed (Article 10.5), and the electronic system for registry offices can issue registry statements in Romani. In order to collect traditional place names in Romani and prepare their signposting (Article 10.2.g), a survey was carried out in the form of video and audio recordings in selected municipalities. However, the work of collecting traditional toponyms is on-going. According to research, Roma have adapted a significant number of traditional place names from Slovak, Hungarian and German into Romani and commonly use them.[52] No legal or practical measures have been taken to promote the use of Romani in contacts with public service providers (Article 10.3.c). The national authorities have provided some translations into Romani, for example instructions regarding elections, medical forms for women (informed patient consent before medical intervention), forms of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, and information leaflets on trafficking in human beings and forced marriages (Article 10.4.a). However, according to the authorities, no structured measures have been taken to promote the availability of Romani-speaking officials through staff mobility (Article 10.4.c).

[51] Recommendation CM/Rec(2020)2.

[52] See Jan Červenka (2017): Language consequences of migration of Romani speakers from Slovakia to Great Britain and back: the change of paradigm of town names in two Romani dialects, Slovenský národopis, 65(4), pp. 383–403 (386, 387, 390, 392, 396, 398).

111. In the broadcast media, STVR broadcasts a public radio programme (173 hours/year; periodicity: daily) and a public television programme (100 hours/year; periodicity: weekly) in Romani (Article 11.1.aiii). It is unclear whether private radio programmes (Article 11.1.bii) or television programmes (Article 11.1.cii) broadcast in Romani. The Committee of Experts has not been informed of obstacles to the direct reception and retransmission of radio and television broadcasts in Romani from abroad (Article 11.2). The production of audio and audiovisual works in Romani has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle (Article 11.1.d). As regards print media, there is no daily or weekly newspaper in Romani (Article 11.1.ei).

112. In the field of culture, the authorities have supported activities relating to the creation of literature and the publishing of audiobooks in Romani. Furthermore, the Documentation and Information Centre of Romani Culture of the State Scientific Library in Prešov has organised activities relating to music in Romani (Article 12.1.a). Support has also been granted to the distribution of cultural works in Romani with subtitling in Slovak and to translation of literature into Romani, but not to other measures such as dubbing or post-synchronisation (Articles 12.1.b, 12.1.c). The Expert Council on Roma national minority culture involves representatives of the Roma minority (Article 12.1.f). The “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia” in Martin and the Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture collect cultural works produced in Romani (Article 12.1.g). There is no information that other organisers or supporters of cultural activities, including municipalities in the areas where Romani is traditionally used, incorporate the knowledge and use of the Romani language and culture in the activities in which they are involved, or have at their disposal staff who have a full command of this language (Articles 12.1.d, 12.1.e). The authorities support the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia”, which is located outside the area where Romani is traditionally used (Article 12.2). No measures have been taken to include the Romani language and culture in cultural policy abroad (Article 12.3).

113. In the framework of projects, the use of Romani between medical staff and patients as well as health education in Romani have been supported, including through recruitment of users of Romani as health support assistants and the provision of interpretation. Health support assistants facilitate the use of Romani in communication with patients in twelve hospitals. However, apart from these project-based initiatives, the authorities do not ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of Romani on a sustainable basis (Article 13.2.c).

114. It is unclear what activities fostering contacts between users of Romani have been carried out in the framework of bilateral agreements with other states (Article 14.a) or in cross-border co-operation more generally (Article 7.1.i).

115. The Roma minority is represented by four members of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (Article 7.4). Aspects relating to the promotion of the use of Romani in public and private life (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d) are included in strategies and action plans, making Romani the only minority language whose promotion has recently been addressed in strategic planning and policy documents. Particular mention needs to be made of the “Strategy for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma until 2030”: it addresses the promotion of Romani through 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, *inter alia*, through activity 6.2.1: “To Support existing and emerging kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools with the teaching of the Roma language”. As part of the implementation of this strategy, in 2021, the authorities adopted the “Vision for the Development of Roma Culture, Language and Identity Support” and an action plan containing measures to implement the goals set out in the Vision in the period 2022-2024. In accordance with these strategic documents, which were conceived in consultation with representatives of the users of Romani, the authorities committed themselves, among other things, to promote Romani language and culture in the fields of media and publishing (e.g. use of Romani in broadcasts, film and documentary production about the history, life and culture of the Roma, regular publication of Roma periodicals aimed at adult and child readers). In 2024, the Ministry of Culture submitted a monitoring report on the implementation of the Vision and the action plan to the Government. The Roma minority is supported by a dedicated government plenipotentiary with administrative infrastructure (Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities). The consultation of various representatives of the Romani linguistic group in the drawing up

of strategy documents and the Plenipotentiary's work support links within the Romani linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter (Article 7.1.e).

116. Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Romani, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[53]

117. The authorities have taken commendable measures concerning Romani that are relevant in accordance with Charter undertakings not yet ratified for this language. For example, a working group translates legislation into Romani and publishes it on the portal Slov-lex (relevant under Article 9.3, which has been accepted for Hungarian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian). The authorities have also organised language courses in Romani for civil servants of national authorities (Article 10.4.b), a measure that will be continued in accordance with the "Strategy for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma until 2030" (measure 6.4.2). In addition, administrative texts, forms and other documents in Romani have been published by national authorities (relevant under Articles 10.1.b, c, not yet ratified by the Slovak Republic). The Committee of Experts invites the Slovak Republic to consider extending their instrument of ratification accordingly.

Russian (Part II language)

118. As regards the use of Russian in public life (Article 7.1.d), STVR broadcasts a public television programme (five hours/year; periodicity: quarterly) in Russian. There is no public radio programme in Russian. A magazine in Russian published every two months is supported through the Fund for the Culture of National Minorities. In addition, the authorities support cultural activities in Russian.

119. As far as education is concerned, Russian is the language of instruction at a private primary school in Bratislava which teaches all subjects (except Slovak and foreign languages) in Russian, including the compulsory subject "Language and Literature of the Russian National Minority". Specific educational standards have been prepared for minority language education in Russian. However, Russian is not used in pre-school education and not taught as a minority language at secondary level, but only as a foreign language (Article 7.1.f). Russian can be studied at the universities of Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Nitra and Trnava (Article 7.1.h). During the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts was informed that Russian-language education as well as exchanges of students and teachers are promoted in the framework of cross-border co-operation. In addition, bilateral agreements between the Slovak Republic and the Russian Federation in additional fields covered by the Charter exist, but there is no information about their current implementation (Article 7.1.i).

120. The Russian minority is represented by a member of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (Article 7.4). At present, there is not yet a strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Russian in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d). Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Russian, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[54]

Ruthenian (Part II and Part III language)

121. Ruthenian is traditionally used in the north-eastern and eastern part of the Slovak Republic, including in the districts of Bardejov, Humenné, Medzilaborce/Меджілабірці, Snina and Svidník/Свідник. As far as education is concerned (Article 7.1.f), three public kindergartens (in Kalná Roztoka/Кална Розтока, Klenová/Кленова and Čabiny/Чабины) and one private kindergarten (in the city of Prešov) use Ruthenian (Article 8.1.aii). During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the users of Ruthenian stated that Ruthenian is the main language of instruction in certain kindergartens, but that their number is not satisfactory. At primary level (Article 8.1.bii), Ruthenian is not used during a substantial part of education (bilingual education: teaching in Ruthenian for at least 50% of the school hours per week). Rather,

[53] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (cultural relations, para. 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13), 7.3 (para. 16), 9.1.d (para. 28), 11.1.fii (para. 39), 11.3 (para. 42), 13.1.a (para. 48), 13.1.b (para. 48), 13.1.c (para. 47).
[54] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13), 7.3 (para. 16).

“Ruthenian language and literature” and some other subjects are taught in Ruthenian at the primary schools in Kalná Roztoka/Кална Розтока and Klenová/Кленова for less than half of the teaching time whereas teaching of Ruthenian for at least two lessons per week is organised at primary schools in Radvaň nad Laborcom/Радвань над Лабірцём, Medzilaborce/Меджілабірці and Svidník/Свідник. The total number of pupils enrolled is relatively small. Bilingual education with Ruthenian is not provided in secondary education or in technical and vocational education either (Articles 8.1.cii, 8.1.dii). During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the users of Ruthenian expressed a strong wish for the provision of education in Ruthenian and proposed as a first step to set up a school teaching in this language in Prešov. They were concerned that the authorities do not provide for Ruthenian-language education on their initiative, but only react to the demands of parents. In particular, they saw a need for the national authorities to remind local authorities of their obligations regarding the organisation of Ruthenian-language education and co-ordinate relevant action. The Institute of Ruthenian Language and Culture at the University of Prešov has three accredited study programmes on Ruthenian (Articles 7.1.h, 8.1.eii): a bachelor and a master’s study programme “Teaching Ruthenian language and literature” in the field of study “Teaching and pedagogical sciences” and a doctoral programme on Ruthenian language and literature in philology. It provides the basic and further training of teachers of Ruthenian (Article 8.1.h). In addition, the National Institute of Education and Youth in Prešov has organised further training of pedagogical staff teaching Ruthenian language and literature. During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the Institute of Ruthenian Language and Culture stated that it does not yet train teachers who would be able to teach non-linguistic subjects in Ruthenian. They pointed out that several of the institute’s graduates (teachers of Ruthenian as a subject) do not find employment in this field owing to the lack of schools teaching Ruthenian, which in turn discourages students to enrol at the institute. In addition, there is a lack of educational materials in Ruthenian. The authorities do not support an offer of Ruthenian as a subject of adult and continuing education (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fii). The progress of Ruthenian-language education is not specifically monitored (Article 8.1.i). According to the authorities, content related to the history and culture of the Ruthenian minority is integrated into the curriculum in subjects such as history, civics and music education. Supporting didactic materials (“short methodological inspirations” on “Ruthenian origin and history”) have been made available to teachers. In general, however, the periodical report acknowledges that the history and culture which is reflected by Ruthenian (Article 8.1.g) are still not relevantly addressed in textbooks.

122. During the sixth monitoring cycle, Ruthenian has not been used before judicial authorities.[55] In the same period, a specialised working group has translated eight legal texts into Ruthenian and published them on the portal Slov-lex (Article 9.3).

123. The Ruthenian minority reaches the 15% threshold in 142 municipalities or parts of municipalities. In some of them, local branches of the state authorities are based (Medzilaborce/Меджілабірці and Svidník/Свідник) which have some Ruthenian-speaking staff able to handle oral applications in Ruthenian. However, the periodical report mentions that there were difficulties in treating written applications in Ruthenian and that no written request in this language was received in the sixth monitoring cycle (Article 10.1.aiii). There exists no domestic legal basis for the use of Ruthenian by and in contacts with regional authorities (Article 10.2.b, 10.2.c). Ruthenian has been used in a very low number of cases in applications submitted to local authorities (Article 10.2.b). The use or adoption of family names in Ruthenian is allowed (Article 10.5), and the electronic system for registry offices can issue registry statements in this language. However, only few official documents were published in Ruthenian by local authorities (Article 10.2.d). Ruthenian has been used in debates of local assemblies, including with interpretation (Article 10.2.f). Place names in Ruthenian (Article 10.2.g) are used on place name signs at the entrance and exit of populated places (partly still in smaller font), on signs at administrative buildings, and on signs at nine railway stations and stops of Railways of the Slovak Republic, but not in other domains. In a few cases, requests in Ruthenian were submitted, *de facto,* to public service providers (Article 10.3.c). However, this practice has no clear legal basis. Administrative authorities provide translation and interpretation from/into Ruthenian with the assistance of a limited number of Ruthenian-speaking employees (Article 10.4.a). Authorities located in Medzilaborce/Меджілабірці comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Ruthenian to be appointed in an area of work where they can apply these skills (Article 10.4.c).

[55] Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii, 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii, 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii, 9.1.d.

However, there does not exist a standard procedure at national, regional and local levels on how to handle such requests.

124. In the media, STVR broadcasts radio (327 hours/year; periodicity: daily) and television (40 hours/year; periodicity: weekly) in Ruthenian (Article 11.1.aiii). Ruthenian is not used on private radio (Article 11.1.bii) and private television (Article 11.1.cii). The reception of radio and television broadcasts in Ruthenian from abroad is possible (Article 11.2). The production of audiovisual works in Ruthenian has not been supported (Article 11.1.d). No daily or weekly newspaper (Article 11.1.ei) is published in this language.

125. The authorities support the "Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov" which organised a book festival in Ruthenian during the sixth monitoring cycle. There is no information about support to additional activities relating to the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ruthenian (Article 12.1.a). Moreover, there has been no support to subtitling, translation, dubbing or post-synchronisation of cultural works involving Ruthenian (Articles 12.1.b, 12.1.c). Apart from the "Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov", there is no information that other organisers or supporters of cultural activities, including municipalities in the areas where Ruthenian is traditionally used, incorporate the knowledge and use of the Ruthenian language and culture in the activities in which they are involved (Article 12.1.d). The "Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov" and the Slovak Film Institute have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Ruthenian (Article 12.1.e), and the Expert Council on Ruthenian national minority culture involves representatives of the users of Ruthenian (Article 12.1.f). Moreover, the "Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov" collects cultural works produced in Ruthenian (Article 12.1.g). No measures have been taken to promote cultural activities and facilities in Ruthenian outside the area where this language is traditionally used (Article 12.2). Ruthenian language and culture have not been integrated in cultural policy abroad (Article 12.3).

126. As regards economic and social life, communication in Ruthenian in social care facilities (Article 13.2.c) is, *de facto,* possible in some municipalities inhabited by a high number of users of this language. However, the authorities have not approached hospitals and retirement homes located in relevant municipalities ensuring that Ruthenian may be used. For this reason, a structured policy is missing.

127. There exists no structured approach to the promotion of Ruthenian in the framework of cross-border co-operation with states where this language is also spoken (Articles 7.1.i, 14.a).

128. The Ruthenian minority is represented in the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities by three members (Article 7.4). At present, however, there is no strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Ruthenian in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d).

129. Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Ruthenian, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[56]

130. The national authorities have taken commendable measures concerning Ruthenian that are relevant in accordance with Articles 10.1.b and 10.1.c which the Slovak Republic has not yet ratified for this language (translation of methodological guidelines for the application of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities and official documents of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family). The Committee of Experts invites the Slovak Republic to consider extending their instrument of ratification accordingly.

Serbian (Part II language)

[56] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13), 7.3 (para. 16), 11.1.fii (para. 39), 11.3 (para. 42), 13.1.a (para. 48), 13.1.b (para. 48), 13.1.c (para. 47).

131. As regards the use of Serbian in public life (Article 7.1.d), STVR broadcasts a public radio programme (four hours/year; periodicity: quarterly) and a public television programme (two hours/year; periodicity: quarterly) in Serbian.

132. Serbian is not used or taught in mainstream pre-school, primary and secondary education (Article 7.1.f). During the on-the-spot visit, representatives of the users of Serbian expressed interest in the organisation of teaching of Serbian in mainstream education. Courses of Serbian are not supported by the authorities (Article 7.1.g). Serbian can be studied at the universities of Bratislava and Banská Bystrica, including the methodology of teaching this language (Article 7.1.h). In the framework of co-operation with Serbia, scholarships for summer seminars in Serbian language and culture in Serbia and cultural exchanges were organised (Article 7.1.i).

133. The Serbian minority is represented by a member of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities (Article 7.4). At present, there is not yet a strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Serbian in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d). Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Serbian, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[57]

Ukrainian (Part II and Part III language)

134. Ukrainian is traditionally used in the north-eastern and eastern part of the Slovak Republic, including in the districts of Bardejov, Medzilaborce/Меджілабірці, Snina and Svidník/Свідник. The organisation of Ukrainian language education (Article 7.1.f) takes place against the background of the integration of almost 10 000 pupils (refugees) from Ukraine in the education system. Ukrainian is used in pre-school education in the municipality of Jarabina/Орябина and in Prešov. However, it is not clear if the use of this language extends to at least a substantial part of pre-school education (bilingual education, i.e. half of the weekly time the children spend in kindergarten, in accordance with Article 8.1.aii). At primary and secondary levels (Articles 8.1.bii and 8.1.cii), Ukrainian is not used during a substantial part of education (bilingual education: teaching in Ukrainian for at least 50% of the school hours per week). A joint primary and secondary school in Prešov teaches Ukrainian as a subject and uses it as a medium of instruction, alongside Slovak, in other subjects. However, this form of teaching does not provide for half of the total weekly teaching time in Ukrainian and does not correspond to bilingual education in the sense of the Charter. In addition, Ukrainian is taught as a subject at a primary school in Jarabina/Орябина. Bilingual education with Ukrainian is not organised in technical and vocational education (Article 8.1.dii). The University of Prešov offers bachelor's and master's studies of Ukrainian (Articles 7.1.h, 8.1.eii). While basic and further training of teachers of Ukrainian is organised, there is still no training of teachers able to teach non-linguistic subjects in Ukrainian in primary, secondary, as well as technical and vocational education (Article 8.1.h). The authorities do not support an offer of Ukrainian as a subject of adult and continuing education (Articles 7.1.g, 8.1.fii). The progress of Ukrainian-language education is not specifically monitored (Article 8.1.i). In the schools teaching Ukrainian, the history and culture which is reflected by this language is taught (Article 8.1.g). However, the history and culture are not taught to all pupils living in the areas where Ukrainian is used.

135. Before judicial authorities, interpretation involving Ukrainian has been provided in criminal proceedings (Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii) and in civil proceedings, where also translation was provided (Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii). Ukrainian was not used in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle. A specialised working group has translated five legal texts into Ukrainian and published them on the portal Slov-lex (Article 9.3).

136. The Ukrainian minority reaches the 15% threshold in 18 municipalities or parts of municipalities. In none of them are local branches of the state authorities or regional authorities based. Apart from services in Ukrainian provided to refugees from Ukraine, Ukrainian is not used by or in contacts with such authorities (Articles 10.1.aiii, 10.2.b, 10.2.c). Ukrainian has not been used in applications submitted to local authorities either (Article 10.2.b). The use or adoption of family names in Ukrainian is allowed (Article 10.5), and the electronic system for registry offices can issue registry statements in this language. Apart from bilingual

[57] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13), 7.3 (para. 16).

forms in two municipalities, no official documents were published in Ukrainian by local authorities (Article 10.2.d). Ukrainian has been used in debates of some local assemblies (Article 10.2.f). Place names in Ukrainian (Article 10.2.g) are used on place name signs at the entrance and exit of populated places. There exists neither a domestic legal basis for, nor any practice in submitting requests in Ukrainian to public service providers (Article 10.3.c). Some authorities have provided translations into Ukrainian (e.g. the methodological guideline for the application of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities) or may provide translation and interpretation on an ad-hoc basis (e.g. Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Article 10.4.a). Several forms have been translated into Ukrainian for refugees from Ukraine, but it is not clear to what extent these documents are also of use for Slovak citizens using Ukrainian. According to the authorities, there exists no practice in complying with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Ukrainian to be appointed in an area of work where they can apply these skills (Article 10.4.c).

137. In the broadcast media, STVR broadcasts radio (270 hours/year; periodicity: daily) and television (eight hours/year; periodicity: monthly) in Ukrainian (Article 11.1.aiii). Ukrainian is not used on private radio (Article 11.1.bii) and private television (Article 11.1.cii). The Committee of Experts has not been informed of obstacles to the direct reception and retransmission of radio and television broadcasts in Ukrainian from abroad (Article 11.2). The production of audiovisual works in Ukrainian has not been supported (Article 11.1.d). No daily or weekly newspaper (Article 11.1.ei) is published in this language.

138. The authorities support the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník”. However, there is no information about support to additional activities relating to the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ukrainian (Article 12.1.a). The authorities have supported the distribution of audiovisual works in Ukrainian with subtitles/dubbing in Slovak, but there is no information about activities relating to translation or post-synchronisation of cultural works in Ukrainian (Article 12.1.b). In addition, support has been granted to the distribution of a film with subtitles in Ukrainian (Article 12.1.c). Apart from the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník”, there is no information that other organisers or supporters of cultural activities, including municipalities in the areas where Ukrainian is traditionally used, incorporate the knowledge and use of the Ukrainian language and culture in the activities in which they are involved (Article 12.1.d). Both the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník” and the Slovak Film Institute have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Ukrainian (Article 12.1.e). The Expert Council on Ukrainian national minority culture involves representatives of the users of Ukrainian (Article 12.1.f). The “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník” acts as a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Ukrainian (Article 12.1.g). During the month of Ukrainian culture in the Slovak Republic in 2023, the Ukrainian Film Week screening was organised in Bratislava and Košice which are located outside the area where this language is traditionally used (Article 12.2). No measures were taken to include the Ukrainian language and culture in cultural policy abroad (Article 12.3).

139. As regards economic and social life, the authorities do not ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of Ukrainian (Article 13.2.c).

140. As regards cross-border co-operation, the Ukrainian Film Week screening was organised in 2023, in co-operation with the authorities of Ukraine (Article 7.1.i). It is not clear whether measures promoting Ukrainian have been taken in the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Co-operation in the Field of Information (Article 14.a). Activities supporting multilingual signage and linguistic diversity are carried out in the framework of the Interreg Hungary–Slovakia–Romania–Ukraine programme 2025. In addition, town twinnings between municipalities in the Slovak Republic and in Ukraine have been concluded, but there is no information about the promotion of Ukrainian in this framework (Article 14.b).

141. The Ukrainian minority is represented in the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities by two members (Article 7.4). At present, however, there is no strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Ukrainian in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d).

142. Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings applying to Ukrainian, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[58]

143. The national authorities have taken commendable measures concerning Ukrainian that are relevant in accordance with Articles 10.1.b and 10.1.c which the Slovak Republic has not yet ratified for this language. The Committee of Experts invites the Slovak Republic to consider extending their instrument of ratification accordingly. In addition, the authorities could consider ratifying Article 8.2 (teaching in/of minority languages) to meet the needs of the increasing number of Ukrainian speakers residing outside the area where Ukrainian is traditionally used.

Yiddish (Part II language)

144. According to the authorities and representatives of the Jewish minority, the first language of most Jews in the Slovak Republic is Slovak, Hungarian or German. The 2021 census confirmed that Yiddish is spoken in the country. Yiddish is used mainly in the cultural and religious sphere (presentation of old Jewish songs and prayers, synagogue services) and to a limited extent in family life. The authorities consider that "[i]n certain circumstances, the Yiddish language can be considered a territorially non-localizable language."[59] Yiddish is not used or taught in education at any level (Articles 7.1.f, 7.1.g, 7.1.h) and not used or promoted in any other field of public life such as media or culture (Article 7.1.d). This applies also to raising awareness of Yiddish as a minority language in education and media (Article 7.3). Although the authorities refer to the Programme of Co-operation between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the State of Israel for 2017-2019 in the field of education, science culture, youth and sports, the use of Yiddish is not promoted in this framework either (Article 7.1.i). Against this background, the representation of the Jewish minority by a member of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities has no effect for the promotion of Yiddish (Article 7.4). At present, neither representatives of the Jewish minority, nor the authorities conceive any future measure promoting the use of Yiddish in public or private life (Articles 7.1.c, 7.1.d). Regarding the implementation of the other Charter undertakings, the Committee of Experts refers to its evaluation in the relevant sections of chapter 1.1 above.[60]

[58] Articles 7.1.a (para. 1), 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13), 7.3 (para. 16), 9.1.d (para. 28), 11.1.fii (para. 39), 11.3 (para. 42), 13.1.a (para. 48), 13.1.b (para. 48), 13.1.c (para. 47).
[59] Sixth periodical report of the Slovak Republic on the application of the Charter, MIN-LANG(2024)PR2, p. 7.
[60] Articles 7.1.b (para. 29), 7.1.e (paras. 9, 46), 7.2 (paras. 7, 13).

Chapter 2 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and recommendations

2.1 Bulgarian

2.1.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Bulgarian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Bulgarian**[61]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Bulgarian as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Bulgarian	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Bulgarian		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Bulgarian, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Bulgarian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↙			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Bulgarian at all appropriate stages		=			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Bulgarian to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Bulgarian at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Bulgarian	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Bulgarian		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Bulgarian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Bulgarian among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Bulgarian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Bulgarian		↙			
Part III of the Charter ***(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)***						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.aiii	make available pre-school education in Bulgarian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Bulgarian at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient		=			
8.1.biii	provide, within primary education, for the teaching of Bulgarian as an integral part of the curriculum		=			

[61] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

Article	Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Bulgarian[61]	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*: fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
8.1.ciii	provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of Bulgarian as an integral part of the curriculum		=			
8.1.diii	provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of Bulgarian as an integral part of the curriculum				=	
8.1.eii	provide facilities for the study of Bulgarian as a university and higher education subject	=				
8.1.fii	offer Bulgarian as a subject of adult and continuing education				↙	
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Bulgarian				=	
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Bulgarian				=	
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Bulgarian and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings				↙	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Bulgarian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.aiii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Bulgarian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Bulgarian in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Bulgarian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Bulgarian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=		
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Bulgarian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=		
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Bulgarian and the related use of documents and evidence in Bulgarian, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiii	ensure that users of Bulgarian may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Bulgarian				=	
10.1.aiv[62]	ensure that users of Bulgarian may submit oral or written applications in Bulgarian to local branches of the national authorities					
10.2.b	possibility for users of Bulgarian to submit oral or written applications in Bulgarian to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Bulgarian				=	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Bulgarian				=	
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Bulgarian in debates in their assemblies				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Bulgarian				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Bulgarian to submit a request in Bulgarian to public service providers				=	
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Bulgarian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Bulgarian	=				
Art. 11 – Media						

[62] As Articles 10.1.aiii and 10.1.aiv constitute alternative options, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.aiv.

Article	Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Bulgarian[61]	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*: fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
11.1.aiii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Bulgarian				↙	
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Bulgarian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Bulgarian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Bulgarian				↙	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Bulgarian				=	
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Bulgarian			=		
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Bulgarian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Bulgarian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Bulgarian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Bulgarian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				↙	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Bulgarian					↙
12.1.b	foster access in other languages to works produced in Bulgarian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↙			
12.1.c	foster access in Bulgarian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling				=	
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Bulgarian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing				↙	
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Bulgarian				↙	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Bulgarian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Bulgarian				↙	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Bulgarian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Bulgarian				↙	
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Bulgarian and the culture it reflects				↙	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.a	eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Bulgarian in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations		=			
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Bulgarian				=	
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Bulgarian in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Bulgarian				=	
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the states in which Bulgarian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Bulgarian in the states concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education	=				

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

145. While the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has supported the establishment of cultural relations between the Bulgarian linguistic group and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic, the authorities have not taken measures to develop links within the Bulgarian linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. According to the authorities, they do not support any facilities that offer Bulgarian courses (including for adults); Article 7.1.g is considered not fulfilled. During the sixth monitoring cycle, the Bulgarian minority was represented in the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and is currently represented in the new Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. However, these bodies have not specifically advised the authorities on matters pertaining to the promotion of Bulgarian; Article 7.4 is therefore considered partly fulfilled.

146. The authorities do not support an offer of Bulgarian as a subject of adult and continuing education; Article 8.1.fii is considered not fulfilled. In addition, the authorities do not specifically monitor progress of Bulgarian-language education and publish periodic reports of their findings; Article 8.1.i is considered not fulfilled.

147. Bulgarian has been used in civil proceedings (interpretation and translation); Articles 9.1.bii and 9.1.biii are considered fulfilled.

148. The limited presence of Bulgarian on public service radio and television does not make an effective contribution to the promotion of this language; Article 11.1.aiii is therefore considered not fulfilled. As the production of audio and audiovisual works in Bulgarian has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle, Article 11.1.d is considered not fulfilled. The interests of the users of Bulgarian are not represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media; Article 11.3 is considered not fulfilled.

149. The authorities have not provided sufficient information about support to cultural activities using Bulgarian. The Committee of Experts is therefore not in a position to conclude on Article 12.1.a. In the sixth monitoring cycle, two audiovisual works in Bulgarian were distributed with Slovak subtitles or dubbing. Moreover, the Bulgarian Film Festival 2024 was organised at the Slovak Film Institute to present contemporary Bulgarian cinema in Bulgarian with subtitles. However, no support has been provided to translation and post-synchronisation of such cultural works in the sixth monitoring cycle; Article 12.1.b is therefore considered partly fulfilled. There is no indication that organisers or supporters of cultural activities (including municipalities) incorporate the knowledge and use of the Bulgarian language and culture in the activities in which they are involved. Therefore, Article 12.1.d is considered not fulfilled. Furthermore, there is no indication that cultural facilities have Bulgarian-speaking staff at their disposal; Article 12.1.e is considered not fulfilled. A museum dedicated to the Bulgarian minority or another body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Bulgarian has not been established; Article 12.1.g is considered not fulfilled. No cultural activities and facilities in Bulgarian have been supported outside the area where this language is traditionally used; Article 12.2 is considered not fulfilled. Furthermore, no measures have been taken to include the Bulgarian language and culture in cultural policy abroad; Article 12.3 is considered not fulfilled.

2.1.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Bulgarian in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.1.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[63] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendation for immediate action

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

II. Further recommendations

b. Take resolute action to promote the use of Bulgarian in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language.
c. Provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of Bulgarian as an integral part of the curriculum.
d. Take the necessary legal and practical measures to ensure that Bulgarian can be used in communication with administrative authorities and public service providers and facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in this language, irrespective of thresholds.
e. Take the necessary measures, including in legislation, to ensure that broadcasters provide longer and more frequent radio and television programmes in Bulgarian and that sufficient digital media content is produced in this language to create a diverse and sustainable offer that encourages learning and using it.
f. Facilitate the creation of a weekly or daily newspaper in Bulgarian, including online.

[63] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.2 Croatian

2.2.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Croatian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Croatian**[64]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Croatian as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Croatian	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Croatian		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Croatian, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Croatian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↙			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Croatian at all appropriate stages		↗			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Croatian to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Croatian at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Croatian	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Croatian		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Croatian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Croatian among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Croatian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Croatian		↙			
Part III of the Charter ***(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)***						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.aiii	make available pre-school education in Croatian or a substantial part of pre-school education in Croatian at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=	
8.1.biii	provide, within primary education, for the teaching of Croatian as an integral part of the curriculum				=	
8.1.ciii	provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of Croatian as an integral part of the curriculum	↗				
8.1.diii	provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of Croatian as an integral part of the curriculum				=	

[64] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Croatian**[64]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
8.1.eii	provide facilities for the study of Croatian as a university and higher education subject	=				
8.1.fii	offer Croatian as a subject of adult and continuing education				↙	
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Croatian				=	
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Croatian				=	
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Croatian and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings				↙	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Croatian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.aiii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Croatian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Croatian in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Croatian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Croatian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=		
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Croatian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=		
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Croatian and the related use of documents and evidence in Croatian, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiii	ensure that users of Croatian may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Croatian				=	
10.1.aiv[65]	ensure that users of Croatian may submit oral or written applications in Croatian to local branches of the national authorities					
10.2.b	possibility for users of Croatian to submit oral or written applications in Croatian to the regional or local authority				↙	
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Croatian				=	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Croatian				=	
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Croatian in debates in their assemblies				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Croatian				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Croatian to submit a request in Croatian to public service providers				=	
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Croatian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Croatian	=				
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.aiii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Croatian				↙	
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Croatian on a regular basis				=	

[65] As Articles 10.1.aiii and 10.1.aiv constitute alternative options, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.aiv.

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Croatian**[64]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Croatian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Croatian				↙	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Croatian				=	
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Croatian			=		
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Croatian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Croatian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Croatian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Croatian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				↙	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Croatian		↙			
12.1.b	foster access in other languages to works produced in Croatian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↙			
12.1.c	foster access in Croatian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling				=	
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Croatian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing		↙			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Croatian		↙			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Croatian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Croatian	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which Croatian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Croatian				↙	
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Croatian and the culture it reflects				↙	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.a	eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Croatian in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations		=			
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Croatian				=	
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Croatian in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Croatian				=	
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the states in which Croatian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Croatian in the states concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education	=				

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

150. While the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has supported the establishment of cultural relations between the Croatian linguistic group and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic, the authorities have not taken measures to develop links within the Croatian linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. According to the authorities, they do not support any facilities that offer Croatian courses (including for adults); Article 7.1.g is considered not fulfilled. During the sixth monitoring cycle, the Croatian minority was represented in the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and is currently represented in the new Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. However, these bodies have not specifically advised the authorities on matters pertaining to the promotion of Croatian; Article 7.4 is therefore considered partly fulfilled.

151. At secondary level, Croatian is taught at the Private Slavic Grammar School in Bratislava; Article 8.1.ciii is considered fulfilled. As Croatian is taught at secondary level, but not yet in pre-school and primary education, Article 7.1.f is considered partly fulfilled. The authorities do not support an offer of Croatian as a subject of adult and continuing education; Article 8.1.fii is not fulfilled. In addition, the authorities do not specifically monitor progress of Croatian-language education and publish periodic reports of their findings; Article 8.1.i is considered not fulfilled.

152. Croatian has been used in civil proceedings (interpretation and translation); Articles 9.1.bii and 9.1.biii are considered fulfilled. As the Croatian minority does not reach the 15% threshold in any municipality, there exists no domestic legal basis allowing the submission of written applications in Croatian to local authorities. The possibility to use Croatian orally with a Croatian-speaking official would be subject to consent of the official,[66] which is not in conformity with Article 10.2.b. Besides, without a structured approach to the implementation of Article 10.2.b, the presence of a Croatian-speaking official would be a matter of coincidence. In addition, there is no domestic legal basis for the use of minority languages in contacts with regional authorities. Consequently, Article 10.2.b is considered not fulfilled.

153. The limited presence of Croatian on public service radio and television does not make an effective contribution to the promotion of this language; Article 11.1.aiii is therefore considered not fulfilled. As the production of audio and audiovisual works in Croatian has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle, Article 11.1.d is considered not fulfilled. The interests of the users of Croatian are not represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media; Article 11.3 is considered not fulfilled.

154. While the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava” has organised activities related to the folk traditions of the Croatian minority, there is no information about support by the authorities to additional cultural activities and facilities using Croatian in the sixth monitoring cycle. Therefore, Article 12.1.a is considered only partly fulfilled. In the sixth monitoring cycle, five audiovisual works in Croatian were distributed with Slovak subtitles and dubbing. However, there has been no support to translation, dubbing or post-synchronisation of such cultural works; Article 12.1.b is considered partly fulfilled. Apart from the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava”, there is no indication that bodies organising or supporting cultural activities, including municipalities where Croatian is traditionally used, incorporate the knowledge and use of the

[66] See Sixth periodical report of the Slovak Republic on the application of the Charter, MIN-LANG(2024)PR2, p. 34.

Croatian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing. Therefore, Article 12.1.d is considered partly fulfilled. Except the aforementioned museum, there is no indication that cultural facilities have Croatian-speaking staff at their disposal; Article 12.1.e is considered partly fulfilled. No cultural activities and facilities in Croatian have been supported outside the area where this language is traditionally used; Article 12.2 is considered not fulfilled. Furthermore, no measures have been taken to include the Croatian language and culture in cultural policy abroad; Article 12.3 is considered not fulfilled.

2.2.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Croatian in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.2.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[67] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

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

b. Take the necessary legal and practical measures to ensure that Croatian can be used in communication with administrative authorities and public service providers and facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in this language, irrespective of thresholds.

II. Further recommendations

c. Take resolute action to promote the use of Croatian in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language.
d. Provide basic and further training of the teachers teaching Croatian.
e. Ensure the teaching of the history and culture reflected by Croatian to all pupils in the area where this language is traditionally used.
f. Increase the visibility of Croatian, including place and street names, by using it in public signage.
g. Take the necessary measures, including in legislation, to ensure that broadcasters provide longer and more frequent radio and television programmes in Croatian and that sufficient digital media content is produced in this language to create a diverse and sustainable offer that encourages learning and using it.
h. Ensure that the bodies organising or supporting general cultural activities, including municipalities, incorporate the knowledge and use of the Croatian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing.
i. Ensure that social care facilities (e.g. hospitals) offer the use of Croatian by approaching the relevant social care facilities, supporting them (including through vocational training) and monitoring implementation on a sustainable basis.

[67] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.3 Czech

2.3.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Czech

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

Article	Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Czech[68]	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*: fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Czech as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Czech	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Czech		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Czech, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Czech • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↙			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Czech at all appropriate stages				↙	
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Czech to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Czech at universities or equivalent institutions				↙	
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Czech	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Czech	=				
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Czech among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Czech among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Czech • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Czech		↙			
Part III of the Charter ***(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)***						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.aiii	make available pre-school education in Czech or a substantial part of pre-school education in Czech at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				↙	
8.1.biii	provide, within primary education, for the teaching of Czech as an integral part of the curriculum				↙	
8.1.ciii	provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of Czech as an integral part of the curriculum				↙	
8.1.diii	provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of Czech as an integral part of the curriculum				↙	
8.1.eii	provide facilities for the study of Czech as a university and higher education subject				↙	
8.1.fii	offer Czech as a subject of adult and continuing education				↙	

[68] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Czech**[68]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Czech				↙	
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Czech				↙	
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Czech and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings				↙	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Czech in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.aiii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Czech, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Czech in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Czech in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Czech in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			↙		
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Czech in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			↙		
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Czech and the related use of documents and evidence in Czech, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiii	ensure that users of Czech may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Czech		↙			
10.1.aiv[69]	ensure that users of Czech may submit oral or written applications in Czech to local branches of the national authorities					
10.2.b	possibility for users of Czech to submit oral or written applications in Czech to the regional or local authority	=				
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Czech				↙	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Czech				↙	
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Czech in debates in their assemblies			↙		
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Czech	=				
10.3.c	allow users of Czech to submit a request in Czech to public service providers	=				
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation	=				
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Czech to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				↙	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Czech	=				
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.aiii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Czech	=				
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Czech on a regular basis	↗				
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Czech on a regular basis	↗				

[69] As Articles 10.1.aiii and 10.1.aiv constitute alternative options, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.aiv.

Article	Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Czech[68]	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*: fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Czech				↙	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Czech				↙	
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Czech			=		
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Czech • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Czech • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Czech	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Czech are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				↙	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Czech	=				
12.1.b	foster access in other languages to works produced in Czech by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↗			
12.1.c	foster access in Czech to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↗			
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Czech language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing		↙			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Czech		↙			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Czech in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Czech	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which Czech is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Czech				↙	
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Czech and the culture it reflects				↙	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.a	eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Czech in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations	=				
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Czech	=				
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Czech in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Czech				↙	
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the states in which Czech is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Czech in the states concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education	=				
14.b	for the benefit of Czech, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Czech is used in identical or similar form	=				

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

155. While the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has supported the establishment of cultural relations between the Czech linguistic group and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic, the authorities have not taken measures to develop links within the Czech linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. During the sixth monitoring cycle, the Czech minority was represented in the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and is currently represented in the new Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. However, these bodies have not specifically advised the authorities on matters pertaining to the promotion of Czech; Article 7.4 is therefore considered partly fulfilled.

156. Czech is not used or taught in education; Articles 7.1.f, 7.1.g, 7.1.h, 8.1.aiii, 8.1.biii, 8.1.ciii, 8.1.diii, 8.1.eii, 8.1.fii, 8.1.g, 8.1.h and 8.1.i. are considered not fulfilled.

157. Czech was not used in proceedings concerning administrative matters during the sixth monitoring cycle; Articles 9.1.cii and 9.1.ciii are considered only formally fulfilled. Requests in Czech can be submitted to any administrative authority in the Slovak Republic due to the mutual intelligibility with Slovak. However, for the same reason, the authorities respond to such submissions only in Slovak. Therefore, Article 10.1.aiii is partly fulfilled. Regional and local authorities have not published their official documents also in Czech; Articles 10.2.c and 10.2.d are considered not fulfilled. While Czech may be used in debates of local assemblies, there is no information about implementation. Therefore, Article 10.2.f is considered only formally fulfilled. No steps have been taken to implement Article 10.4.c, which is considered not fulfilled.

158. In the private media, a radio programme and a television programme (13 hours in 2022) are broadcast in Czech; Articles 11.1.bii and 11.1.cii are considered fulfilled. The production of audio and audiovisual works in Czech has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle; Article 11.1.d is considered not fulfilled. Furthermore, there is no daily or weekly newspaper in Czech; Article 11.1.ei is considered not fulfilled. The interests of the users of Czech are not represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media; Article 11.3 is considered not fulfilled.

159. Audiovisual works in Czech were distributed with subtitles in Slovak as well as audiovisual works in Slovak with subtitles in Czech. However, there has been no support to translation, dubbing or post-synchronisation of cultural works involving Czech. Consequently, Articles 12.1.b and 12.1.c are considered partly fulfilled. Apart from the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia”, there is no indication that bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Czech language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing. Therefore, Article 12.1.d is considered partly fulfilled. Apart from the museum, there is also no indication that cultural facilities have Czech-speaking staff at their disposal; Article 12.1.e is considered partly fulfilled. Cultural activities and facilities in Czech have not been supported outside the area where Czech is traditionally used; Article 12.2 is considered not fulfilled. In addition, no measures have been taken to include the Czech language and culture in cultural policy abroad; Article 12.3 is considered not fulfilled.

160. The authorities do not ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of Czech; Article 13.2.c is considered not fulfilled.

161. Considering the special legal status of Czech in the Slovak Republic, the Committee of Experts will not make recommendations for immediate action to the authorities concerning Czech in this evaluation report.

2.3.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Czech in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.3.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[70] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

The Committee of Experts has no recommendation for immediate action at present (see para. 161).

II. Further recommendation

a. Take resolute action to promote the use of Czech in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language, especially education.

[70] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.4 German

2.4.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of German

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning German**[71]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of German as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of German	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote German		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of German, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using German • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↙			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of German at all appropriate stages		=			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of German to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on German at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of German		↙			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of German		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to German among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to German among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses German • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to German		↙			
Part III of the Charter ***(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)***						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.aiii	make available pre-school education in German or a substantial part of pre-school education in German at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				↙	
8.1.biii	provide, within primary education, for the teaching of German as an integral part of the curriculum		=			
8.1.ciii	provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of German as an integral part of the curriculum		=			
8.1.diii	provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of German as an integral part of the curriculum				↙	
8.1.eii	provide facilities for the study of German as a university and higher education subject	=				

[71] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning German**[71]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
8.1.fii	offer German as a subject of adult and continuing education				=	
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by German				=	
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) German				=	
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of German and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings				↙	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use German in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.aiii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in German, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use German in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in German in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use German in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=		
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in German in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=		
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in German and the related use of documents and evidence in German, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiii	ensure that users of German may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in German				=	
10.1.aiv[72]	ensure that users of German may submit oral or written applications in German to local branches of the national authorities					
10.2.b	possibility for users of German to submit oral or written applications in German to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in German				=	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in German				=	
10.2.f	use by local authorities of German in debates in their assemblies				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in German		=			
10.3.c	allow users of German to submit a request in German to public service providers				=	
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation		↗			
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of German to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				↙	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in German	=				
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.aiii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in German				=	
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in German on a regular basis				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in German on a regular basis				=	

[72] As Articles 10.1.aiii and 10.1.aiv constitute alternative options, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.aiv.

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning German**[71]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in German				↙	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in German				=	
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in German			=		
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in German • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in German • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in German	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of German are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				↙	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in German		↙			
12.1.b	foster access in other languages to works produced in German by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↙			
12.1.c	foster access in German to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling				↙	
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the German language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing		↙			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of German		↙			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of German in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in German	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which German is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using German				↙	
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for German and the culture it reflects				↙	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.a	eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of German in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations		=			
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of German				=	
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of German in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of German				↙	
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the states in which German is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of German in the states concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↙			
14.b	for the benefit of German, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory German is used in identical or similar form					↙

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**
Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

162. While the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has supported the establishment of cultural relations between the German linguistic group and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic, the authorities have not taken measures to develop links within the German linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. According to the authorities, they do not support any facilities that offer German courses (including for adults); Article 7.1.g is considered not fulfilled. The authorities have provided very few examples of activities, and in only some areas covered by the Charter, to promote transnational exchanges for the benefit of German; Article 7.1.i is therefore considered partly fulfilled. During the sixth monitoring cycle, the German minority was represented in the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and is currently represented in the new Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. However, these bodies have not specifically advised the authorities on matters pertaining to the promotion of German; Article 7.4 is therefore considered partly fulfilled.

163. As regards education, there are no kindergartens which provide pre-school education entirely in German or at least a substantial part of pre-school education in this language; Article 8.1.aiii is considered not fulfilled. According to the authorities, German is not taught at technical and vocational level; Article 8.1.diii is considered not fulfilled. The authorities do not specifically monitor progress of German-language education and publish periodic reports of their findings; Article 8.1.i is considered not fulfilled.

164. German has been used in civil proceedings (interpretation and translation); Articles 9.1.bii and 9.1.biii are considered fulfilled. As some administrative authorities provided translations into German (e.g. the methodological guideline for the application of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities) in the sixth monitoring cycle, Article 10.4.a is now considered partly fulfilled. However, the authorities have again not provided information about how they comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of German to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used. The Committee of Experts interprets the repeated lack of information as an indication that Article 10.4.c is not fulfilled.

165. As the production of audio and audiovisual works in German has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle, Article 11.1.d is considered not fulfilled. The interests of the users of German are not represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media; Article 11.3 is considered not fulfilled.

166. Apart from their support to the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Carpathian German Culture in Bratislava” (which is primarily relevant under Article 12.1.g), the authorities have not provided examples of support to cultural activities and facilities using German. Therefore, Article 12.1.a is considered partly fulfilled. Support has been granted to the distribution of cultural works in German with subtitling in Slovak. However, no support has been provided to translation, dubbing and post-synchronisation of such cultural works; Article 12.1.b is therefore considered partly fulfilled. The authorities have again not provided information on the implementation of Article 12.1.c. Taking also into account the information received during the on-the-spot visit, the Committee of Experts interprets the repeated lack of information as an indication that this undertaking is not fulfilled. Apart from the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Carpathian German Culture in Bratislava”, there is no indication that other organisers or supporters of cultural activities (including municipalities) incorporate the knowledge and use of the German language and culture in the activities in which they are involved. Therefore, Article 12.1.d is considered partly fulfilled. With regard to Article 12.1.e, the authorities have indicated that in addition to the aforementioned museum also the Slovak Film Institute has German-speaking staff, but it is unclear what activities using German the latter has

undertaken; the undertaking is considered partly fulfilled. No cultural activities and facilities in German have been supported outside the area where this language is traditionally used; Article 12.2 is considered not fulfilled. Furthermore, no measures have been taken to include the German language and culture in cultural policy abroad; Article 12.3 is considered not fulfilled.

167. The authorities have taken no measures to ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of German; Article 13.2.c is considered not fulfilled. With regard to the promotion of German in the framework of bilateral agreements, the authorities indicated measures relating to the digitisation of documents about the culture of the German minority, but no examples in other relevant fields such as education and media. Therefore, Article 14.a is considered partly fulfilled. Furthermore, the authorities have not provided information about activities promoting German in the framework of co-operation between local and regional authorities. Therefore, the Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of Article 14.b.

2.4.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of German in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.4.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[73] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

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

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

II. Further recommendations

c. Take resolute action to promote the use of German in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language.

d. Ensure teaching of the history and culture reflected by German to all pupils in the area where this language is traditionally used.

e. Take the necessary legal and practical measures to ensure that German can be used in communication with local branches of the state authorities, regional authorities and public service providers and facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in this language, irrespective of thresholds.

f. Take the necessary measures, including in legislation, to ensure that broadcasters provide longer and more frequent radio and television programmes in German and that sufficient digital media content is produced in this language to create a diverse and sustainable offer that encourages learning and using it.

g. Facilitate the creation of a weekly or daily newspaper in German, including online.

h. Ensure that the bodies organising or supporting general cultural activities, including municipalities, incorporate the knowledge and use of the German language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing.

[73] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

i. Ensure that social care facilities (e.g. hospitals) offer the use of German by approaching the relevant social care facilities, supporting them (including through vocational training) and monitoring implementation on a sustainable basis.

2.5 Hungarian

2.5.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Hungarian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Hungarian**[74]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Hungarian as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Hungarian	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Hungarian		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Hungarian, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Hungarian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↙			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Hungarian at all appropriate stages	=				
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Hungarian to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Hungarian at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Hungarian	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Hungarian		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Hungarian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Hungarian among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Hungarian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Hungarian		↙			
Part III of the Charter ***(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)***						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.ai	make available pre-school education in Hungarian	=				
8.1.bi	make available primary education in Hungarian	=				
8.1.ci	make available secondary education in Hungarian	=				
8.1.di	make available technical and vocational education in Hungarian	↗				
8.1.ei	make available university and other higher education in Hungarian	=				
8.1.fi	provision of adult and continuing education courses taught mainly or wholly in Hungarian				↙	
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Hungarian		↗			
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Hungarian	=				

[74] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Hungarian**[74]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Hungarian and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings				↙	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Hungarian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.aiii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Hungarian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Hungarian in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Hungarian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Hungarian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Hungarian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Hungarian and the related use of documents and evidence in Hungarian, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.2.a	not to deny the validity of legal documents solely because they are drafted in Hungarian	=				
9.3	make available in Hungarian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Hungarian	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aii	ensure that officers of local branches of the national authorities use Hungarian in their relations with persons applying to them in Hungarian		=			
10.2.a	use of Hungarian within the framework of the regional or local authority		=			
10.2.b	possibility for users of Hungarian to submit oral or written applications in Hungarian to the regional or local authority		=			
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Hungarian				=	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Hungarian		=			
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Hungarian in debates in their assemblies		=			
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Hungarian		=			
10.3.b	allow users of Hungarian to submit a request to and receive a reply from public service providers in Hungarian		=			
10.3.c[75]	allow users of Hungarian to submit a request in Hungarian to public service providers					
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation		=			
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Hungarian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				↙	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Hungarian	=				
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.aiii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Hungarian		=			
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Hungarian on a regular basis		↗			

[75] As Articles 10.3.b and 10.3.c constitute alternative options, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.3.c.

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Hungarian**[74]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Hungarian on a regular basis	=				
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Hungarian				↙	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Hungarian	=				
11.1.fi	cover the additional costs of those media which use Hungarian				=	
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Hungarian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Hungarian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Hungarian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Hungarian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media					↙
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Hungarian	=				
12.1.b	foster access in other languages to works produced in Hungarian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling	=				
12.1.c	foster access in Hungarian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling				↙	
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Hungarian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing	=				
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Hungarian		↙			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Hungarian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Hungarian	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which Hungarian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Hungarian	=				
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Hungarian and the culture it reflects	=				
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.a	eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Hungarian in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations		=			
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Hungarian				=	
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Hungarian in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Hungarian		=			
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the states in which Hungarian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Hungarian in the states concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education	=				
14.b	for the benefit of Hungarian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Hungarian is used in identical or similar form	=				

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

168. While the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has supported the establishment of cultural relations between the Hungarian linguistic group and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic, the authorities have not taken measures to develop links within the Hungarian linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. According to the authorities, they do not support any facilities that offer Hungarian courses (including for adults); Article 7.1.g is considered not fulfilled. During the sixth monitoring cycle, the Hungarian minority was represented in the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and is currently represented in the new Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. However, these bodies have not specifically advised the authorities on matters pertaining to the promotion of Hungarian; Article 7.4 is therefore considered partly fulfilled.

169. Hungarian is the language of instruction in vocational education in several schools and places. Therefore, Article 8.1.di is considered fulfilled. In schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction, the curriculum includes the teaching of the history and culture reflected by Hungarian. However, it is not taught to all pupils living in the areas where Hungarian is used. Therefore, Article 8.1.g is considered partly fulfilled. The authorities do not arrange for the provision of adult and continuing education courses which are taught mainly or wholly in Hungarian; Article 8.1.fi is considered not fulfilled. Furthermore, the authorities do not specifically monitor progress of Hungarian-language education and publish periodic reports of their findings; Article 8.1.i is considered not fulfilled.

170. The authorities have again not provided information about how they comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Hungarian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used. The Committee of Experts interprets the repeated lack of information as an indication that Article 10.4.c is not fulfilled.

171. A private radio programme is broadcast in Hungarian. Considering the size of the area where Hungarian is traditionally used, this limited offer partly fulfils Article 11.1.bii. There is no indication that the production of audio and audiovisual works in Hungarian has been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle; Article 11.1.d is considered not fulfilled. A person belonging to the Hungarian minority is a member of the Media Services Council whose mission it is, among other things, to protect freedom of expression. However, it is unclear if this person officially represents the users of Hungarian in this body. Therefore, the Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of Article 11.3.

172. The authorities have again not provided information on the implementation of Article 12.1.c. The Committee of Experts interprets the repeated lack of information as an indication that this undertaking is not fulfilled. With regard to Article 12.1.e, the authorities have indicated that the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava” and the Slovak Film Institute have Hungarian-speaking staff, but it is unclear what activities using Hungarian the latter has undertaken. The undertaking is therefore considered partly fulfilled.

2.5.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Hungarian in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered

"fulfilled" (see under 2.5.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[76] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendation for immediate action

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

II. Further recommendations

b. Take resolute action to promote the use of Hungarian in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language.
c. Ensure teaching of the history and culture reflected by Hungarian to all pupils in the area where this language is traditionally used.
d. Strengthen the oral and written use of Hungarian in relations with and by the administrative authorities and public services, in co-operation with the users and in accordance with the undertakings ratified, irrespective of thresholds, and encourage such use in practice.
e. Facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in Hungarian.
f. Identify ways to cover the additional costs of those media which use Hungarian.
g. Ensure that social care facilities (e.g. hospitals) continue to offer the use of Hungarian by approaching the relevant social care facilities, supporting them and monitoring implementation on a sustainable basis.

[76] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.6 Polish

2.6.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Polish

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

Article	Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Polish[77]	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*: fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Polish as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Polish	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Polish		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Polish, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Polish • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↙			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Polish at all appropriate stages				=	
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Polish to learn it					↙
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Polish at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Polish					↙
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Polish		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Polish among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Polish among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Polish • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Polish		↙			
Part III of the Charter ***(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)***						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.aiii	make available pre-school education in Polish or a substantial part of pre-school education in Polish at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=	
8.1.biii	provide, within primary education, for the teaching of Polish as an integral part of the curriculum				=	
8.1.ciii	provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of Polish as an integral part of the curriculum				=	
8.1.diii	provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of Polish as an integral part of the curriculum				=	
8.1.eii	provide facilities for the study of Polish as a university and higher education subject	=				
8.1.fii	offer Polish as a subject of adult and continuing education				=	

[77] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Polish**[77]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Polish				=	
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Polish				=	
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Polish and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings				↙	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Polish in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.aiii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Polish, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Polish in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Polish in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Polish in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Polish in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Polish and the related use of documents and evidence in Polish, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiii	ensure that users of Polish may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Polish				=	
10.1.aiv[78]	ensure that users of Polish may submit oral or written applications in Polish to local branches of the national authorities					
10.2.b	possibility for users of Polish to submit oral or written applications in Polish to the regional or local authority				=	
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Polish				=	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Polish				=	
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Polish in debates in their assemblies				=	
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Polish				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Polish to submit a request in Polish to public service providers				=	
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation				=	
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Polish to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Polish	=				
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.aiii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Polish				↙	
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Polish on a regular basis				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Polish on a regular basis				=	

[78] As Articles 10.1.aiii and 10.1.aiv constitute alternative options, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.aiv.

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Polish**[77]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Polish				↙	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Polish				=	
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Polish			=		
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Polish • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Polish • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Polish	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Polish are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				↙	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Polish		↙			
12.1.b	foster access in other languages to works produced in Polish by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↙			
12.1.c	foster access in Polish to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling				=	
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Polish language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing				↙	
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Polish				↙	
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Polish in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Polish				↙	
12.2	In territories other than those in which Polish is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Polish				↙	
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Polish and the culture it reflects				↙	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.a	eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Polish in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations		=			
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Polish				=	
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Polish in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Polish				=	
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the states in which Polish is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Polish in the states concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education	=				
14.b	for the benefit of Polish, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Polish is used in identical or similar form	=				

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

173. While the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has supported the establishment of cultural relations between the Polish linguistic group and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic, the authorities have not taken measures to develop links within the Polish linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. Courses of Polish are organised by associations at the Polish Saturday-Sunday School in Žilina and the Polish language club in Nitra. As it is not clear if the authorities support these courses, the Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of Article 7.1.g. The Committee of Experts has not received examples of activities promoting transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by the Charter, for the benefit of Polish and is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of Article 7.1.i. During the sixth monitoring cycle, the Polish minority was represented in the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and is currently represented in the new Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. However, these bodies have not specifically advised the authorities on matters pertaining to the promotion of Polish; Article 7.4 is therefore considered partly fulfilled.

174. As Polish is not taught in mainstream education, Article 8.1.i is considered not fulfilled.

175. Polish was used in civil proceedings and in proceedings concerning administrative matters during the sixth monitoring cycle. Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii, 9.1.cii and 9.1.ciii are therefore considered fulfilled.

176. The limited presence of Polish on public service radio and television does not make an effective contribution to the promotion of this language; Article 11.1.aiii is therefore considered not fulfilled. As the production of audio and audiovisual works in Polish has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle, Article 11.1.d is considered not fulfilled. The interests of the users of Polish are not represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media; Article 11.3 is considered not fulfilled.

177. In the field of culture, the authorities supported a literature project in Polish. In the absence of cultural activities in Polish in other domains, Article 12.1.a is considered partly fulfilled. Audiovisual works in Polish were distributed with Slovak subtitles or dubbing. However, there has been no support to translation, dubbing or post-synchronisation of cultural works in this language. Therefore, Article 12.1.b is considered partly fulfilled. There is no indication that organisers or supporters of cultural activities (including municipalities) incorporate the knowledge and use of the Polish language and culture in the activities in which they are involved or that cultural facilities have Polish-speaking staff at their disposal; Articles 12.1.d and 12.1.e are therefore considered not fulfilled. A museum dedicated to the Polish minority, similar to those of other national minorities, or another body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Polish has not been established. Consequently, Article 12.1.g is considered not fulfilled. No cultural activities and facilities in Polish have been supported outside the area where this language is traditionally used; Article 12.2 is considered not fulfilled. Furthermore, no measures have been taken to include the Polish language and culture in cultural policy abroad; Article 12.3 is considered not fulfilled.

2.6.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Polish in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.6.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[79] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

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

b. Take the necessary legal and practical measures to ensure that Polish can be used in communication with administrative authorities and public service providers and facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in this language, irrespective of thresholds.

II. Further recommendations

c. Take resolute action to promote the use of Polish in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language.
d. Provide basic and further training of the teachers teaching Polish.
e. Take the necessary measures, including in legislation, to ensure that broadcasters provide longer and more frequent radio and television programmes in Polish and that sufficient digital media content is produced in this language to create a diverse and sustainable offer that encourages learning and using it.
f. Facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Polish.
g. Ensure that social care facilities (e.g. hospitals) offer the use of Polish by approaching the relevant social care facilities, supporting them (including through vocational training) and monitoring implementation on a sustainable basis.

[79] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.7 Romani

2.7.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Romani

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

		The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:				
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Romani**[80]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Romani as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Romani	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Romani		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Romani, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Romani • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups	=				
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Romani at all appropriate stages		=			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Romani to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Romani at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Romani					↙
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Romani		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romani among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romani among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Romani • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Romani	=				
Part III of the Charter ***(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)***						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.aiii	make available pre-school education in Romani or a substantial part of pre-school education in Romani at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient				=	
8.1.biii	provide, within primary education, for the teaching of Romani as an integral part of the curriculum		=			
8.1.ciii	provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of Romani as an integral part of the curriculum		=			
8.1.diii	provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of Romani as an integral part of the curriculum		=			
8.1.eii	provide facilities for the study of Romani as a university and higher education subject	=				

[80] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

Article	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*: Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Romani[80]	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
8.1.fii	offer Romani as a subject of adult and continuing education				↙	
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Romani		=			
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Romani		=			
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Romani and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings				↙	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Romani in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.aiii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Romani, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Romani in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Romani in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations		=			
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Romani in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			↙		
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Romani in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			↙		
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Romani and the related use of documents and evidence in Romani, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiii	ensure that users of Romani may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Romani				=	
10.1.aiv[81]	ensure that users of Romani may submit oral or written applications in Roma to local branches of the national authorities					
10.2.b	possibility for users of Romani to submit oral or written applications in Romani to the regional or local authority				↙	
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Romani				=	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Romani				=	
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Romani in debates in their assemblies		=			
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Romani				=	
10.3.c	allow users of Roma to submit a request in Romani to public service providers				=	
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation		↗			
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Romani to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				↙	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Romani	=				
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.aiii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Romani		=			
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Romani on a regular basis					↙
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Romani on a regular basis					↙

[81] As Articles 10.1.aiii and 10.1.aiv constitute alternative options, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1.aiv.

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Romani**[80]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Romani				↙	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Romani				=	
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Romani			↙		
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Romani • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Romani • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Romani	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Romani are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				↙	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Romani	=				
12.1.b	foster access in other languages to works produced in Romani by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↙			
12.1.c	foster access in Romani to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↗			
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Romani language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing		↙			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Romani		↙			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Romani in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Romani	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which Romani is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Romani	=				
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Romani and the culture it reflects				↙	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.a	eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Romani in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations		=			
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Romani				=	
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Romani in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Romani		=			
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the states in which Romani is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Romani in the states concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education					↙

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

178. According to the authorities, they do not support any facilities that offer Romani courses (including for adults); Article 7.1.g is considered not fulfilled. The Committee of Experts has not received examples of activities promoting transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by the Charter, for the benefit of Romani and is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of Article 7.1.i.

179. The authorities do not support an offer of Romani as a subject of adult and continuing education; Article 8.1.fii is considered not fulfilled. In addition, the authorities do not specifically monitor progress of Romani-language education and publish periodic reports of their findings; Article 8.1.i is considered not fulfilled.

180. Romani was used in civil proceedings (interpretation); Article 9.1.bii is considered fulfilled. However, Romani was not used in proceedings concerning administrative matters during the sixth monitoring cycle. Therefore, Articles 9.1.cii and 9.1.ciii are considered only formally fulfilled. Romani has not been used in applications submitted to local authorities. In addition, there is no domestic legal basis for the use of this language in contacts with regional authorities. Consequently, Article 10.2.b is considered not fulfilled. The national authorities have provided some translations into Romani, for example instructions regarding elections, medical forms for women (informed patient consent before medical intervention), forms of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, and information leaflets on trafficking in human beings and forced marriages; Article 10.4.a is considered partly fulfilled. However, the authorities have again not provided information on measures taken to promote the availability of Romani-speaking officials through staff mobility. The Committee of Experts interprets the repeated lack of information as an indication that Article 10.4.c is not fulfilled.

181. It is unclear whether private radio programmes or television programmes are broadcast in Romani. The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of Articles 11.1.bii and 11.1.cii. The production of audio and audiovisual works in Romani has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle; Article 11.1.d is considered not fulfilled and Article 11.1.fii is considered only formally fulfilled. The interests of the users of Romani are not represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media; Article 11.3 is considered not fulfilled.

182. Support has also been granted to the distribution of cultural works in Romani with subtitling in Slovak. However, there has been no support to dubbing or post-synchronisation of cultural works in this language; Article 12.1.b is therefore considered partly fulfilled. With regard to Article 12.1.c, literature has been translated into Romani, but no other steps taken; the undertaking is therefore considered partly fulfilled. Apart from the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Roma Culture in Slovakia” and the Documentation and Information Centre of Roma Culture, there is no information that other organisers or supporters of cultural activities, including municipalities in the areas where Romani is traditionally used, incorporate the knowledge and use of the Romani language and culture in the activities in which they are involved, or have at their disposal staff who have a full command of this language. Therefore, Articles 12.1.d and 12.1.e are considered partly fulfilled. Moreover, no measures have been taken to include the Romani language and culture in cultural policy abroad; Article 12.3 is considered not fulfilled.

183. As the authorities have not provided any information on activities fostering contacts between users of Romani in the framework of bilateral agreements with other states, the Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of Article 14.a.

2.7.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Romani in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.7.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[82] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

a. Provide for pre-school education substantially or entirely in Romani and for the teaching of Romani as an integral part of the curriculum in primary and secondary education in the areas where this language is traditionally used, while ensuring continuity between educational levels and taking the specific needs and wishes of the users into account.

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

II. Further recommendations

c. Take resolute action to promote the use of Romani in public and private life by including the application of the Charter to this language in the existing strategies and action plans concerning Roma.

d. Ensure teaching of the history and culture reflected by Romani to all pupils in the area where this language is traditionally used.

e. Take the necessary legal and practical measures to ensure that Romani can be used in communication with local branches of the state authorities, regional authorities and public service providers and facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in this language, irrespective of thresholds.

f. Finalise the collection of place names in Romani in line with available research and introduce their official use.

g. Facilitate the creation of a weekly or daily newspaper in Romani, including online.

[82] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.8 Russian

2.8.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Russian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change[83]

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Russian[84]**	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Russian as an expression of cultural wealth	x				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Russian	x				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Russian		x			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Russian, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life	x				
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Russian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		x			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Russian at all appropriate stages		x			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Russian to learn it	x				
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Russian at universities or equivalent institutions	x				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Russian		x			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Russian		x			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Russian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Russian among their objectives		x			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Russian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Russian		x			

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

[83] As this is the first evaluation of the application of the Charter to Russian, the symbol "x" is used.
[84] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

2.8.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Russian in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.8.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[85] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendation for immediate action

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

II. Further recommendation

b. Take resolute action to promote the use of Russian in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language.

[85] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.9 Ruthenian

2.9.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Ruthenian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Ruthenian**[86]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Ruthenian as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Ruthenian	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Ruthenian		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Ruthenian, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Ruthenian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↙			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Ruthenian at all appropriate stages		=			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Ruthenian to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Ruthenian at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Ruthenian					↙
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Ruthenian		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ruthenian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ruthenian among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Ruthenian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Ruthenian		↙			
Part III of the Charter ***(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)***						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.aii	make available a substantial part of pre-school education in Ruthenian		=			
8.1.bii	make available a substantial part of primary education in Ruthenian				↙	
8.1.cii	make available a substantial part of secondary education in Ruthenian				=	
8.1.dii	make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Ruthenian				=	
8.1.eii	provide facilities for the study of Ruthenian as a university and higher education subject	=				
8.1.fii	offer Ruthenian as a subject of adult and continuing education				↙	
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Ruthenian		=			
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Ruthenian		=			

[86] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

Article	Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Ruthenian[86]	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*: fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Ruthenian and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings				↙	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Ruthenian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				↙	
9.1.aiii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Ruthenian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned				↙	
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Ruthenian in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			↙		
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Ruthenian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			↙		
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Ruthenian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			↙		
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Ruthenian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			↙		
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Ruthenian and the related use of documents and evidence in Ruthenian, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned			↙		
9.3	make available in Ruthenian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Ruthenian	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiii	ensure that users of Ruthenian may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Ruthenian		=			
10.1.aiv	ensure that users of Ruthenian may submit oral or written applications in Ruthenian to local branches of the national authorities[87]					
10.2.b	possibility for users of Ruthenian to submit oral or written applications in Ruthenian to the regional or local authority		=			
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Ruthenian				=	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Ruthenian				=	
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Ruthenian in debates in their assemblies		=			
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Ruthenian		=			
10.3.c	allow users of Ruthenian to submit a request in Ruthenian to public service providers				=	
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation		=			
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Ruthenian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				=	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Ruthenian	=				
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.aiii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Ruthenian		=			
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Ruthenian on a regular basis				↙	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Ruthenian on a regular basis				↙	

[87] As Articles 10.1 aiii and 10.1.aiv constitute alternative options, the Committee of Experts will not evaluate the implementation of Article 10.1. aiv.

Article	Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Ruthenian[86]	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*: fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Ruthenian				↙	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Ruthenian				=	
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Ruthenian			=		
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ruthenian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ruthenian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Ruthenian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Ruthenian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				↙	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ruthenian		↙			
12.1.b	foster access in other languages to works produced in Ruthenian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling				↙	
12.1.c	foster access in Ruthenian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling				↙	
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Ruthenian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing		↙			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Ruthenian		↙			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Ruthenian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Ruthenian	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which Ruthenian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Ruthenian				↙	
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Ruthenian and the culture it reflects				↙	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.a	eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Ruthenian in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations		=			
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Ruthenian				=	
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Ruthenian in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Ruthenian		=			
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the states in which Ruthenian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Ruthenian in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education				=	

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

184. While the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has supported the establishment of cultural relations between the Ruthenian linguistic group and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic, the authorities have not taken measures to develop links within the Ruthenian linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. According to the authorities, they do not support any facilities that offer Ruthenian courses (including for adults); Article 7.1.g is considered not fulfilled. The authorities have not provided examples of activities to promote transnational exchanges for the benefit of Ruthenian. Consequently, the Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of Article 7.1.i. During the sixth monitoring cycle, the Ruthenian minority was represented in the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and is currently represented in the new Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. However, these bodies have not specifically advised the authorities on matters pertaining to the promotion of Ruthenian; Article 7.4 is therefore considered partly fulfilled.

185. At primary level, the authorities do not make available a substantial part of education in Ruthenian (i.e. for at least 50% of the school hours per week). In addition, the total number of pupils enrolled is relatively small. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 8.1.bii not fulfilled. The authorities do not support an offer of Ruthenian as a subject of adult and continuing education; Article 8.1.fii is considered not fulfilled. The authorities do not specifically monitor progress of Ruthenian-language education and publish periodic reports of their findings; Article 8.1.i is considered not fulfilled.

186. During the sixth monitoring cycle, Ruthenian has not been used before judicial authorities. Considering the lack of practice in conjunction with the lack of a clear domestic legal basis for exercising the right to use Ruthenian in criminal proceedings if the person concerned speaks Slovak, Articles 9.1.aii and 9.1.aiii are considered not fulfilled. In addition, Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii, 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii and 9.1.d are considered formally fulfilled.

187. Ruthenian is not used on private radio and private television; Articles 11.1.bii and 11.1.cii are not fulfilled. As the production of audio and audiovisual works in Ruthenian has not been supported during the sixth monitoring cycle, Article 11.1.d is considered not fulfilled. The interests of the users of Ruthenian are not represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media; Article 11.3 is considered not fulfilled.

188. The “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov” organised a book festival in Ruthenian during the sixth monitoring cycle. There is no information about support to additional activities relating to the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ruthenian. Therefore, Article 12.1.a is considered partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts has again not received any examples of implementation of Article 12.1.b and considers the repeated lack of information as an indication that this undertaking is not fulfilled. Furthermore, there has been no support to providing access in Ruthenian to cultural works in other languages through subtitling, translation, dubbing or post-synchronisation; Article 12.1.c is considered not fulfilled. Apart from the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov”, there is no indication that other organisers or supporters of cultural activities (including municipalities) incorporate the knowledge and use of the Ruthenian language and culture in the activities in which they are involved or have Ruthenian-speaking staff at their disposal. Therefore, Articles 12.1.d and 12.1.e are considered partly fulfilled. No measures have been taken to promote cultural activities and facilities in Ruthenian outside the area where this language is traditionally used; Article 12.2 is considered not fulfilled. The Committee of Experts has again not received any examples of implementation of Article 12.3 and considers the repeated lack of information as an indication that this undertaking is not fulfilled.

2.9.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Ruthenian in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.9.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[88] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendation for immediate action

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

II. Further recommendations

b. Take resolute action to promote the use of Ruthenian in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language.
c. Provide basic and further training of the teachers teaching in Ruthenian.
d. Ensure the teaching of the history and culture reflected by Ruthenian to all pupils in the area where this language is traditionally used.
e. Strengthen the use of Ruthenian in relations with the administrative authorities and public services, in co-operation with the users and in accordance with the undertakings ratified, irrespective of thresholds, and encourage such use in practice and increase the visibility of Ruthenian by using it in public signage, including place names.
f. Facilitate the creation of a weekly or daily newspaper in Ruthenian, including online.
g. Ensure that the bodies organising or supporting general cultural activities, including municipalities, incorporate the knowledge and use of the Ruthenian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing.
h. Ensure that social care facilities (e.g. hospitals) continue to offer the use of Ruthenian by approaching the relevant social care facilities, supporting them (including through vocational training) and monitoring implementation on a sustainable basis.

[88] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.10 Serbian

2.10.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Serbian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:					
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Serbian**[89]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Serbian as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Serbian	↗				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Serbian		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Serbian, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Serbian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↙			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Serbian at all appropriate stages				=	
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Serbian to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Serbian at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Serbian	↗				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Serbian		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Serbian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Serbian among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Serbian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Serbian		↙			

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

[89] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

189. Administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Serbian; Article 7.1.b is considered fulfilled. While the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has supported the establishment of cultural relations between the Serbian linguistic group and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic, the authorities have not taken measures to develop links within the Serbian linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. According to the authorities, they do not support any facilities that offer Serbian courses (including for adults); Article 7.1.g is considered not fulfilled. In the framework of co-operation with Serbia, scholarships for summer seminars in Serbian language and culture in Serbia and cultural exchanges were organised; Article 7.1.i is considered fulfilled. The Serbian minority is represented by a member of the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. At present, however, there is not yet a strategy or action plan on the promotion of the use of Serbian in public and private life and the implementation of the Charter; Article 7.4 is considered partly fulfilled.

2.10.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Serbian in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.10.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[90] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendation for immediate action

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

II. Further recommendation

b. Take resolute action to promote the use of Serbian in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language.

[90] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.11 Ukrainian

2.11.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Ukrainian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Ukrainian**[91]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Ukrainian as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Ukrainian	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Ukrainian		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Ukrainian, in speech and writing, in public life (for example, education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Ukrainian • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups		↙			
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Ukrainian at all appropriate stages		=			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Ukrainian to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Ukrainian at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Ukrainian		↙			
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Ukrainian		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ukrainian among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Ukrainian among their objectives		=			
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Ukrainian • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Ukrainian		↙			
Part III of the Charter ***(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)***						
Art. 8 – Education						
8.1.aii	make available a substantial part of pre-school education in Ukrainian					↙
8.1.bii	make available a substantial part of primary education in Ukrainian				↙	
8.1.cii	make available a substantial part of secondary education in Ukrainian				↙	
8.1.dii	make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Ukrainian				=	
8.1.eii	provide facilities for the study of Ukrainian as a university and higher education subject	=				
8.1.fii	offer Ukrainian as a subject of adult and continuing education				↙	
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Ukrainian		=			
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Ukrainian		=			

[91] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Ukrainian**[91]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Ukrainian and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings				↙	
Art. 9 – Judicial authorities						
9.1.aii	guarantee the accused the right to use Ukrainian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.aiii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Ukrainian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		=			
9.1.bii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Ukrainian in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.biii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Ukrainian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	↗				
9.1.cii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Ukrainian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=		
9.1.ciii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Ukrainian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations			=		
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Ukrainian and the related use of documents and evidence in Ukrainian, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.3	make available in Ukrainian the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of Ukrainian	=				
Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services						
10.1.aiii	ensure that users of Ukrainian may submit oral or written applications to local branches of the national authorities and receive a reply in Ukrainian				=	
10.1.aiv	ensure that users of Ukrainian may submit oral or written applications in Ukrainian to local branches of the national authorities					
10.2.b	possibility for users of Ukrainian to submit oral or written applications in Ukrainian to the regional or local authority				↙	
10.2.c	publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Ukrainian				=	
10.2.d	publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Ukrainian		↗			
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Ukrainian in debates in their assemblies		=			
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Ukrainian		=			
10.3.c	allow users of Ukrainian to submit a request in Ukrainian to public service providers				=	
10.4.a	provide translation or interpretation	↗				
10.4.c	comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Ukrainian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used				↙	
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Ukrainian	=				
Art. 11 – Media						
11.1.aiii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Ukrainian		=			
11.1.bii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Ukrainian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.cii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Ukrainian on a regular basis				=	
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Ukrainian				↙	
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Ukrainian				=	

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Ukrainian**[91]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
11.1.fii	apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Ukrainian			=		
11.2	• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ukrainian • do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Ukrainian • ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Ukrainian	=				
11.3	ensure that the interests of the users of Ukrainian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media				↙	
Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ukrainian		↙			
12.1.b	foster access in other languages to works produced in Ukrainian by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↗			
12.1.c	foster access in Ukrainian to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling		↗			
12.1.d	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Ukrainian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing		↙			
12.1.e	ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Ukrainian		↙			
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Ukrainian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Ukrainian	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which Ukrainian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Ukrainian	=				
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Ukrainian and the culture it reflects				↙	
Art. 13 – Economic and social life						
13.1.a	eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Ukrainian in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations		=			
13.1.b	prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Ukrainian				=	
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Ukrainian in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.c	ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Ukrainian				↙	
Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the states in which Ukrainian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Ukrainian in the states concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education		↙			
14.b	for the benefit of Ukrainian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Ukrainian is used in identical or similar form	=				

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

190. While the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups has supported the establishment of cultural relations between the Ukrainian linguistic group and other linguistic groups in the Slovak Republic, the authorities have not taken measures to develop links within the Ukrainian linguistic group in the fields covered by the Charter. Therefore, the Committee of Experts considers Article 7.1.e partly fulfilled. According to the authorities, they do not support any facilities that offer Ukrainian courses (including for adults); Article 7.1.g is considered not fulfilled. During the sixth monitoring cycle, the Ukrainian minority was represented in the former Committee of National Minorities and Ethnic Groups and is currently represented in the new Government Council of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities. However, these bodies have not specifically advised the authorities on matters pertaining to the promotion of Ukrainian; Article 7.4 is therefore considered partly fulfilled.

191. Ukrainian is used in kindergarten, but it is not clear if the use of this language extends to at least a substantial part of pre-school education. Therefore, the Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of Article 8.1.aii. At primary and secondary levels, the authorities do not make available a substantial part of education in Ukrainian. Consequently, Articles 8.1.bii and 8.1.cii are considered not fulfilled. The authorities do not support an offer of Ukrainian as a subject of adult and continuing education; Article 8.1.fii is considered not fulfilled. Moreover, the authorities do not specifically monitor progress of Ukrainian-language education and publish periodic reports of their findings; Article 8.1.i is considered not fulfilled.

192. Ukrainian has been used in civil proceedings (interpretation and translation); Articles 9.1.bii and 9.1.biii are considered fulfilled. Ukrainian has not been used in applications submitted to local authorities. In addition, there is no domestic legal basis for the use of this language in contacts with regional authorities. Consequently, Article 10.2.b is considered not fulfilled. Bilingual forms in Ukrainian were published in two municipalities, but no other official documents; Article 10.2.d is now considered partly fulfilled. According to the authorities, there exists no practice in complying with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Ukrainian to be appointed in an area of work where they can apply these skills; Article 10.4.c is considered not fulfilled. Translations into Ukrainian have been provided by some administrative authorities (e.g. of the methodological guideline for the application of the Act on the Use of Languages of National Minorities); Article 10.4.a is considered fulfilled.

193. The production of audiovisual works in Ukrainian has not been supported; Article 11.1.d is considered not fulfilled. In addition, the interests of the users of Ukrainian are not represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media; Article 11.3 is considered not fulfilled.

194. The authorities support the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník”, but there is no information about support to additional activities relating to the creation, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Ukrainian. Therefore, Article 12.1.a is considered partly fulfilled. The authorities have supported the distribution of audiovisual works in Ukrainian with subtitles/dubbing in Slovak, but there is no information about activities relating to translation or post-synchronisation; Article 12.1.b is now considered partly fulfilled. In addition, support has been granted to the distribution of a film with subtitles in Ukrainian, but not to translation or post-synchronisation; Article 12.1.c is now considered partly fulfilled. Apart from the “Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník”, there is no indication that other organisers or supporters of cultural activities (including municipalities) incorporate the knowledge and use of the Ukrainian language and culture in the activities in which they are involved or have Ukrainian-speaking staff at their disposal. Therefore, Articles 12.1.d and 12.1.e are considered partly

fulfilled. No measures have been taken to include the Ukrainian language and culture in cultural policy abroad; Article 12.3 is considered not fulfilled.

195. The authorities have taken no measures to ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of Ukrainian; Article 13.2.c is considered not fulfilled.

196. As regards cross-border co-operation at the level of state authorities, the Committee of Experts was informed of only one activity (Ukrainian Film Week 2023) organised in co-operation with the authorities of Ukraine. However, it is not clear whether measures promoting Ukrainian have been taken in the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Co-operation in the Field of Information. Therefore, Articles 7.1.i and 14.a are considered partly fulfilled.

2.11.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Ukrainian in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.11.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[92] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

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

II. Further recommendations

c. Take resolute action to promote the use of Ukrainian in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language.
d. Ensure the teaching of the history and culture reflected by Ukrainian to all pupils in the area where this language is traditionally used.
e. Take the necessary legal and practical measures to ensure that Ukrainian can be used in communication with local branches of the state authorities, regional authorities and public service providers and facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in this language, irrespective of thresholds.
f. Take the necessary measures, including in legislation, to ensure that broadcasters provide longer and more frequent radio and television programmes in Ukrainian and that sufficient digital media content is produced in this language to create a diverse and sustainable offer that encourages learning and using it.
g. Facilitate the creation of a weekly or daily newspaper in Ukrainian, including online.
h. Ensure that social care facilities (e.g. hospitals) offer the use of Ukrainian by approaching the relevant social care facilities, supporting them (including through vocational training) and monitoring implementation on a sustainable basis.

[92] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

2.12 Yiddish

2.12.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Yiddish

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↙ deterioration = no change

	The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	**Undertakings of the Slovak Republic concerning Yiddish**[93]	**fulfilled**	**partly fulfilled**	**formally fulfilled**	**not fulfilled**	**no conclusion**
Part II of the Charter ***(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)***						
Art. 7 – Objectives and principles						
7.1.a	recognition of Yiddish as an expression of cultural wealth				↙	
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Yiddish					=[94]
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Yiddish				↙	
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Yiddish, in speech and writing, in public life (for example education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life and/or transfrontier exchanges) and private life				↙	
7.1.e	• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the state using Yiddish • establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups				↙	
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Yiddish at all appropriate stages				=	
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Yiddish to learn it				↙	
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Yiddish at universities or equivalent institutions				↙	
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Yiddish				↙	
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Yiddish		=			
7.3	• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country • promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Yiddish among the objectives of education and training • encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Yiddish among their objectives				↙	
7.4	• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Yiddish • establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Yiddish				↙	

*** The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of states parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:**

Fulfilled: Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.
Partly fulfilled: Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.
Formally fulfilled: Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.
Not fulfilled: No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.
No conclusion: The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

[93] In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/ (treaty No. 148).
[94] Article 7.1.b is not applicable to Yiddish as a non-territorial language.

Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

197. Given that no measures are taken to promote the public and private use of Yiddish, Articles 7.1.a, c, d, e, g, h, i, 7.3 and 7.4 are considered not fulfilled.

198. Considering that the representatives of the Jewish minority met did not express any wish to receive support from the authorities to promote the use of this language in public or private life, the Committee of Experts will not make recommendations to the authorities concerning Yiddish in this evaluation report. It will revisit this matter once the needs and wishes of the users of Yiddish change.

2.12.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Yiddish in the Slovak Republic

The Committee of Experts recommends the authorities of the Slovak Republic to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered "fulfilled" (see under 2.12.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. In doing so, the authorities should take particular account of the recommendations set out below. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Slovak Republic[95] remain valid in their own right. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process.

I. Recommendations for immediate action

The Committee of Experts has no recommendations for immediate action at present (see para. 198).

II. Further recommendations

The Committee of Experts has no further recommendations at present.

[95] CM/RecChL(2007)1; CM/RecChL(2009)6; CM/RecChL(2013)2; CM/RecChL(2016)2; CM/RecChL(2019)5; CM/Del/Dec(2021)1407/10.4b.

Chapter 3 [Proposals for] Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

The Committee of Experts, while acknowledging the efforts the Slovak authorities have undertaken to protect the regional and minority languages spoken in their country, has in its evaluation chosen to concentrate on some of the most important deficiencies in the implementation of the Charter. The recommendations forwarded by the Committee of Experts to the Committee of Ministers should not, however, be interpreted as diminishing the relevance of the other, more detailed observations contained in the report, which remain valid in their own right. The recommendations proposed by the Committee of Experts are drafted accordingly.

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in accordance with Article 16 (4) of the Charter, proposes on the basis of the information contained in this report, that the Committee of Ministers makes the following recommendations to the Slovak Republic.

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by the Slovak Republic on 5 September 2001 and the declaration registered on 27 November 2015;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts of the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by the Slovak Republic;

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by the Slovak Republic in its sixth periodical report, supplementary information given by the authorities of the Slovak Republic, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in the Slovak Republic and on the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit,

[Having taken note of the comments submitted by the authorities of the Slovak Republic on the content of the Committee of Experts' report;]

Recommends that the authorities of the Slovak Republic take account of all the observations and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. amend the relevant legislation to eliminate any provision that excludes, restricts or discourages the use of minority languages in accordance with the Charter, in particular in the fields of judiciary and administration, the media, economic and social life;

2. provide teaching in or of the minority languages from pre-school to secondary or technical and vocational education in additional municipalities in the traditional language areas, while ensuring continuity between educational levels;

3. provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching minority languages, or teaching in them, in accordance with the Charter undertakings, including pre-school education;

4. take the necessary measures, including in legislation, to ensure that broadcasters provide longer and more frequent radio and television programmes in the minority languages and that sufficient digital media content is produced in these languages;

5. take the necessary legal and practical measures to ensure that the minority languages can be used in communication with local branches of the state authorities, regional authorities and public service providers and facilitate the publication by regional and local authorities of their official documents in these languages, irrespective of thresholds;

6. continue to raise awareness and promote tolerance in Slovak society as a whole towards minority languages and the cultures they represent.

The Committee of Ministers invites the Slovak authorities to submit the information on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action by 1 July 2026 and the next periodical report by 1 January 2029.

Appendix I: Instrument of Ratification

 **Slovak Republic**

Declaration contained in letter from the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic, dated 25 November 2015, registered at the Secretariat General on 27 November 2015 – Or. Engl.

The Slovak Republic declares, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Charter that it recognises that the Russian and Serbian languages meet the Charter's definition of a minority language for the purposes of Part II of the Charter.

Period covered: 27/11/2015

Articles concerned: 2

Declaration contained in the full powers handed to the Secretary General at the time of signature of the instrument, on 20 February 2001 - Or. Engl., and confirmed at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on 5 September 2001 - Or. Engl.

The Slovak Republic declares that it shall apply the Charter in accordance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and the relevant international conventions ensuring the equality of all citizens before the law without distinction as to origin, race or nationality in order to promote the European language heritage without prejudice to the use of the official language.

Period covered: 01/01/2002

Articles concerned: 0

Declaration contained in the full powers handed to the Secretary General at the time of signature of the instrument, on 20 February 2001 - Or. Engl., and confirmed at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on 5 September 2001 - Or. Engl.

The Slovak Republic declares, pursuant to Article 1, paragraph b, of the Charter, that the term "territory in which the regional or minority language is used", also regarding the application of Article 10, shall refer to the municipalities in which the citizens of the Slovak Republic belonging to national minorities form at least 20 % of the population, according to the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic N. 221/1999 Coll., dated 25 August 1999.

Period covered: 01/01/2002

Articles concerned: 1 10

Declaration contained in the full powers handed to the Secretary General at the time of signature of the instrument, on 20 February 2001 - Or. Engl., and confirmed at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on 5 September 2001 - Or. Engl.

The Slovak Republic declares that, in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Charter, the "regional or minority languages" in the Slovak Republic are the following languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian and Ukrainian. The application of the provisions of the Charter in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 2, shall be as follows :

Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, German, Polish and Romani languages :
Article 8, paragraph 1 a iii; b iii; c iii; d iii; e ii; f ii; g; h; i;
Article 9, paragraph 1 a ii/iii; b ii/iii; c ii/iii; d;
Article 10, paragraph 1 a iii/iv; paragraph 2 b; c; d; f; g; paragraph 3 c; paragraph 4 a; c; paragraph 5;
Article 11, paragraph 1 a iii; b ii; c ii; d; e i; f ii; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
Article 12, paragraph 1 a; b; c; d; e; f, g; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
Article 13, paragraph 1 a; b; c; paragraph 2 c;
Article 14 a ;
Article 14 b, only for the Czech, German and Polish languages.

Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages:
Article 8, paragraph 1 a ii; b ii, c ii, d ii, e ii, f ii; g; h; i;
Article 9, paragraph 1 a ii/iii; b ii/iii; c ii/iii; d; paragraph 3;
Article 10, paragraph 1 a iii/iv; paragraph 2 b; c; d; f; g; paragraph 3 c; paragraph 4 a; c; paragraph 5;
Article 11, paragraph 1 a iii; b ii; c ii; d; e i; f ii; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
Article 12, paragraph 1 a; b; c; d; e; f; g; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
Article 13, paragraph 1 a; b; c; paragraph 2 c;
Article 14 a;
Article 14 b, only for the Ukrainian language.

Hungarian language:
Article 8, paragraph 1 a i; b i; c i; d i; e i; f i; g; h; i;
Article 9, paragraph 1 a ii/iii; b ii/iii; c ii/iii; d; paragraph 2 a; paragraph 3;
Article 10, paragraph 1 a ii; paragraph 2 a; b; c; d; f; g; paragraph 3 b; c; paragraph 4 a; c; paragraph 5;
Article 11, paragraph 1 a iii; b ii; c ii; d; e i; f i; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
Article 12, paragraph 1 a; b; c; d; e; f; g; paragraph 2; paragraph 3;
Article 13, paragraph 1 a; b; c; paragraph 2 c;
Article 14 a; b.

Period covered: 01/01/2002

Articles concerned: 2 3

Declaration contained in the full powers handed to the Secretary General at the time of signature of the instrument, on 20 February 2001 - Or. Engl., and confirmed at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on 5 September 2001 - Or. Engl.

The Slovak Republic interprets Article 8, paragraph 1 e i, as relating to the training of teachers, theologians, cultural and education workers without prejudice to the teaching in the official language, it being understood that the majority of teaching subjects, including the profile ones, will be conducted in the minority language, respecting the legislation of the Slovak Republic in the field of higher education institutions.

Period covered: 01/01/2002

Articles concerned: 8

Declaration contained in the full powers handed to the Secretary General at the time of signature of the instrument, on 20 February 2001 - Or. Engl., and confirmed at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on 5 September 2001 - Or. Engl.

The Slovak Republic declares that Article 10, paragraph l a ii, Article 10, paragraph 2 a, and Article 10, paragraph 3 b, shall be interpreted without prejudice to the use of the official language pursuant to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and in accordance with the legal order of the Slovak Republic.

Period covered: 01/01/2002

Articles concerned: 10

Declaration contained in the full powers handed to the Secretary General at the time of signature of the instrument, on 20 February 2001 - Or. Engl., and confirmed at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification, on 5 September 2001 - Or. Engl.

The Slovak Republic declares that Article 12, paragraph 1 e, and Article 13, paragraph 2 c, shall be applied provided that the effects of their application are not in conflict with other provisions of the legal order of the Slovak Republic on prohibition of discrimination of the Slovak Republic citizens in labour law relations on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Period covered: 01/01/2002

Articles concerned: 12 13

Appendix II: Comments from the Slovak authorities

Position of the Slovak Republic on the Sixth Evaluation Report of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages on the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "SR") hereby expresses its thanks to the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee of Experts") for the preparation and drafting of the sixth evaluation report on the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as the "Charter") in the SR, which was approved by the Committee of Experts on 12 June 2025. The SR welcomes mutual cooperation and appreciates the ongoing dialogue between the Committee of Experts and the Slovak authorities.

The SR appreciates the possibility to take a position on the prepared report and on the basis of the provision of Article 16 (3) of the Charter, and makes use of the opportunity to submit its position on the sixth report of the Committee of Experts on the implementation of the Charter in the SR.

The sixth report of the Committee of Experts was submitted to the relevant ministries and institutions of the SR, which, within their competence, commented on the issues raised in the report and the recommendations of the Committee of Experts. The statements of the relevant state administration bodies of the SR form the submitted position of the SR.

The SR submits the following position on the working version of the sixth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts, which consists of information, explanations and comments on individual parts:

Chapter 1 The situation of the regional or minority languages in the Slovak Republic – Recent developments and trends

1.1 General developments in policies, legislation and practice concerning the regional or minority languages in the Slovak Republic

General issues

- *Point 1:*

In accordance with the instrument of ratification of the Charter, the SR made a declaration which includes the following: "*Pursuant to Article 3(1) of the Charter, the 'regional or minority languages' in the Slovak Republic are: Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, and Ukrainian." Subsequently, in 2015 the SR issued a declaration stating that: "In accordance with Article 2(1) of the Charter, it declares that it recognizes that the Russian and Serbian languages meet the definition of a minority language under the Charter for the purposes of Part II of the Charter."* Yiddish is not among the languages with respect to which the Slovak Republic has undertaken to apply the provisions of the Charter. Since the Fourth Report on the

implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Slovak Republic, the SR has stated that, in connection with the Jewish national minority, no request has been recorded for education in the Yiddish language, as the language that the Jewish national minority regards as part of its cultural heritage is primarily Hebrew, in its modern form Ivrit.

- *Point 14:*

We propose to add that the Committee of Experts was informed about the preparation of the draft law amending Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic as amended, and that it is being prepared in accordance with the valid legal regulations of the Slovak Republic. Consultations are also taking place with representatives of national minorities.

We request to delete the text: *"During the on-site visit, the Committee of Experts was informed by representatives of various language groups and authorities that some of the planned changes have a negative impact on the areas covered by the Charter, in particular as they prescribe the mandatory additional use of Slovak alongside other languages (e.g. minority languages) in public information and do not provide a clear basis for the use of minority languages in public services (including various areas of transport, communications and postal services)."*

The draft law has not yet been submitted for inter-ministerial comments; therefore, representatives of various language groups and authorities could not have had relevant information. For this reason, the above text contains only assumptions. Consultations are also taking place with representatives of national minorities.

- *Point 15:*

In view of the changes required in point 14, we propose to completely delete point 15. In Slovakia, a special Act No. 184/1999 Coll. on the Use of Languages of National Minorities as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act No. 184/1999 Coll.") applies, and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic is preparing an amendment to the State Language Act in accordance with the valid legal regulations of the Slovak Republic.

Use of the regional or minority languages in education

- *Point 22:*

The draft report in this point states that *"The Committee of Experts underlines that the regular publication of reports on the quality of minority language education provide the opportunity to assess such education over time, thereby making it possible to adjust methods and measures according to the experiences acquired through the reports."*

Contrary to what is repeatedly stated in the evaluation (8.1.i) periodic reports on minority language education do in fact exist. The Plenipotentiary of the Government for National Minorities (as a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress in the status and rights of persons belonging to national minorities) publishes biennial reports on the situation of national minorities in Slovakia, which include a section devoted to the state of minority language education. These reports are prepared in cooperation with representatives of the relevant ministries as well as representatives of the national minorities themselves. While the reports may not provide information on the quality of education in as much detail as they do on the overall status of minority education, they nonetheless represent a valid and relevant source of information.

(Source: https://www.narodnostnemensiny.vlada.gov.sk/spravy-a-koncepcne-materialy/sprava-o-postaveni-a-pravach-prislusnikov-narodnostnych-mensin/?csrt=764958251522189871)

Use of the regional or minority languages by administrative authorities and public services

- *Point 35*:

Ministry of the Transport of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoT SR") considers the point in question problematic in terms of both accuracy and clarity of interpretation. The opening sentence refers to the application of Section 2(3) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. This provision stipulates that a citizen of the SR belonging to a national minority has the right, under Section 1 of the Act, to communicate orally and in writing in a municipality before a local state administration body, a territorial self-government body or territorial self-government established by legal entity (hereinafter referred to as the "public administration bodies").

The next part of the point notes that "*although the state-owned Slovak Railways (hereinafter referred to as the "ŽSR") uses place names in some minority languages on signs, it does not use minority languages in applications or oral announcements."* The Committee of Experts further recalls that Article 10(3) of the Charter concerns public services such as railways, urban transport, electricity, water and gas, cleaning and sanitation, telephone services, waste collection and disposal, sports facilities, and entertainment venues - even where these are provided by private companies on behalf of public authorities.

With reference to Act No. 184/1999 Coll. and the assessment of Slovak Railways' practice, the MoT SR emphasizes that ŽSR is a nationwide organization established by special law to operate the state-owned railway network in the territory of the SR. As such, it does not fall under the definition of "public administration bodies" for the purposes of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. The marking of railway stations and stops in minority languages is instead governed by Section 34(6)(h) of Act No. 513/2009 on Railways. In addition to the statutory obligation to display station and stop names in the minority language, ŽSR also provides information at chosen railway facilities in minority languages relating to threats to life, health, safety, or property at publicly accessible locations.

The MoT SR further stresses that, under railway legislation and in line with Directive 2012/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a single European railway area, ŽSR acts primarily as an infrastructure manager, not as a railway undertaking providing transport services to the public. Pursuant to Section 36(1) (c) of Act No. 514/2009 on Transport and Rails, the contracting authority for public passenger rail transport is the state, represented by the MoT SR, according to the needs of the national transport service of the territory. These are transport services in the public interest, which are currently provided on the basis of concluded contracts by two separate and duly licensed legal entities - railway undertakings with the legal form of joint-stock companies. Although the state is the owner of one of these undertakings, all railway undertakings must be managed on commercial principles, in accordance with Article 5(1) of Directive 2012/34/EU including public service obligations and the public service contracts concluded with the competent State authorities.

From the perspective of providing passenger transport services, the infrastructure manager makes railway stations and stops available to railway undertakings as part of the infrastructure, which constitutes a service facility under the access conditions laid down in Article 10 of Directive 2012/34/EU. Consequently, with respect to stations and stops in municipalities under Section 2(1) of Act No. 184/1999, ŽSR serves as a provider to railway undertakings, whereas the service providers to passengers are the railway undertakings themselves, acting as carriers under national legislation (Section 2 of Act No. 332/2023. on Public Passenger Transport, as amended, and Section 760 of the Civil Code). In light of the statutory definition of an administrative authority (i.e. a state authority, a territorial self-government authority, a self-government body of interest, or a natural or legal person entrusted by law with decision-making on the rights, legally protected interests, or obligations of natural or legal persons in the field of public administration), the MoT SR considers that services provided by railway undertakings cannot be regarded as "*public*

services provided by administrative authorities" within the meaning of Article 10(3) of the Charter. Moreover, as the MoT SR acts only as a contracting authority for transport services, and not as their provider, it cannot be considered an administrative authority in relation to users of these services.

Use of the regional or minority languages in the media

- *Point 37:*

According to the Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, a total of 513.61 hours of programming in national minority languages was broadcast in 2024. For Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Polish, and Ukrainian, the actual total broadcasting time ranged from 3.5 to 13.5 hours per year.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, p. 173, https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf).

- *Point 38:*

In the reporting period, there was a significant strengthening in legislation regarding minority broadcasting. Act No. 264/2022 Coll. on Media Services, effective from 1 August 2022, amended the then-valid Act No. 532/2010 Coll. on Slovak Radio and Television, introducing for the public broadcaster the obligation to ensure that the average daily broadcasting time reserved for minority broadcasting is at least 120 minutes on working days, and that at least 500 hours are broadcast annually across all television program services. The same obligation was incorporated into the valid Act No. 157/2024 Coll. on Slovak Television and Radio.

- *Point 39*:

Slovak media legislation does not establish any obstacles to broadcasting radio programs in minority languages. According to § 5 para. 3 of Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic, as amended, the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 do not apply to broadcasters of radio program services with authorization who broadcast in the languages of national minorities or in an official EU language that is not the state language of the Slovak Republic.

The Media Services Act also introduced the concept of community media (§ 107), which, since it is provided by an entity other than a business and its purpose is not to generate profit, has in some respects simpler conditions, as not all statutory obligations apply to it. This measure is also intended as a stimulus for national minority community or local broadcasting if the broadcaster's purpose is not profit-making.

In this connection, we consider it necessary to state that the development of minority radio or television broadcasting is also supported by the Fund for the Support of the Culture of National Minorities (hereinafter referred as to the "Fund") (subprogram 2.4.3 "Establishment or Development of Minority Radio or Television Broadcasting,"

https://www.kultminor.sk/attachments/category/196/%C5%A0TRUKT%C3%9ARA%20PODPORNEJ%20%C4%8CINNNOSTI%20FPKNM%20na%20rok%202025.pdf).

- *Point 40*:

According to § 5 para. 1(b) of Act No. 270/1995 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic, as amended, it is permitted to broadcast radio programs or other components of radio program services in regional or local broadcasting intended for national minority communities, including live broadcasts of events, exclusively in the language of the minority concerned.

Subtitling programs in minority languages may only be a problem for small broadcasters, where the costs of translation and subtitling are high compared to the price of the programs. In the case of the Slovak Television and Radio (hereinafter referred to as the “STVR”), subtitling is an added value that STVR would retain even if the legal obligation to subtitle ceases. It allows viewers who do not speak the language to watch programs in minority languages.

- *Point 42:*

The mission of the Council for Media Services is, among other things, to protect freedom of expression, the right to information, and the right of access to cultural values and education. Its governing bodies are the council, the chairperson of the council, and the director. The council has nine members elected and dismissed by the National Council of the Slovak Republic after public hearings of proposed candidates. Candidates may be nominated by professional institutions and civic associations active in the fields of media, culture, science, education, or sports, registered churches and religious societies, and civic associations of citizens with disabilities through the advisory body of the Government of the Slovak Republic for issues concerning citizens with disabilities. These nominating entities were designed to reflect broad societal representation. The legislation does not in any way prevent a council member from being a speaker of a regional or minority language, nor from being a member of a national minority.

A member of the Council for Media Services (hereinafter referred to as the “Media Council”) who is of Hungarian nationality became a member in a regular election in the National Council of the Slovak Republic and is not a member due to any special requirement or norm that would prescribe the participation of a representative of a nationality in the Media Council.

Neither the Media Council nor the STVR Council has a mechanism set up so that a member of a nationality or ethnic group is a member of these councils by law. If there is one, it is not because of nationality.

The only supervisory body where there is a legal obligation to represent minorities (one person out of 26) is the STVR Ethics Commission. During the Delegation's visit, a member of the Roma national minority became a member of the Ethics Commission.

Use of the regional or minority languages in cultural activities and facilities

- *Point 46:*

The Fund according to Art. I § 1 of the Act on the Fund, ensures the support of intercultural dialogue and understanding between citizens of Slovak nationality and citizens belonging to

national minorities and ethnic groups. The Fund does not directly organize such activities, but through the provision of financial resources it supports projects that naturally involve cooperation between language groups - for example, joint cultural events, festivals, exhibitions, bilingual publications or media and educational activities aimed at mutual recognition and cultural dialogue.

1.2 The situation of the individual regional or minority languages in the Slovak Republic

Bulgarian

- *Point 55:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in Bulgarian in public broadcasting in 2024 was 5 hours in radio and 3.5 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)

- *Point 56:*

In accordance with Act No. 138/2017 Coll. on the Fund for the Support of Culture of National Minorities and on amendments and supplements to certain laws, as amended, the Bulgarian national minority has its representatives on the Fund's expert council; at the same time, one of its members is also a member of the Fund's board of directors.

Croatian

- *Point 64:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in Croatian in public broadcasting in 2024 was 5 hours in radio and 4.3 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)

- *Point 65:*

Instead of the sentence *"The Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia has Croatian-speaking staff and is responsible for collecting, preserving copies and presenting or publishing works created in the Croatian language (Article 12 para. 1 letter e)"*, we propose to use:

"The Slovak National Museum – Museum of Croatian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava has Croatian-speaking staff, and its mission is the purposeful acquisition, professional administration, scientific and expert processing, and making available of museum collections and funds documenting the history and development of the material and spiritual culture of the Croatian minority in Slovakia, including their facsimiles, copies, replicas, and reproductions. It collects, preserves, and presents works and publishes publications written in the Croatian language (Article 12 para. 1 letter e))."

Czech

- *Point 70:*

The draft report in this point states that "*The Committee of Experts reminds the authorities that they have ratified Part III for Czech as a language in its own right. It therefore invites the authorities to start a procedure to take resolute action to promote the use of Czech in public and private life by developing and implementing a strategy and action plan for the application of the Charter to this language, especially in education."*

Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak republic (hereinafter referred as to the "MoE SR") does not agree with placing particular emphasis on the education component of the recommended action plan. Nevertheless, given the close relationship between Slovak and Czech, the MoE SR has developed an educational standard for the teaching of Czech language and literature at the primary and lower secondary levels. This was prepared alongside the educational standards for Bulgarian, Croatian, and Polish languages, in accordance with the obligations arising from the Charter. The educational standard for Czech language and literature is a pedagogical document that not only defines expected performance and content but also fosters the development of individualized learning opportunities for students, while supporting and recognizing their linguistic and cultural identity. Schools can choose to teach this subject whenever.

(Source: https://www.minedu.sk/vzdelavacie-standardy-pre-vyucovanie-bulharskeho-ceskeho-chorvatskeho-a-polskeho-jazyka-a-literatury/)

- *Point 73:*

The Czech language is specific in that it is understandable for citizens belonging to the Slovak ethnic group and the opposite is also true. Therefore, it is considered that access to media content on any medium or via any retransmitter is unlimited, possible and understandable for Slovaks. Slovak televisions routinely broadcast programs in the Czech language, even together with Czech broadcasters, but these are not registered and reported as broadcasting in the languages of national minorities.

The actual extent of broadcasting in Czech in public broadcasting in 2024 was 54 hours in radio and 31.9 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)

- *Point 74:*

Instead of the sentence *"The Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia has Czech-speaking staff and is responsible for collecting, preserving copies and presenting or publishing works created in the Czech language (Article 12 para. 1 letters e and g)"*, we propose the following information:

"The Slovak National Museum – Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia has Czech-speaking staff, and its mission is the purposeful acquisition, professional administration, scientific and expert processing, and making available of museum collections and funds documenting the history and development of the material and spiritual culture of the Czech minority in Slovakia, including their

facsimiles, copies, replicas, and reproductions. It collects, preserves, and presents works and publishes publications written in the Czech language (Article 12 para. 1 letters e and g)).”

German

- *Point 82:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in German in public broadcasting in 2024 was 22 hours in radio and 6.1 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)

Hungarian

- *Point 89:*

The draft report in this point states that *“In primary and secondary education, all subjects are taught in Hungarian except for the subjects “Slovak language and Slovak literature/Slovak language and literature” and foreign language (Articles 8.1.bi, 8.1.ci).”* We state that in schools with Hungarian as the language of instruction, only the subject "Slovak language and Slovak literature" is taught.

The draft report also states that *“Basic and further training of teachers of Hungarian is organised at the universities of Bratislava, Komárno/Komárom, Nitra and Prešov (Article 8.1.h).”* We would like to inform that further training for teachers in Hungarian language is provided through the MoE SR institution National Institute of Education and Youth (hereinafter referred as to the “NIVAM”) – *Workplace in Komárno*. NIVAM delivers and coordinates educational activities at the regional level, with offices in eight counties. In addition, the Komárno office was established specifically to support the continuous professional development of teaching staff in southern Slovakia.

- *Point 90:*

The draft report states that *“Before judicial authorities, interpretation involving Hungarian has been provided in criminal proceedings (Articles 9.1.aii, 9.1.aiii) and in civil proceedings, where also translation was provided (Articles 9.1.bii, 9.1.biii). In addition, Hungarian was used in interpretation provided in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle.”*

However, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “MoJ SR”), in the monitored period since 2019, only one case of interpretation into Hungarian in administrative proceedings was recorded (in 2019), while in the years 2020-2024 we do not record any further cases. For the above reason, we consider it important to add that the actual use of the Hungarian language in administrative proceedings was limited to this single case at the beginning of the monitoring period.

We propose to use the following text: “*Hungarian was used only once in interpretation provided in proceedings concerning administrative matters (Articles 9.1.cii, 9.1.ciii) during the sixth monitoring cycle.”*

- *Point 92:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in Hungarian in public broadcasting in 2024 was 250.9 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)
Audiovisual works in Hungarian language or also in the Hungarian language were financed by the Fund, larger projects were rather co-financed. One of them (the Pressburg series) was also broadcast on STVR. A member of the Media Council of Hungarian Nationality is not a member due to his nationality.

- *Point 93:*

Instead of the sentence *"The Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia, located in Bratislava, acts as a body responsible for collecting, preserving copies and presenting or publishing works created in Hungarian (Article 12 para. 1 letter g)) and, for example, has organized traveling exhibitions in this language"*, we propose to use the following information:

"The mission of the Slovak National Museum – Museum of Hungarian Culture in Slovakia in Bratislava is the purposeful acquisition, professional administration, scientific and expert processing, and making available of museum collections and funds documenting the history and development of the material and spiritual culture of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia, including their facsimiles, copies, replicas, and reproductions. It collects, preserves, and presents works and publishes publications written in Hungarian (Article 12 para. 1 letter g)) and, for example, has organized traveling exhibitions in this language."

Polish

- *Point 99:*

We propose to add the information that Polish can also be studied at Comenius University in Bratislava (Department of Slavic Philology) within the Central European Studies programme, where graduates master at least two foreign languages of the region (Hungarian, German, Polish, Slovenian and Slovak as a foreign language). The Institute of Central European Studies also exists at the University of Prešov, where students can specialize in Polish. The institute offers two specializations: Polish, and Slovak as a foreign language. The Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra also has an Institute of Central European Languages and Cultures, where Polish can be studied.

- *Point 102:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in Polish in public broadcasting in 2024 was 22 hours in radio and 5.2 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)

Romani

- *Point 108:*

The draft report states that *„In primary education (Article 8.1.biii), four private primary schools located in Košice, Kremnica, Kružlová and Stropkov teach Romani as a subject during three hours per week. Romani is also taught as a subject at a private secondary school (Article 8.1.ciii) and at private vocational schools located in Kežmarok, Košice and Rimavská Sobota during three hours a week (Article 8.1.diii*)." We propose to add information, that there are two private schools in Košice and Kremnica and two public schools in Stropkov and Kružlová.

- *Point 111:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in Romani in public broadcasting in 2024 was 222 hours in radio and 123.1 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)

- *Point 113:*

The draft report states at this point that *„In the framework of projects, the use of Romani between medical staff and patients as well as health education in Romani have been supported, including through recruitment of users of Romani as health support assistants and the provision of interpretation. Health support assistants facilitate the use of Romani in communication with patients in twelve hospitals. However, apart from these project-based initiatives, the authorities do not ensure that social care facilities, such as hospitals or retirement homes, offer the use of Romani on a sustainable basis (Article 13.2.c). "* We propose to replace the above text with the following wording:

„The use of Romani language in healthcare has been provided continuously since 2017 by National Projects Healthy Communities implemented by Health Regions – a contributory organization of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic. Health education, interpretation, promotion of a healthy lifestyle prevention activities are carried out by 335 health mediators who are fluent in Romani language and are working directly in excluded Roma communities, as well as by 20 hospital health mediators, who work in 16 selected hospital facilities (the data are valid as for august 2025)."

Russian

- *Point 118:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in Russian in public broadcasting in 2024 was 4.4 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)

Public radio broadcasts half an hour a day in Russian, but not as part of the national minority program, but as part of Radio Slovakia International – essentially for the target group of listeners who are not Slovak citizens. However, the program is available both online and terrestrial (DAB+).

The Fund regularly supports the publication of the bimonthly magazine *VMESTE* in the Russian language, as well as other cultural projects aimed at preserving and developing the identity of the Russian national minority in Slovakia.

- *Point 119:*

We propose to add that Russian language can also be studied at the Institute of Russian Studies in Prešov (Faculty of Philosophy, UNIPO).

Ruthenian

- *Point 124:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in Ruthenian in public broadcasting in 2024 was 307 hours in radio and 55.5 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)
In the area of private radio in the territory of the SR, the internet radio station Rusyn FM broadcasts in the Rusyn language. It operates with the support of the Fund, and in 2025 a grant of 60,000 EUR from the Fund was approved for its activities. For this reason, we propose that the implementation of Article 11(1)(b)(ii) be assessed in light of these facts.

Serbian

- *Point 131:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in Serbian in public broadcasting in 2024 was 5.6 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)

Ukrainian

- *Point 137:*

The actual extent of broadcasting in Ukrainian in public broadcasting in 2024 was 114 hours in radio and 13.5 hours in television.

(Source: Annual Report on the Activities of Slovak Television and Radio for 2024, pp. 168, 173; https://www.stvr.org/media/a542/file/item/sk/0002/vyrocna_sprava_o_cinnosti_stvr_2024.LRdt.pdf)

- *Point 138*:

Instead of the sentence "*The Museum of Ukrainian Culture acts as a body responsible for collecting, preserving copies and presenting or publishing works produced in the Ukrainian language (Article 12 para. 1 letter g))",* we propose:

"The Slovak National Museum – Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník collects, preserves, and presents works and publishes publications written in the Ukrainian language (Article 12 para. 1 letter g))."

Yiddish

- *Point 144*:

The draft report states that *"Although the authorities refer to the Programme of Co-operation between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the State of Israel for 2017-2019 in the field of education, science culture, youth and sports, the use of Yiddish is not promoted in this framework either (Article 7.1.i)."* We propose to add information that the contractual document is not valid. Its validity expired on December 31, 2023.

Chapter 2 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and recommendations

2.1 Bulgarian

2.1.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Bulgarian

- *to the evaluation of the art. 8.1.g:*

We state the teaching is formally fulfilled (i.e. educational standards).

(Source: https://www.minedu.sk/vzdelavacie-standardy-pre-vyucovanie-bulharskeho-ceskeho-chorvatskeho-a-polskeho-jazyka-a-literatury/)

- *to the evaluation of the art. 8.1.i:*

The indicator of 8.1.g - as mentioned at point 22, should be everywhere at higher level, whereas monitoring of education does exist.

2.2 Croatian

2.2.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Croatian

- *to the evaluation of the art. 8.1.g:*

We state that educational standards for the teaching of Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Russian, and Ukrainian languages and literatures are available. It is at the discretion of each school whether to offer these subjects, as well as other subjects, in minority languages. In this way, the state has fulfilled its obligation to provide these languages as an integral part of the national curriculum.

2.2.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Croatian in the Slovak Republic

- *to the recommendation for immediate action I. a:*

We state that for primary and lower secondary education, educational standards have been published for the teaching of Croatian language and literature. Schools therefore have the discretion to offer instruction in the Croatian language or to provide teaching in this language in Slovakia.

2.3 Czech

2.3.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Czech

- *to the evaluation of the art. 8.1.biii:*

We state that educational standards for the teaching of Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Russian, and Ukrainian languages and literatures are available. It is at the discretion of each school whether to offer these subjects, as well as other subjects, in minority languages. In this way, the state has fulfilled its obligation to provide these languages as an integral part of the national curriculum.

2.3.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Czech in the Slovak Republic

- *to the further recommendation II. a):*

As noted in the point 70, the MoE SR does not agree with placing particular emphasis on the education component and requests for reconsideration.

2.4 German

2.4.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of German

- *to the evaluation of art. 8.1.g:*

We state that educational standards for the teaching of Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Russian, and Ukrainian languages and literatures are

available. It is at the discretion of each school whether to offer these subjects, as well as other subjects, in minority languages. In this way, the state has fulfilled its obligation to provide these languages as an integral part of the national curriculum.

2.4.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of German in the Slovak Republic

- *to the recommendation for immediate action I. a):*

We state that for the German language, alongside the Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Polish and Roma, Slovakia made a commitment:
iii) - to ensure that the relevant regional or minority languages forms an integral part of the curriculum
and not:
ii) - to enable the majority of teaching to be provided in the relevant regional or minority languages.
The recommendation should be re-evaluated.

2.6 Polish

2.6.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Polish

- *to the evaluation of art. 8.1.biii:*

We state that educational standards for the teaching of Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Ruthenian, Russian, and Ukrainian languages and literatures are available. It is at the discretion of each school whether to offer these subjects, as well as other subjects, in minority languages. In this way, the state has fulfilled its obligation to provide these languages as an integral part of the national curriculum.

2.6.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Polish in the Slovak Republic

- *to the recommendation for immediate action I. a):*

We state that pre-school facilities can offer education in any national minority language. The national standard states only this: "Educational activities at the pre-primary level of education in national minority schools also focus on preserving and developing the cultural and linguistic identity of children belonging to national minorities. A special feature of educational activities is also the acquisition of the basics of the Slovak language as an L2, so that children have sufficient age-appropriate communication skills in the Slovak language. Teachers link communication in the language of the relevant national minority and in the Slovak language so as to provide children with quality speech models in both languages."

(Source: https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/96d/24534.b6f65c.pdf)

2.7 Romani

2.7.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Romani

- *Points 178 and 179:*

The University of Prešov (PU) already in 2019 opened a new study programme in Romani Language and Literature. The same the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Health Care, had established an Institute of Romani Studies, which (until June 2025) offered a Romani language course and a course in Romani studies as part of continuing education. According to available information, the expert capacities of the Institute should be preserved.

- *Point 180:*

The draft report states that "*during the sixth monitoring cycle Romani was used in civil proceedings (interpretation)".* According to the data provided by the MoJ SR, Romani was in fact used in civil proceedings only in three isolated cases (in 2020, 2022, and 2023, for interpretation only). In the remaining years of the monitoring cycle (2019, 2021, and 2024), Romani was not used in civil proceedings at all. It is therefore correct to state that the use of Romani in civil proceedings was rather rare and that judicial authorities carried out no translations into this language during the monitoring period.

The statement that *"In addition, there is no domestic legal basis for the use of this language in contacts with regional authorities."* is not true. Act No. 184/1999 Coll. was adopted on 10 July 1999, promulgated on 24 July 1999, and is, as amended, still in force today.

Under §1 (2) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., a minority language means a codified or standardized language traditionally used in the territory of the Slovak Republic by its citizens belonging to a national minority, different from the state language; the minority languages include Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Romani, Rusyn and Ukrainian. Under §2 (1) of Act No. 184/1999 Coll., if citizens of the SR belonging to a national minority with permanent residence in a municipality constitute at least 15% of the inhabitants in the last two consecutive censuses, they have the right to use the minority language in official communication within that municipality. The list of such municipalities, as well as the list of their designations in minority languages, is laid down by government regulation.

It also applies that citizens of the SR belonging to a national minority may, in oral communication, use the minority language in a municipality that does not meet the conditions under §2 (1) Act No. 184/1999 Coll., provided that the public administration officer and the participants in the proceedings agree. Further details on the use of Romani (and other minority languages) can be found in the Act and related legislation.

- *Point 181:*

Information about Romani-language broadcasts (both public and private) is publicly available.

From the public broadcasting *STVR*, it is possible to mention the national broadcasting of Slovak Television in the Romani language called – *Roma Magazine* (*Sam Khere*), which is a form of

journalistic discussion show, and the broadcasting of Slovak Radio – *Radio Patria* in various languages, including Romani. Some programs are also broadcast simultaneously on Radio Regina. In addition, Radio Regina East is preparing a program for the coming autumn in which it will present Romani personalities and talents from eastern Slovakia every week – their stories, work and contribution to the community.

Among private media, we mention the online platforms TV Romana and Roma Television, both of which provide programmes in Romani.

Furthermore, the Fund, an independent public institution supported (last year) in connection with the Roma community e.g. the creation of content for electronic media and the internet, publication of cultural, artistic, news, social-science, educational and awareness content, dissemination and reception of information (online journals, news portals, etc.), production of audiobooks, development and realization of audiovisual works, literary activities presenting classical and contemporary minority literature (literary evenings, author readings, socio-literary events, presentations of set minority poetry, activities supporting children's and youth literacy), production of podcasts, publication of monographs about places, municipalities and cultural monuments highlighting their importance for the development of minority culture and language, and the emergence or development of radio or television broadcasting. These activities are supported throughout SR and include the use of Romani language. Information about specific beneficiaries of financial support and projects can be found on the Fund's website.

2.7.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Romani in the Slovak Republic

- *to the recommendation for immediate action I. a):*

We state that pre-school facilities can offer education in any national minority language. The national standard states only this: "Educational activities at the pre-primary level of education in national minority schools also focus on preserving and developing the cultural and linguistic identity of children belonging to national minorities. A special feature of educational activities is also the acquisition of the basics of the Slovak language as an L2, so that children have sufficient age-appropriate communication skills in the Slovak language. Teachers link communication in the language of the relevant national minority and in the Slovak language so as to provide children with quality speech models in both languages."

(Source: https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/96d/24534.b6f65c.pdf)

2.8 Russian

2.8.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Russian in the Slovak Republic

- *to the recommendation for immediate action I. a):*

We state that pre-school facilities can offer education in any national minority language. The national standard states only this: "Educational activities at the pre-primary level of education in national minority schools also focus on preserving and developing the cultural and linguistic

identity of children belonging to national minorities. A special feature of educational activities is also the acquisition of the basics of the Slovak language as an L2, so that children have sufficient age-appropriate communication skills in the Slovak language. Teachers link communication in the language of the relevant national minority and in the Slovak language so as to provide children with quality speech models in both languages."
(Source: https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/96d/24534.b6f65c.pdf)
We propose to add information that the Russian language can already be taught at secondary level.
(Source: https://siov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Rusky_jazyk_uroven_B2.pdf)

2.9 Ruthenian

2.9.1 Compliance of the Slovak Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Ruthenian

- *Point 187:*

In the area of private radio in the territory of the SR, the internet radio station Rusyn FM broadcasts in the Rusyn language. It operates with the support of the Fund, and in 2025 a grant of 60,000 EUR from the Fund was approved for its activities. For this reason, we propose that the implementation of Article 11(1)(b)(ii) be assessed in light of these facts.

2.10 Serbian

2.10.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Serbian in the Slovak Republic

- *to the recommendation for immediate action I. a):*

We state that pre-school facilities can offer education in any national minority language. The national standard states only this: *"Educational activities at the pre-primary level of education in national minority schools also focus on preserving and developing the cultural and linguistic identity of children belonging to national minorities. A special feature of educational activities is also the acquisition of the basics of the Slovak language as an L2, so that children have sufficient age-appropriate communication skills in the Slovak language. Teachers link communication in the language of the relevant national minority and in the Slovak language so as to provide children with quality speech models in both languages."*

(Source: https://www.minedu.sk/data/att/96d/24534.b6f65c.pdf)

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is an independent body that evaluates the compliance of the States Parties with their undertakings and, where appropriate, encourages them to gradually reach a higher level of commitment.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 25 June 1992 and entered into force on 1 March 1998, is the European convention for the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages. It is designed to enable speakers to use them both in private and public life and obliges the States Parties to actively promote the use of these languages in education, courts, administration, media, culture, economic and social life, and cross- border co-operation.

Regional or minority languages are part of Europe's cultural heritage and their protection and promotion contribute to the building of a Europe based on democracy and cultural diversity.

The text of the Charter is available in over 50 languages.

www.coe.int/minlang

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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