

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 30 June 2021

MIN-LANG (2021) 11

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

**Evaluation by the Committee of Experts
of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action
contained in the Committee of Experts' fifth evaluation report on
SLOVENIA**

Introduction

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 Charter was ratified by Slovenia on 4 October 2000, entered into force on 1 January 2001 and applies to the following languages: Croatian (covered by Part II), German (Part II), Hungarian (Parts II and III), Italian (Parts II and III), Romani (Part II) and Serbian (Part II).¹

2. The Committee of Experts monitors the implementation of the Charter. Each state party shall present a periodical report on the implementation of the Charter every five years. Based on the full evaluation report by the Committee of Experts, the Committee of Ministers formulates its recommendations to the state party.

3. In the mid-term of every five-year monitoring cycle i.e. two and a half years after the due date of its periodical report, the state party must present information on the implementation of every **recommendation for immediate action**² that the Committee of Experts has made in its evaluation report. The Committee of Experts then adopts an evaluation of the implementation of these recommendations. “Further recommendations” by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of the regional or minority languages in the state concerned are examined after reception of the next periodical report and the on-the-spot visit to the state party. Five-yearly periodical reports shall contain comprehensive information about the implementation of all Charter undertakings and all recommendations by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers.

4. In accordance with the dates of submission of periodical reports decided by the Committee of Ministers in November 2018³, Slovenia was expected to present **information on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action** by 1 January 2020. However, as the fifth periodical report was submitted in April 2019 and the fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts adopted in November 2019, Slovenia submitted this information on 22 April 2021. This **evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action** is based on the information received from the Slovenian authorities as well as from associations representing the Croatian, German, Italian and Romani speakers pursuant to Article 16.2 of the Charter.⁴ As far as the compliance of Slovenia with all its undertakings under the Charter is concerned, the Committee of Experts refers to its fifth evaluation report.⁵ The Committee of Experts will examine the implementation of all of the recommendations concerning all of the minority languages in the next evaluation report.

5. This evaluation was adopted by the Committee of Experts on 30 June 2021.

¹ For the scope of application of the Charter, see paragraphs 10-12 of the 5th evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), Recommendation CM/RecChL(2020)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Slovenia and pages 12-13 of the Information Document.

² In accordance with 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.

³ CM/Del/Dec(2018)1330/10.4e, Appendix.

⁴ In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts (MIN-LANG(2019)7), Rule 17, paras. 1-6.

⁵ [Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia \(MIN-LANG \(2019\) 17final\)](#).

Examination of the implementation by Slovenia of the recommendations for immediate action

I. General issues

Information provided by the Slovenian authorities

6. The Slovenian authorities provided information which in some cases goes beyond the scope of the recommendations for immediate action, while in other cases it does not precisely relate to the content of these recommendations. All of the information has been used, where applicable, in the evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action.

7. Moreover, some information is to a large extent similar to that already examined in the fifth evaluation report; in these cases, the Committee of Experts refers to its respective assessment. It also welcomes the instances where developments seem to have taken place, for example increased project funding or promotional measures for languages.

8. The Committee of Experts reiterates that, in conformity with Articles 6 and 7(4) of the Charter, it is necessary to have the views of the speakers of regional or minority languages included in the Information on the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action.⁶

Use of regional or minority languages during the Covid-19 pandemic

9. In 2020, the Committee of Experts expressed its concerns about the impact of the measures taken in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic on the use of minority languages.⁷ In this context, it decided to address this impact in its future evaluations and reports to the best extent possible, especially in terms of information relating to (distance) education and health care in regional or minority languages.

10. In Slovenia, as in other countries throughout Europe, distance education replaced face-to-face education for many months. It was provided according to the same rules throughout the country, irrespective of the language being used or taught. Local authorities made information relating to health care available in Italian and to some extent in Hungarian.

11. According to the Charter, regional or minority languages should be used in all contexts and therefore authorities should make use of them in their response to the pandemic. The communication of health-related information in all minority languages is important for the health and well-being of their speakers. It should be borne in mind that new challenges might arise in education with respect to the minority languages and which the authorities might need to address. The Committee of Experts invites the Slovenian authorities to include information in their next periodical report about the use of minority languages in the context of the specific measures taken during the Covid-19 pandemic.

⁶ See, for example, the Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' seventh evaluation report on Hungary (MIN-LANG (2020) 14), para. 6, or the Evaluation by the Committee of Experts of the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action contained in the Committee of Experts' fifth evaluation report on the United Kingdom and Isle of Man (MIN-LANG (2021) 3), para. 7.

⁷ See [COMEX expresses concern over lack of RML communication during health crisis - News about the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages \(coe.int\)](#) and [COMEX statement on RMLs in online education in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic - News about the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages \(coe.int\)](#).

II. Recommendations for immediate action

1. Croatian

Recommendation for immediate action

Recognise Croatian as a traditional minority language and start dialogue with the Croatian speakers with a view to implementing Part II of the Charter.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

12. The Slovenian authorities refer to the 2011 Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia on the Status of National Communities of the Former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) which provided the basis for the establishment of the “Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Issues of the National Communities of SFRY Nations in the Republic of Slovenia” (hereafter, the Council on SFRY National Communities). This is the consultative body of the government which addresses issues, requests and proposals of these national communities and the institutional framework for dialogue between the government and their representatives. According to the authorities, the Council has not met during the term of office of the current government due to delays in the appointment of one representative.

13. Representatives of the Croatian speakers have informed the Committee of Experts that there is no dialogue on the Charter between the government and themselves.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

14. The Committee of Experts regrets that no steps have been taken to implement this recommendation. In addition, the Committee of Experts notes that, in the fifth evaluation report, it considered that the Council on SFRY National Communities did not appear to be an adequate framework for consultation on issues concerning Croatian as a minority language⁸ and recommended the setting up of a mechanism to consult the relevant organisations representing the Croatian speakers on all matters pertaining to the protection and promotion of their language. Moreover, the Committee of Experts notes that the Council on SFRY National Communities has not met for over one year.⁹

15. The Committee of Experts refers to its fifth evaluation report¹⁰ and reiterates that steps are needed to recognise Croatian as a traditional minority language and implement the provisions of Part II of the Charter to this language. As an immediate measure, dialogue with the speakers about the implementation of the Charter and the monitoring recommendations should begin.

Recommendation for immediate action

Promote awareness of the Croatian language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Slovenia in mainstream education and in the media.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

16. The Slovenian authorities refer to the obligation of Radiotelevizija Slovenija (RTV Slovenija) to support the dissemination of knowledge of other cultures present in Slovenia. One radio programme is “intended for members of ethnic communities from the territory of former Yugoslavia” and other people, and involves discussions on cultural activities as well as everyday issues. One television programme “targets ethnic communities from the former Yugoslavia living in Slovenia” and covers “the life of first, second or

⁸ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), para. 38.

⁹ At the date of the submission of the information by the Slovenian authorities - 22 April 2021.

¹⁰ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), paras. 10-12.

third generation immigrants”, their activities and success stories. RTV Slovenija also contributes to *Alps – Danube – Adriatic, images from central Europe*, an international programme “for foreign audiences”.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

17. The Committee of Experts notes the information about the obligations of RTV Slovenija to provide information about other cultures present in Slovenia but observes that this has already been considered in the fifth evaluation report.¹¹ At that time, the Committee of Experts noted that these programmes hardly aimed at presenting Croatian as an integral part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of Slovenia nor at addressing issues relevant for the Croatian speakers living in the area where the language has been traditionally spoken.

18. It remains unclear whether and how the content of these programmes has been designed to promote awareness of Croatian as an integral part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of Slovenia. It is essential for the implementation of this recommendation to address the general public, making them aware of the Croatian language and culture in Slovenia, including its traditional presence in certain areas and the speakers living there. In addition, awareness of the Croatian language from this perspective should be raised as a component and as an expected result of mainstream journalistic training. The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving specific information about the way and extent to which the Croatian language and culture are addressed in these programmes. The present use of Croatian in broadcasts could be developed further to also contribute to raising awareness of its traditional presence.¹²

19. No information was provided about how the Croatian language and culture is presented in education. As indicated in the fifth evaluation report, it is important that the authorities include information about the traditional presence of the Croatian language and the contribution of its speakers to Slovenian society in mainstream education, notably in the curricula, teaching materials and teacher training. Such information could be addressed, for example, within the framework of Slovenian history. The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving specific information in this respect in the next periodical report.

2. German

Recommendation for immediate action

Recognise German as a traditional minority language and start dialogue with the German speakers with a view to implementing Part II of the Charter.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

20. In September 2020, the Ministry of Culture established a working group for permanent dialogue with representatives of the German speakers which consists of representatives of the umbrella association of the German minority as well as the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The working group shall deal with the matters of the German minority falling into the competences of the participating ministries, including language, and hold regular meetings for which the minority representatives can propose topics. The first (and so far, only) meeting of the working group took place on 10 March 2021.

21. The German minority welcomed the fifth evaluation report on Slovenia and the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers, which indeed led to the establishment of the aforementioned working group. At the working group’s meeting, the representatives of the umbrella association stated that they consider the implementation of its “20 Point Plan” of 2015 as the basis for the activities of the working group. This plan contains concrete proposals for the implementation of Part II of

¹¹ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), para. 15.

¹² See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), paras. 15 and 39.

the Charter and the related recommendations, including to “recognise German as a traditional minority language”, and thus covers both aspects of the recommendation for immediate action.¹³ In order to accelerate this work, the representatives of the German speakers have expressed the wish that the working group meets more frequently.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

22. The Committee of Experts welcomes the establishment of the working group for permanent dialogue with representatives of the German speakers. It notes that the working group’s mandate seems to allow it to deal with all matters related to the German speakers. The working group could therefore serve as a framework to implement the recommendation to “start dialogue with the German speakers with a view to implementing Part II of the Charter”.

23. In order to be an effective framework for dialogue on the implementation of the Charter, it is important that the working group meets more regularly and prepares measures on the basis of the Charter provisions, the monitoring recommendations and the proposals by the German speakers. The Committee of Experts also reiterates that steps are needed to “recognise German as a traditional minority language”.¹⁴

Recommendation for immediate action

Promote awareness of the German language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Slovenia in mainstream education and in the media.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

12. The Slovenian authorities refer to the obligation of RTV Slovenija to support the dissemination of knowledge of other cultures present in Slovenia. No information was provided about promoting awareness of the German language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Slovenia in education.

24. According to representatives of the German speakers, promoting awareness of the German language and culture is important as there are persisting prejudices against its speakers in the general society. As a result, the public visibility of German is not generally encouraged and may even be obstructed (e.g. vandalism on public inscriptions). Furthermore, according to representatives of the German speakers, adequate information about the history and culture reflected by the German language is not provided in education and the media.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

25. The Committee of Experts notes the obligations of RTV Slovenija to provide information about other cultures present in Slovenia. It looks forward to receiving specific information about how this is implemented with respect to the German language and culture.

26. The Committee of Experts refers to its previous evaluation reports and emphasises the importance of raising the awareness of the general public about the traditional presence of the German language and the contribution of its speakers to Slovenian society in mainstream education, notably in the curricula, teaching materials and teacher training.¹⁵ Such information could be addressed, for example, within the framework of Slovenian history. Media should be encouraged, without prejudice to their independence, to pay more attention to this language and culture as integral parts of Slovenia’s history and culture. In addition, awareness of the German language should be raised as a component and as an expected result

¹³ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), para. 12. The plan has been jointly drawn up with representatives of the Croatian and Serbian speakers.

¹⁴ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), para. 10-12.

¹⁵ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), para. 18.

of mainstream journalistic training. A certain presence of German in radio and television programmes in the area where it has been traditionally spoken would also help to raise awareness of its traditional presence.¹⁶

3. Hungarian

Recommendation for immediate action

Strengthen the bilingual education system, including by providing adequate teacher training for teaching in Hungarian.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

27. In 2021-2022, the Slovenian authorities will continue to fund the project on “Improving the minority language competences of teaching professionals in bilingual educational institutions in the Prekmurje and Raba regions”, which previously ran between 2013-2015 and 2016-2020.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

28. The Committee of Experts welcomes the information about the continued efforts to enhance the Hungarian language competence of the teachers. As noted in the fifth evaluation report, the authorities were aware of other aspects which were in need of improvement (such as modernising teacher training and methodology) and there was generally a good dialogue with the Hungarian speakers in this respect.¹⁷ It looks forward to receiving further information on measures taken to strengthen the bilingual education system in the next periodical report.

Recommendation for immediate action

Increase the duration and frequency of broadcasting in Hungarian on public television.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

13. The Slovenian authorities refer to the legal obligations of RTV Slovenija with respect to the provision of programmes for the Hungarian national community. There is no information about the duration and frequency of broadcasting.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

29. The Committee of Experts notes that, according to the fifth evaluation report, television programmes were broadcast for 30 minutes, four times per week in the form of new programmes and reruns. This is an insufficient amount in light of the undertaking ratified¹⁸ which is to ensure the creation of one television channel in Hungarian.

30. It is not clear from the information provided by the authorities whether there has been an increase in the duration and frequency of the programmes in Hungarian on public television. However, the report of RTV Slovenija¹⁹ for 2020 refers to four 30-minute broadcasts in Hungarian per week. The plan for 2021 contains the same reference. This does not indicate an increase in the duration or frequency of broadcasting in Hungarian on public television. It is important that the Slovenian authorities take measures

¹⁶ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), paras. 15 and 39.

¹⁷ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), paras. 22, 40.

¹⁸ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), para.42.

¹⁹ Reports and plans of RTV Slovenija available at <https://www.rtvlo.si/rtv/kdo-smo/zakoni-predpisi-in-dokumenti/letni-nacrti-in-porocila/471839>.

to increase the duration and frequency of broadcasting in Hungarian on public television and report on it in the next periodical report.

4. Italian

Recommendation for immediate action

Ensure sufficient resources for the provision of radio and television programmes in Italian at least at the present level.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

31. The Slovenian authorities refer to the legal obligation of RTV Slovenija with respect to the provision of programmes for the Italian national community. These programmes are financed from licence fees, like other activities of the public service broadcaster, as well as from funds of the state budget.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

32. The Committee of Experts notes that the fifth evaluation report on Slovenia, while fully taking into account the broadcasting of Italian-language radio and television programmes by RTV Slovenija, referred to the discussions at the time about the restructuring and future development of this broadcaster, which had been facing financial problems, and to the concerns of both the Hungarian and Italian speakers about the future of the programmes in these languages.²⁰ In the case of Italian, worries had been expressed about the staff and funding cuts affecting the Italian-language programmes of RTV Capodistria and the fact that, over the years, financial cuts had disproportionately affected these programmes.²¹

33. In their statement, the Italian speakers informed the Committee of Experts that, based on the 2021 state budget and under the agreement on the co-financing of the radio and television programmes for the Italian and Hungarian national communities, the authorities have provided an additional amount of €100 000. These funds should serve to maintain the current level of programme provision in Italian by RTV Capodistria and bring stability to their functioning. As part of the implementation of this agreement, in 2021 RTV Slovenija should hire journalists for the Italian-language programmes which had lost staff in previous years. At the time of writing (May 2021), the agreement had not yet been implemented.

34. The Committee of Experts welcomes this information and looks forward, in the next periodical report, to receiving information from the authorities with regard to the implementation of the measures taken.

5. Romani

Recommendation for immediate action

Start teaching Romani as a subject at all appropriate levels and develop a scheme for the training of teachers able to teach Romani.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

35. In 2021, the Institute for Ethnic Studies was entrusted with the task of introducing the teaching of Romani as a pilot project after previous attempts were not successful. The pilot project is expected to start in September 2021 and involve two groups of pupils in the first three years of primary school, in the regions

²⁰ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), para. 32.

²¹ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), para. 45.

of Prekmurje and Bela krajina. The recruitment of Roma assistants who will teach Romani is ongoing. Focus will be put on training the recruited staff and planning the syllabus and teaching materials. The introduction of Romani classes in primary schools is also included in the National Programme of Measures for Roma for 2021-2030, which is currently being discussed.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

36. The Committee of Experts notes that the Slovenian authorities have been attempting for several years to start pilot teaching of Romani and looks forward to its successful implementation in September 2021. From the information made available to the Committee of Experts, many activities carried out by the Roma community and financed by the authorities are dedicated to publishing or promoting Romani or bilingual literature for children, as well as to out-of-school Romani language courses. These seem to indicate an interest in the Romani language, which should be beneficial to the introduction of the Romani language as a subject in mainstream education. The involvement of the Roma community in this process is essential. The authorities indicate that a member of the Roma community is involved, but some groups within the Roma community claim that their views are not sufficiently represented.

37. The Committee of Experts underlines the importance of basic and further teacher training and of the provision of adequate teaching material for the success of minority language education. At the same time, pre-school and secondary education are also relevant levels of education in the sense of the recommendation. The Committee of Experts underlines, in particular, the importance of pre-school for learning a minority language. In order to ensure continuity, the authorities should begin developing an educational model for Romani for each of these levels.

6. Serbian

Recommendation for immediate action

Recognise Serbian as a traditional minority language and start dialogue with the Serbian speakers with a view to implementing Part II of the Charter.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

38. As in the case of Croatian, the Slovenian authorities refer to the 2011 Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia on the Status of National Communities of the Former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) which provided the basis for the establishment of the Council on SFRY National Communities. This is the consultative body of the government which addresses issues, requests and proposals of these national communities and the institutional framework for dialogue between the government and their representatives. According to the authorities, the Council on SFRY National Communities has not met during the term of office of the current government, due to delays in the appointment of one representative.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

39. The Committee of Experts regrets that no steps have been taken to implement this recommendation. It notes that the fifth evaluation report considered that the Council on SFRY National Communities did not appear to be an adequate framework for consultation on issues concerning Serbian as a minority language²² and recommended the setting up of a mechanism to consult the relevant organisations representing the Serbian speakers on all matters pertaining to the protection and promotion of their language. Moreover, as already indicated above, in paragraph 14, the Council on SFRY National Communities has not met for over one year.

²² See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), para. 48.

40. The Committee of Experts refers to its fifth evaluation report²³ and reiterates that steps are needed to recognise Serbian as a traditional minority language and implement the provision of Part II of the Charter to this language. As an immediate measure, dialogue with the speakers about the implementation of the Charter and the monitoring recommendations should begin.

Recommendation for immediate action

Promote awareness of the Serbian language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Slovenia in mainstream education and in the media.

Implementation measures taken by the Slovenian authorities

41. No specific information was provided with respect to promoting awareness of the Serbian language and culture as an integral part of the cultural heritage of Slovenia in mainstream education and in the media.

Evaluation by the Committee of Experts and further action needed

42. The Committee of Experts refers to its comments concerning Croatian. It notes the information about the obligations of the public broadcaster to provide information about other cultures present in Slovenia. If the programmes are the same as those indicated by the authorities for Croatian, the Committee of Experts noted in the fifth evaluation report that they hardly aimed at presenting Serbian as an integral part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of Slovenia nor at addressing issues relevant for the Serbian speakers living in the area where the language has been traditionally spoken.

43. It remains unclear whether and how the content of these programmes has been designed to promote awareness of Serbian as an integral part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of Slovenia. It is essential for the implementation of this recommendation to address the general public, making them aware of the Serbian language and culture in Slovenia, including its traditional presence in some areas and the speakers living there. In addition, awareness of the Serbian language from this perspective should be raised as a component and as an expected result of mainstream journalistic training. The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving specific information about the way and extent to which the Serbian language and culture are addressed in these programmes. The present use of Serbian in broadcasts could be developed further to also contribute to raising awareness of its traditional presence.²⁴

44. As indicated in the fifth evaluation report, it is equally important that the authorities include information about the traditional presence of the Serbian language and the contribution of its speakers to Slovenian society in mainstream education, notably in the curricula, teaching materials and teacher training. Such information could be addressed, for example, within the framework of Slovenian history. The Committee of Experts looks forward to receiving specific information in this respect in the next periodical report.

²³ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), paras. 10-12.

²⁴ See the Fifth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (MIN-LANG (2019) 17final), paras. 15 and 39.

Communication to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, while acknowledging the efforts of the Slovenian authorities to comply with their undertakings under the Charter, has in its fifth evaluation report (CM(2019)17final) made “recommendations for immediate action” and “further recommendations” on how to improve the protection and promotion of the regional or minority languages in Slovenia.

In accordance with the Committee of Ministers Decisions of 28 November 2018 (CM/Del/Dec(2018)1330/10.4e), Slovenia had to present information on the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action, which contain the priority measures that should be taken by the state party. Slovenia presented this information on 22 April 2021. In the present evaluation, the Committee of Experts has examined the implementation of these recommendations.

In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the Committee of Experts invites the Committee of Ministers to:

1. take note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts of the implementation of the recommendations for immediate action by Slovenia and invite the Slovenian authorities to disseminate it to the competent national authorities and relevant stakeholders;
2. reiterate its Recommendation CM/RecChL(2020)2 and invite the Slovenian authorities to present their next periodical report by 1 January 2023 in the required format.