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**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**Sixth periodical report**

**presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

**in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter**

**SLOVENIA**



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
VLADA REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE

Gregorčičeva 20–25, SI-1001 Ljubljana

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## **EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

### **SIXTH PERIODICAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 15 OF THE CHARTER**

#### **SLOVENIA**

**REPORT FROM THE SUBMISSION OF THE FIFTH REPORT (8 APRIL 2019) TO SEPTEMBER 2023  
OR UNTIL THE SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT**

**2023**

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## Introduction

The Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: Slovenia) signed the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter: the Charter) on 3 July 1997 and ratified it on 19 July 2000; the Charter was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list Republike Slovenije*] on 4 August 2000. When depositing the instrument of ratification on 4 October 2000, Slovenia made a declaration that the provisions adopted would apply in Slovenia from 1 January 2001.

The purpose of the Charter is to protect and promote the use of regional and minority languages in Europe as an integral part of Europe's cultural heritage. In this context, it protects languages that have traditionally been used by members of ethnic communities in certain parts of a country. The Charter does not cover regional dialects of the standard language or languages of immigrants.

When depositing the Charter, Slovenia informed the Secretary General of the Council of Europe that, in the terms of the Charter, the Italian and Hungarian languages were regional or minority languages on the territory of Slovenia. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the Charter, Slovenia applies the following paragraphs and sub-paragraphs of Part III of the Charter to these two languages:

- from Article 8:
  - to Italian: paragraph 1 a (i), b (i), c (i), d (i), e (iii), f (iii), g, h, i, paragraph 2
  - to Hungarian: paragraph 1 a (ii), b (ii), c (ii), d (ii), e (iii), f (iii), g, h, i, paragraph 2
- from Article 9:
  - to Italian and Hungarian: paragraph 1 a, b, c, d, paragraph 2 a
- from Article 10:
  - to Italian and Hungarian: paragraph 1 a (i), b, c, paragraph 2, paragraph 3 a, paragraph 4, paragraph 5
- from Article 11:
  - to Italian and Hungarian: paragraph 1 a (i), e (i), paragraph 2, paragraph 3
- from Article 12:
  - to Italian and Hungarian: paragraph 1 a, d, e, f, paragraph 2, paragraph 3
- from Article 13:
  - to Italian and Hungarian: paragraph 1 and paragraph 2
- from Article 14:
  - to Italian and Hungarian: paragraph a and paragraph b

In addition, Slovenia informed the Secretary General that the provisions of Article 7, paragraphs 1 to 4, would apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Romani language.

Slovenia's declaration at the time of the Charter's ratification limited its application in Slovenia to the languages recognised as minority languages under its constitutional order in the areas where these national communities traditionally live, i.e. Italian and Hungarian, and, *mutatis mutandis*, the Romani language. The declaration is included in the act ratifying the Charter and is binding on the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the Government).

In its fifth report, the Committee of Experts of the Charter recognised the high level of protection national minorities receive in Slovenia, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of

Slovenia (hereinafter: the Constitution), and the progress that has been made in a number of areas. However, some of the priority recommendations relate to issues or the situation concerning languages that are not subject to the Charter in Slovenia, and therefore there are differences in how the Committee of Experts and the Government understand and interpret the Charter.

Slovenia has taken the position that Serbian, Croatian and German are not and cannot be the subject of consideration within the framework of minority languages or the Charter. The opinion or position expressed by Slovenia in the Information on the implementation by Slovenia of the recommendations for immediate action as contained in the fifth report of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (April 2021) remains unchanged.

Slovenia submitted its initial periodical report in accordance with the Charter on 14 March 2002. The second periodical report was submitted on 13 June 2005, the third on 2 June 2009 and the fourth on 16 September 2013. Slovenia's fifth periodical report was submitted on 8 April 2019. The sixth report on the application of the Charter is compiled on the basis of the decision of the Ministers' Deputies CM/Del/Dec(2018)1330/10.4e of 28 November 2018 and contains the reporting from 8 April 2019 (the submission of the fifth report on the application of the Charter) to September 2023 or until the submission of the report.

The following contributed to the preparation of the sixth report on the application of the Charter:

Government Office for National Minorities,  
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport,  
Ministry of Education,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food,  
Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy,  
Ministry of Culture,  
Ministry of the Interior,  
Ministry of Justice,  
Ministry of Health,  
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs,  
Ministry of Infrastructure,  
Ministry of Public Administration,  
Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia,  
National Education Institute,  
RTV Slovenia.

The following were also invited to make contributions regarding the Charter's application:

Coastal Italian Self-Governing National Community,  
Hungarian Self-Governing National Community of Pomurje and  
Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia.

Their contributions are in Part IV of the sixth report on the application of the Charter.

In accordance with the revised guidelines for the presentation of periodical reports ACFC(2022)002, the sixth report on the application of the Charter focuses on developments and changes since the fifth report on the application of the Charter in Slovenia (documents MIN-LANG (2019) 17final of 8 November 2019, CM/RecChL(2020)2 of 23 September 2020, MIN-LANG (2021) 11 of 30 June 2021 and CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021, which set out recommendations for immediate action on the application of the Charter in Slovenia) and takes account of the Information on Slovenia's implementation of the recommendations for immediate action as contained in the fifth report of the Committee of Experts on the implementation of the Charter of 10 February 2020.

In areas with no changes requiring reporting, the relevant information is the information in the previous fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and the Information on the implementation by Slovenia of the recommendations for immediate action as contained in the fifth report of the Committee of Experts on the implementation of the Charter.

## **Part I**

### **Measures taken to raise awareness regarding the results of the fifth monitoring cycle and the Charter**

**1. On which website(s) have the fifth cycle opinion and the related Committee of Ministers Resolution been published and in which language(s), including minority languages? Please provide relevant links.**

The opinion on the fifth report on the application of the Charter and the related Resolution of the Committee of Ministers have not been published online, but the relevant ministries and government offices have been informed in writing.

**2. Which domestic follow-up activities were organised, including activities organised jointly with the Council of Europe, and what were their outcomes?**

A working visit by a delegation of the Committee of Experts of the Charter took place from 17 to 20 September 2019 as part of the fifth monitoring cycle. On 20 September 2019, the Committee of Experts met with representatives from ministries and government offices.

On 28 January 2020, an interministerial meeting was held on the opinion received on the fifth report on the application of the Charter, with the participation of all relevant ministries and government offices. The meeting was aimed at coordinating responses to the opinion on the fifth report on the application of the Charter.

Slovenia explains that the activities related to drafting this report involved the participation of the competent state authorities and that on 14 September 2023, the sixth report on the application of the Charter was considered and approved by the Interministerial Working Group for Human Rights (hereinafter: the Interministerial Working Group), which was established by the Government in April 2013 to coordinate reporting under ratified international instruments for the protection of human rights and freedoms and reporting under other mechanisms and to monitor the implementation of the commitments

undertaken in the field of human rights. The work of the Interministerial Working Group is organised and coordinated by the ministry responsible for foreign and European affairs. The Interministerial Working Group is composed of representatives of ministries and government offices, civil society and academia. The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia and the Advocate of the Principle of Equality have an open invitation to attend the sessions of the Interministerial Working Group.

**3. How were minority organisations and other NGOs involved in the preparation of the sixth state report?**

The Coastal Italian Self-Governing National Community, the Hungarian Self-Governing National Community of Pomurje and the Roma Community Council of the Republic of Slovenia were invited to participate in producing the sixth report on the application of the Charter. Their contributions are attached in Part IV of the report.

**4. What other measures were taken to promote awareness about the Framework Convention among persons belonging to national minorities, public officials, local and regional authorities, and the general public?**

Slovenia explains that on 20 June 2014, as part of the Interministerial Working Group for the Monitoring of the Implementation of Slovenia's Language Policy, established by the Government on 19 March 2014, a working subgroup was established to draw up a programme of measures for the implementation of regulations on bilingualism (hereinafter: the working subgroup). The working subgroup was composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Public Administration, the Government Office for National Minorities, the Coastal Italian Self-Governing National Community, and the Hungarian Self-Governing National Community of Pomurje. On 3 July 2019, when considering the Report on the Implementation of the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism 2015–2018 for 2018, the working subgroup recommended that the Government follow the recommendation of the Commission of the National Assembly for the National Communities (hereinafter: the Commission) and, in the context of drawing up the list of activities and measures in response to current and open issues concerning the situation of the Italian and Hungarian national communities or the exercise of the rights of the Italian and Hungarian national communities in Slovenia, to pay due attention to the exercise of the rights of both national communities as regards bilingualism.

At its meeting held on 28 November 2019, under agenda item 2, the Commission considered the Report on the Implementation of the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism 2015–2018 for 2018.

As part of the decisions adopted, it proposed, inter alia, that the Government appoint a working group under the leadership of the Government Office for National Minorities. The working group should produce a draft programme of Government measures targeting the situation of the Italian and Hungarian national communities in Slovenia. In doing so, it should also pay due attention to the exercise of the two national communities' rights as regards



bilingualism. At its session on 14 May 2020, the Government adopted a decision on the establishment of a Government working group to draw up the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of the Regulations Governing the Exercise of the Rights of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Republic of Slovenia, and to monitor its implementation (hereinafter: the working group).

The working group is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport, and the Government Office for National Minorities. The representatives of the two national communities also participate in the working group.

The working group's task is to draft a proposal for the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of the Regulations Governing the Exercise of the Rights of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Republic of Slovenia for the 2021–2025 period (hereinafter: the programme of measures) and to monitor its implementation.

The working group drafted a draft programme of measures in cooperation with representatives of the national communities and line ministries.

As the representatives of the national communities identified progress in the exercise of national community rights in practice on the basis of the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations on Bilingualism 2015–2018, some of the measures contained in that programme of measures were also proposed in the draft of the new programme of measures. At the same time, new measures were included in the draft programme of measures. The Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of the Regulations Governing the Exercise of the Rights of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Republic of Slovenia for the 2021–2025 period was adopted by the Government on 18 August 2021.

The draft programme of measures contributes to implementing one of the tasks of the Agreement on cooperation signed between the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 3 July 2020. The signatories to the agreement undertook, among other things, to work to bridge the gap between the normative framework and the implementation of these provisions in practice in all areas of protecting autochthonous national communities by upgrading legal acts, developing systemic policies in the field, providing adequate budgetary funding, promoting the linguistic and cultural identity, cultural heritage, history and customs of autochthonous national communities, to work towards a comprehensive and effective system of monitoring the implementation of legislative acts and systemic policies, and to ensure that the Government acts in a coordinated way to protect autochthonous national communities.

The table below shows the level of co-financing of the Italian national community (bilingual area), the Hungarian national community (bilingual area) and the Roma community provided by Slovenia through various line ministries.

Co-financing bilingualism (in euros)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Italian national community	9,527,876	10,331,495	11,163,950	13,891,670
Hungarian national community	13,161,692	13,679,773	14,352,972	18,621,315
Roma community	6,460,356	8,541,461	8,750,138	15,570,694*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,149,924</b>	<b>32,552,729</b>	<b>34,267,060</b>	<b>48,082,679</b>

*\*The level of funding differs from previous years due to a change in methodology at the ministry responsible for education.*

Slovenia further explains that meetings between ministry and government office representatives and the representatives of the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Roma community are held daily to address current matters.

## Part II

### Measures taken to improve the Charter's application and to implement the recommendations of the fifth cycle

#### ***Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies (document CM/RecChI(2020)2 of 23 September 2020) on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia***

At the 1384th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies on 23 September 2020, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation RecChL(2020)2 of the Committee of Ministers on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by Slovenia. The document recommends that the Slovenian authorities take account of all the observations and recommendations put forth by the Committee of Experts and identifies four areas to be addressed as a matter of priority.

**Recommendation 1:** "recognise Croatian, German and Serbian as minority languages traditionally spoken in Slovenia and apply the provisions of Part II to these languages, in co-operation with the speakers"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the Charter.

Slovenia further explains that a research project entitled "Analysis of the situation of the Croatian, German and Serbian communities in the Republic of Slovenia" was carried out by

the European Faculty of Law of the New University in 2022 as part of the "CRP 2021" Target Research Programme.

A scientific article based on the research project reads:

"In addition to three groups with constitutional protection, many other ethnic groups live in Slovenia, from the German, Croatian and Serbian to the Spanish, Ukrainian and many other ethnic groups that do not hold the status of a national community with special protection; the State nevertheless supports the work of some of these groups and the preservation of their identity in various ways. This mostly concerns members of social groups that arrived here recently due to family, economic or other reasons, including the Croatian, German and Serbian communities (although some of these members possess certain autochthonous attributes, i.e. were historically settled in a specific concentrated area). Slovenia has opted for a model with a very restrictive number of communities holding special rights that grants a very broad range of minority rights to the two communities meeting these criteria. The Bosniak, Albanian, Montenegrin and Macedonian ethnic groups primarily refer to the size of their populations, as they fail to meet the criterion of an autochthonous community. The history of the German, Croatian and Serbian ethnic groups is somewhat different, however. Today, the German and Serbian communities preserve only the traditional customs of their past settlement in the autochthonous territory. Furthermore, there are hardly any members of the German community still living in its historical autochthonous area. The Croatian community also refers to its autochthonous settlement, but researchers and activists have yet to determine its actual locations. The question that therefore arises is how these communities could absorb the same collective rights as those enjoyed by the Italian and Hungarian national communities were they to be granted the same constitutional status."

The Analysis of the situation of the Croatian, German and Serbian communities in the Republic of Slovenia, carried out by the European Faculty of Law of the New University, was presented at the follow-up meeting on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Slovenia, which took place on 28 and 29 November 2022 in Ljubljana.

The full study is available on the website of the European Faculty of Law of the New University (<https://epf.nova-uni.si/raziskovanje/raziskovalni-razvojni-in-izobrazevalni-projekti-2/>).

Slovenia also explains that, in accordance with the Government of the Republic of Slovenia Act and the Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, and in accordance with the Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia on the Status of the National Communities of Members of Nations of the Former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia, the Government adopted, first on 18 August 2021 (Decision No. 00405-5/2021/3) and then again on 9 December 2021 (Decision No. 00405-5/2021/7), the decision establishing the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for issues pertaining to the national communities of members of the nations of the former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the Council), and subsequently also the decision appointing the members of the Council (Decision No. 00405-6/2021/6). The Government thereby established a special consultative body whose purpose is to address the issues, requests and proposals of the members of the national communities concerned and to adopt positions on proposals for decisions by the Government and the ministries that would concern these national communities (the panel of the Government). The Council's active role enables the Government to engage in constructive dialogue with the national communities concerned.

By way of a decision on the establishment, composition, organisation and tasks thereof, such a Council was established on six occasions until 2022, namely on 12 May 2011, 22 August 2013, 26 February 2015, 11 July 2019, 18 August 2021 and 9 December 2021. At that time, the Council members' term of office was linked to the term of office of the Government, and with the change of the Government, the Council ceased to function. In order to ensure the continuity of the Council's work, as from 2021 onwards, the members of the Council hold office for a term of five years from the date of the decision appointing them, with the possibility of reappointment, except in the case of the President and the members of the Government who hold public office and whose term of office is terminated prematurely by reason of the termination of their function. A representative of the ministry responsible for culture is appointed President of the Council, while the post of Vice-President is reserved for representatives of the national communities, who rotate in this position. In 2022, the Vice-President of the Council was a representative of the Croatian national community, Đanino Kutnjak, and in 2023 this position is held by Dr Ilija Dimitrievski. Administrative and technical support for the work of the Council is provided by the ministry responsible for culture through the Cultural Diversity and Human Rights Service.

In order to respond to the request of the ministry responsible for labour, family, social affairs and equal opportunities, it was decided by Decision establishing the Council of 9 December 2021 (Decision No. 00405-5/2021/7) to add an additional member to the Council. This broke the Council's parity composition, and on 10 November 2022, the Government adopted a Decision amending the Decision establishing the Council, which restored the Council's parity composition. The Council now consists of 12 members, 6 of whom are representatives of state authorities (the ministry responsible for culture, the ministry responsible for education, the ministry responsible for internal affairs, the ministry responsible for foreign and European affairs, the ministry responsible for labour, family, social affairs and equal opportunities, and the Government Office for National Minorities), and of whom the other 6 are representatives of national communities of members of the former SFRY nations (Albanians, Bosniaks, Montenegrins, Croats, Macedonians, and Serbs).

The Council met twice in 2022, at its founding session on 31 January 2022, chaired by Dr Ignacija Fridl Jarc, State Secretary and representative of the ministry responsible for culture, and in a new composition following the change of the Government on 7 December 2022, chaired by Dr. Asta Vrečko, Minister and representative of the ministry responsible for Culture. Previously, new members were appointed to the Council by Government Decision No. 00405-6/2022/4 of 10 November 2022 on the appointment of members of the Council.

At the Council's founding session on 31 January 2022, the Council adopted its Rules of Procedure, appointed the Vice-President of the Council and agreed that future Council sessions would address topics relating to language policy, invitations to tender, the Foreigners Act, the Council's renaming, and the exercise of national community rights for members of the former SFRY nations in Slovenia, each time up to a maximum of two topics per meeting.

At its first session in the new composition on 7 December 2022, the Council first adopted and approved the minutes of the Council's founding session of 31 January 2022, and thus all previously adopted decisions on the Council's Rules of Procedure, the alphabetical order in which a new representative of a national community is to be appointed each year as the Vice-President of the Council, and the order in which matters are to be discussed. The Council then took note of the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2021–2025 (ReNPJP21–25), as well as of the substantive parts relating to the languages of the members

of the former SFRY nations. It also took note of the systemic framework for teaching the languages of the members of the former SFRY nations within the education system. It adopted the position that, before drafting or adopting any resolution or similar document concerning the members of the national communities of the former SFRY, their representatives should be invited to participate. In view of the issue's topicality, it also adopted a revised decision that at the next session, in addition to the issue of tenders, the implementation of the Convention should be discussed, as it, according to the national communities of the members of the former SFRY nations, could form the basis for a law on the exercise of collective rights. It was reiterated that the Council can only discuss or take note of initiatives regarding the implementation of the collective rights of former SFRY national community members, but has no authority to propose such initiatives. As a consultative body of the Government, the Council can only propose that the Government should consider the adoption of such a law or reconsider the possibility of submitting such a law that was already submitted for consideration in one of the previous terms of office. The Council's second (correspondence) session was held from 21 February 2023 to 23 February 2023, during which the Council members approved the report on the work of the Council for 2022.

The Council's third session was held on 18 April 2023, at which Slovenia's positions on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the positions adopted after a follow-up meeting on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities were presented. The session was suspended and resumed on 9 May 2023.

With regard to the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia, in order to deepen and strengthen the constructive dialogue with its representatives, the ministry responsible for culture, by decision of 22 September 2020, established a special working group for permanent dialogue with representatives of the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia (hereinafter: the working group). In addition to representatives of the organisations of the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia, it included representatives of the ministries responsible for culture, foreign affairs and education, science and sport. The working group's purpose was to address the issues raised by the members of the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia relating to the work areas of the participating ministries, including linguistic and cultural issues, with a view to preserving and developing linguistic and cultural diversity. The working group held two meetings in 2021. On 10 March 2021, the working group's first (founding) meeting was held, during which representatives of the aforementioned ministries presented some of the current activities and opportunities for members of the German-speaking ethnic group. Representatives of the two umbrella organisations of members of the German-speaking ethnic group (the Association of Cultural Societies of the German-Speaking National Community and the Union of Organisations of the Kočevje Germans) presented their organisations' activities. They agreed on the group's future work. On 6 December 2021, a second meeting was held to discuss the 10 most important substantive items on the agenda following the proposal by representatives of the two umbrella organisations of the German-speaking ethnic group in Slovenia. It should be noted that dialogue with representatives of the German-speaking ethnic group commenced. A number of substantive issues were raised, which were resolved or clarified in a reasoned dialogue.

As the working group was established during the term of office of Minister Dr. Vasko Simoniti, it was re-established by the decision of the new Minister, Dr. Asta Vrečko, on 20 December

2022 with the newly appointed representative of the Government Office for National Minorities and the representative of the newly established Association of Cultural Societies of the Kočevje Germans and people of Štajerska in Slovenia. The first meeting of the new working group took place on 15 June 2023. The agenda included collaboration on producing the Fifth work programme on cooperation in culture, education and science for the period 2023–2027, within the framework of the 2001 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the Republic of Austria on cooperation in culture, education and science, and an agreement on the future work of the working group.

**Recommendation 2:** "develop the teaching of the Romani language and culture at all appropriate levels"

### *Support for learning Romani as a mother tongue and for learning Slovenian*

Slovenia explains that supplementary classes in Romani and Roma culture started in the 2021/2022 school year at two primary schools. The evaluation after one year of implementation shows that the programme is of utmost benefit to the Roma children who have participated. It is about establishing a new attitude towards school as an institution where their mother tongue is both used and even taught.

The ministry responsible for education has also commissioned an analysis to examine the possibility of additional Slovenian language teaching for Roma pupils when they enter primary school, and Roma children have already been given the opportunity to attend additional lessons in Slovenian in 2020. The results of the analysis will be known at the end of 2023.

### *Evaluation of a pilot project on learning Romani*

The implementation of supplementary classes in Romani and Roma culture began in the 2021/2022 school year at the Metlika Primary School and the Beltinci Primary School. The work of the teachers, who are also Roma assistants at these schools, was guided and coordinated by the Institute for Ethnic Studies. The work at the Metlika Primary School was constant and very effective throughout the year, and a productive discussion was held with the teacher at the end of the year on the work and plans for the 2022/23 school year. Supplementary classes in Romani and Roma culture at the Metlika Primary School and the Beltinci Primary School continue in the 2022/23 school year. At the Beltinci Primary School, the supplementary classes were held with decreasing regularity in the second half of the 2021/22 school year and the group eventually broke up. The teacher cited the extremely unfavourable social situation as the reason. As a result, the supplementary classes in Romani will no longer be held at this school in the 2022/23 school year, but new alternatives for teaching Romani in the context of the Prekmurje dialect are being intensively sought. A new group from this geographical area is being planned.

The evaluation after one year of implementation at the Metlika Primary School shows that the programme is of utmost benefit to the Roma children who have participated. It is about establishing a new attitude towards school as an institution where their mother tongue is used and even taught. The children are happy to stay at the school in the afternoons after regular lessons. In addition to establishing a different attitude towards school and learning, repeating the curriculum content in Romani helps them immensely both in learning Slovenian and mastering the regular curriculum. According to the Roma teaching assistant, who is with the

children on a daily basis, the pupils feel accepted, relaxed, very cooperative, motivated and ready to work. They listen with interest and understand the instructions, so they have no problems in solving the tasks with great success. Students who attend supplementary classes are more independent, confident, and responsive (if they do not understand or know something, they ask), and engage in more socialisation, talk and play with their classmates.

In the 2021/2022 school year, 11 pupils attended such classes at the Metlika Primary School and 7 pupils at the Beltinci Primary School. In the 2022/2023 school year, the Metlika Primary School had 5 pupils from grade 2 in the first group, and 6 pupils from grade 3 and 5 pupils from grade 4 in the second group. A total of 16 children, 8 boys and 8 girls, attend the supplementary classes in Romani language and Roma culture.

*Targeted research project: Instruments for identifying the level of Roma children and pupils' linguistic ability in the Romani language*

The project is in its initial phase and all activities are being implemented according to the timeline. Two primary schools have been selected for implementation. For the Dolenjska dialect version, the assessment will take place at the Metlika Primary School, and for the Prekmurje dialect version, it will take place at the France Prešeren Primary School in Črenševci. The first two reports will be available in 2023.

Recommendation 3: "intensify measures to raise public awareness regarding the regional or minority languages in mainstream education and in the mass media"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

Slovenia further informs that the objectives concerning respect for difference, knowledge and deepening of understanding of minority languages, their culture, religion, history and the objectives of national communities, e.g. the preservation and development of the Italian and Hungarian languages, are part of the general goals of education in Slovenia, which follows from the *Organisation and Financing of Education Act* (ZOFVI, Article 2). As follows from the 2010 survey<sup>1</sup>, such objectives are broadened and implemented throughout the entire vertical of education as part of subjects such as history, geography, patriotic and civic education and ethics, sociology, social sciences, Slovenian (ibid.). Their fundamental purpose is to promote awareness regarding individual and national diversity, to foster mutual respect and cooperation, and to develop the national and European identity both of the individual and the nation as a whole.

In 2023, the National Education Institute will update its findings in this area and, to this end, will analyse the integration of such objectives in the curricula of relevant subjects at all levels of education. In light of the analysis's findings, the provisions of Article 2 of the ZOFVI and the recommendations in the Report of the Committee of Experts submitted to the Committee of

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<sup>1</sup> Formal forms of citizenship education in an intercultural society (2010). Ministry of Education and Sport, the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Educational Research Institute. Obtained from: <https://isim.zrc-sazu.si/sl/programi-in-projekti/strokovne-podlage-strategije-in-teoretske-tematizacije-za-izobra%C5%BEEvanje-za> (10 January 2023).

Ministers of the Council of Europe (8 November 2019), as well as the needs of current times/societal developments, the curricula will be updated and upgraded accordingly.

Slovenia has been implementing measures to raise public awareness regarding regional or minority languages in the mass media, in accordance with the provisions of the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act and the Mass Media Act.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and the Mass Media Act, media activity in Slovenia is based on freedom of expression or the free flow of information and the media's openness to varying opinions, beliefs and diverse content, as well as on journalistic autonomy in the creation of programme content. The freedom to disseminate and receive programme content from other countries – and thus also programme content in foreign languages – within Slovenia is also guaranteed. Media established in Slovenia and aimed at national and other communities or at foreign audiences may be freely disseminated in the languages of those communities or in a foreign language.

In accordance with the Mass Media Act, Slovenia uses funds from the national budget to finance, through public calls for tender, specific programme content of the media in the public interest, including programme content enabling members of both national communities, members of the Roma community and members of other minority ethnic communities to exercise the right to inform the public and be informed.

Public service broadcasting has a particular mission in this area. In accordance with the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act, the broadcasting of radio and television channels of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, and radio and television broadcasts for the Roma community, as well as those for foreign audiences, are defined as public service activities that Radiotelevizija Slovenija (hereinafter: RTV Slovenia) is obliged to provide. In addition, RTV Slovenia's programmes must, among other things, promote the spread of knowledge about other cultures that are represented in Slovenia and their representatives.

In this regard, it should also be noted that in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and the relevant act, RTV Slovenia has been granted institutional and programme or editorial autonomy, so the State, i.e. the Republic of Slovenia, cannot and should not interfere with its programme policy.

Slovenia is also aware of the importance of preserving linguistic diversity in the media sphere and will continue to work in this direction and, within the limits of its legal and financial possibilities, will endeavour to find even more appropriate legal solutions.

<p><b>Recommendation 4:</b> "ensure sufficient resources for the provision of television programmes in Hungarian and Italian"</p>
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In October 2022, Slovenia allocated additional earmarked funds of EUR 28,500 to RTV Slovenia for the Hungarian programme, which were used to recruit a young journalist following the extraordinary departure or resignation of a journalist in April 2022. In January 2023, RTV Slovenia published a call for applications for the post of journalist for a fixed period of one year to replace a journalist on maternity leave, but no one applied. The call for applications will be repeated. The biggest reason for the difficulty in finding suitable candidates, particularly for



journalist posts, is the brain drain to bigger cities, as young people rarely return home after finishing their studies.

The number of employees in the Hungarian Programme Studio has not decreased recently, as there have been no major departures due to retirement. More departures due to retirements are expected in 2024 (with the partial onboarding of a new hire in 2023) and in 2025.

For the past two years, the Hungarian Programme Studio has had a fixed-term contract as part of its project to recruit younger staff, the status of which was changed to permanent as of 1 January 2023. In 2023, 2024 and 2025, they would like to replace all employee departures due to retirement.

Slovenia is providing additional funds for this purpose on the basis of the Agreement on cooperation signed on 25 May 2023 by the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities with the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the term of office lasting until 2026. The aforementioned agreement provides, inter alia, for the replacement of technicians, journalists and editors in the Hungarian Programme Studio of RTV Slovenia who retire annually, in accordance with the principle of protection of the acquired rights of the autochthonous national communities in Slovenia, with two posts in 2023 and four posts in 2024. Additional funds will be provided for this purpose (EUR 66,500 for 2023 and EUR 134,500 for 2024).

It should be noted that since 2021, as part of the co-financing of radio and television channels for the Hungarian national community, Slovenia annually provides additional funds in the amount of EUR 13,333 for one additional job for the needs of the Pomurje Hungarian radio and Studio Hidak – Mostovi and new activities.

Slovenia explains that RTV Slovenia, through the Government Office for National Minorities and on the basis of the Agreement signed between the two deputies of the national communities and the Government on 3 July 2020 for the 2020–2022 term of office (hereinafter: the Agreement), has provided an additional EUR 100,000 for 2021 for the preservation of the acquired rights in relation to the public information system or radio and television channel in Italian as part of the RTV Slovenia Regional Broadcasting Centre Koper-Capodistria to ensure stable and continued services of radio and television channels for the Italian national community. In 2022, these additional funds were maintained and, based on the Annex to the Agreement, additional funding in the amount of EUR 200,000 was provided to replace four posts lost in previous years.

The employment of nine long-serving staff members at the RTV Slovenia Regional Broadcasting Centre Koper-Capodistria for the Italian national community programme, whose employment contracts were converted from fixed-term to permanent in 2022, was co-financed by the Government Office for National Minorities. These posts were made possible thanks to the financial support and understanding provided by the Government Office for National Minorities and the management of RTV Slovenia.

Slovenia will strive to ensure additional funds for this purpose, including based on the Agreement signed on 25 May 2023 between the deputies of the national communities and the Government for the term of office lasting until 2026. The Agreement also contains a provision that, in the years from 2023 to 2026, the staff retiring annually at the RTV Slovenia Regional

Broadcasting Centre Koper-Capodistria be replaced in accordance with the principle of protecting the acquired rights of the autochthonous communities in Slovenia. Additional funds will also be provided for this purpose on the basis of the signed Agreement (EUR 120,000 for 2023 and EUR 120,000 for 2024).

Slovenia expresses great understanding and support for radio and television channels for the constitutionally recognised national communities and the Roma community, which is also reflected in co-financing. The main source of financing for all radio and television channels, in accordance with the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act (hereinafter: the ZRTVS-1), is a contribution, a special type of public duty aimed at financing the public media service.

The funds provided by Slovenia to co-finance radio and television channels for the Italian and Hungarian national communities (and the Roma community) pursuant to the ZRTVS-1 have increased in recent years, as shown in the table below.

<b>RTV channels (in EUR)</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Plan for 2023</b>
Italian national community	1,094,566	1,132,566	1,245,899	1,432,566	1,552,566
Hungarian national community	447,671	447,671	447,671	489,504	556,004
Roma community	183,000	193,000	193,000	193,000	193,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,725,237</b>	<b>1,773,237</b>	<b>1,886,570</b>	<b>2,115,070</b>	<b>2,301,570</b>

**Clarifications to the Recommendations MIN-LANG (2021) 11 of 30 June 2021 and of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 adopted at the 1415th meeting of 20 October 2021)**

## **1. Croatian**

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

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

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

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

In addition, Slovenia explains that Croatian can be taught to pupils in the Slovenian education system as:

- a compulsory elective subject in grades 7 to 9 of primary school

School year	Number of schools	Number of pupils
2019/20	5	63
2020/21	7	73
2021/22	8	62

- an optional elective subject in grades 4 to 9 of primary school

School year	Number of schools (2nd educational period + 3rd educational period)	Number of pupils (2nd educational period + 3rd educational period)	Number of pupils Total
2018/19	0+6	0+84	84
2019/20	0+3	0+38	38
2020/21	0+1	0+14	14
2021/22	0+3	0 + 36	36

- supplementary mother tongue and culture classes for children of other nationalities: in the 2019/20 school year, Croatian was taught to 69 pupils at 9 schools: the Lendava Primary School, the Gimnazija Lendava (general upper secondary school), the Angel Besednjak Primary School Maribor, the II. Gimnazija Maribor (general upper secondary school), the Preseje pri Radomljah Primary School, the Vodmat Primary School, the Bežigrad Primary School, the Sostro Primary School, and the Grosuplje Town Library. The classes are organised in cooperation between the Croatian and Slovenian Ministries of Education. The Slovenian side also provides professional and technical support for the delivery of the lessons.

In the 2020/21 school year, 35 children attended supplementary classes. The lessons were held remotely. The lessons are also being offered in the 2022/23 school year.

## 2. German

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

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for

Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

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

Slovenia responds that German is the second most widely taught foreign language in the Slovenian education system. It is taught as:

- a compulsory first foreign language in grades 2 to 9 of primary school
- an optional elective subject in grade 1 of primary school
- an optional elective subject in grades 4 to 9 of primary school
- a compulsory elective subject in grades 7 to 9 of primary school
- a compulsory first foreign language in the general upper secondary education programme
- a second, third or fourth foreign language in upper secondary education (the general upper secondary education programme and some vocational and professional programmes).

There is also supplementary teaching of the German language and culture for children of other nationalities.

#### *German language diploma and the programme's German teachers*

This is a programme that has been running since 1998. The programme's German teachers prepare Slovenian upper secondary students for the German Language Diploma Level II exam (a certificate of proficiency in German that, in addition to matura (national upper secondary school-leaving external examination), allows admission to German universities). In preparation for this exam, upper secondary students achieve a higher level of German (C1) than the Slovenian curriculum currently allows (up to B2). Students can also take the German Language Diploma Level I exam (A2/B1), also as the DSD I PRO exam. The German Language Diploma Level I and Level II is offered at 23 upper secondary schools in Slovenia and is free of charge for upper secondary students. All the work is done by qualified Slovenian teachers of German.

### **3. Hungarian**

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

To support and strengthen the bilingual education system and raise the linguistic competences of minority language teachers, the ministry responsible for education provides additional training for teachers. Accordingly, the project Raising the Quality of Bilingual Education through New Teaching Approaches was implemented in 2021 and 2022. The project was partly financed by the European Social Fund.

In order to strengthen the bilingual education system, in September 2021, the National Education Institute recruited an additional education advisor for the Hungarian language and formulated a professional basis for Hungarian's inclusion as a second language in the national examination system.

Hungarian language training has been strengthened during this reporting period, which will certainly also contribute to raising Hungarian teachers' linguistic capabilities. As a consequence, the publication of translations and/or the preparation of new textbook materials for bilingual education has also accelerated, as well as the translation of curricula and other curricular materials into Hungarian (see detailed answer under II g and h).

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

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 4.

In addition, Slovenia explains that, pursuant to Article 3 of the ZRTVS-1, the public service RTV Slovenia has the obligation to create, produce, archive and broadcast, among other things, one radio and one television channel for the autochthonous Hungarian national community.

In accordance with Article 4 of the ZRTVS-1, RTV Slovenia must, among other things, ensure the rights of the Hungarian national community on its public service channels by:

- ensuring credible and impartial informational broadcasts whereby it provides comprehensive information regarding political events at home and in neighbouring countries, important events in other European countries, especially the Member States of the European Union, and important world topics such that the content broadcasted facilitates the objective public informing of the autochthonous Hungarian national community in Slovenia;
- ensuring the exercise of the constitutional rights of the Hungarian national community in terms of public information via public radio and television, and promoting ties between the national communities and their mother countries and incorporating cultural and other achievements of the Hungarian nation in national community channels;
- in accordance with international treaties and in cooperation with the public radio and television broadcasting corporations of neighbouring and other countries, supporting the creation and development of cross-border radio and television projects.

In this regard, it should also be noted that, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and Article 2 of the ZRTVS-1, RTV Slovenia has been granted institutional and programme or editorial autonomy, so that the State, i.e. the Republic of Slovenia, cannot and should not interfere with its programme policy.

The programme policy and consequently decisions on the scope and quantity of programme content and broadcasts in Hungarian is primarily within the competence of the Programme Board of RTV Slovenia as the highest body responsible for the programme policy, a member of which is a representative of the Hungarian national community. Moreover, the Programme Board appoints the Programme Committee for the Hungarian national community channel, which comprises nine members and has the following competences (Article 23 of the ZRTVS-1):

- granting its consent to the appointment of the commissioning editor for the national community channel, and to the channel's scope, programme plan, programme standards

and programme scheme, which must be appropriate to the financial capacities of RTV Slovenia and to the regulations governing its work;

- addressing fulfilment of the programme plan and programme production plan, and also that part of the annual report of RTV Slovenia relating to the national community channels;
- addressing the comments and suggestions of viewers and listeners of the national community channels and indicate their position in this regard;
- offering initiatives to the Programme Board for dealing with issues regarding the national community channels;
- performing other tasks pertaining to the national community channels where so provided by the Statute.

RTV Slovenia provides national minority programmes as regional programmes for the Hungarian national community via the regional RTV centre in Maribor with the TV studio in Lendava; the national minority programmes, however, also comprise certain broadcasts on the national television channels. More detailed information on the public service provision of programmes and programme content in Hungarian or for the Hungarian national community can also be found in RTV Slovenia's annual reports, which are publicly available on its website <https://www.rtv slo.si/rtv/kdo-smo/zakoni-predpisi-in-dokumenti/letni-nacrti-in-porocila/471839>.

#### **4. Italian**

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

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 4.

In addition, Slovenia explains that, pursuant to Article 3 of the ZRTVS-1, the public service RTV Slovenia has the obligation to create, produce, archive and broadcast, among other things, one radio and one television channel for the autochthonous Italian national community. In accordance with the provisions of Article 30 of the ZRTVS-1, the activity of the public service, including the channels for the Italian national community, is financed from RTV licence fees. Moreover, the part of the national community channels not financed from licence fees is financed by funds from the state budget.

In this regard, it should also be noted that in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and Article 2 of the ZRTVS-1, RTV Slovenia has been granted institutional and programme or editorial autonomy, so that the State, i.e. the Republic of Slovenia, cannot and should not interfere with its programme or financial policy.

The programme policy and consequently decisions on the scope and quantity of programme content and broadcasts for the Italian national community fall primarily within the competence of the Programme Board of RTV Slovenia as the highest body responsible for the programme policy, a member of which is a representative of the Italian national community. Moreover, the Programme Board appoints the Programme Committee for the Italian national community channel, which comprises nine members and has specific statutory competences (Article 23 of the ZRTVS-1). Financial issues and the supervision of financial operations are the

responsibility of the Supervisory Board of RTV Slovenia, which must also report its findings in writing to the Programme Committee for RTV programmes for the Italian national community. RTV Slovenia provides national minority programmes as regional programmes for the Italian national community via the regional RTV centre in Koper; the national minority programmes, however, also comprise certain broadcasts on the national television channels. Participation of the Italian national minority in the programmes' management is fully provided for, to a great extent also due to staff members coming from the Italian national community.

More detailed information on the public service provision of programmes and programme content in Italian or for the Italian national community can also be found in RTV Slovenia's annual reports, which are publicly available on its website <https://www.rtvlo.si/rtv/kdo-smo/zakoni-predpisi-in-dokumenti/letni-nacrti-in-porocila/471839>.

## 5. Romani

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

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 2.

In addition, Slovenia explains that in 2021, alongside Slovakia and Greece, it joined the Council of Europe's pilot project (experiment) called *Romani Plurilingual Policy Experimentation* (RPPE), or the inclusion of Roma children in education by testing multilingual approaches, which is being supported by an expert on Roma issues, Dr David Little from Ireland. The main purpose of the (pilot) project is to financially support the piloting of a multilingual methodological approach to the education of Roma children. The aim is to find innovative strategic approaches, with the multilingual approach of the Irish model advocated by Dr David Little as a reference model.

The pilot project will take place in three major phases in terms of content and timing (first 2022–23, second 2023–24 and third 2024–25). The project's results will demonstrate the value of an inclusive learning approach based on multilingualism. Under the pilot project, participating countries and schools will link up with each other, professional development for teachers will be carried out, and innovations in inclusion and multilingualism will be developed.

To this end, we have set up a network of like-minded schools in Slovenia to pilot the feasibility of the reference principles of inclusion and multilingualism offered (the starting points for the pilot project). The pilot project will run until 2025, when a final evaluation will be carried out.

On the basis of the final evaluation of the *Romani Plurilingual Policy Experimentation* (RPPE) pilot project and the Council of Europe's Recommendation on *the Importance of Plurilingual and Intercultural Education for Democratic Culture* (February 2022), possible legal provisions in the field of Roma education in Slovenia will be proposed and, consequently, systemic changes will be made.

## 6. Serbian

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

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

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

In the Slovenian educational system, Serbian is taught as a compulsory elective subject in the third educational cycle of primary school (grades 7–9 of primary school). Only a small number of pupils opt for this subject (see table below). In the last three years, Serbian has been taught as an elective subject in only one primary school in Velenje. Serbian as a compulsory elective subject was not taught in the 2020/21 school year, but supplementary classes in Serbian language and culture were conducted intensively.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Number of pupils	10	8	6	0	0
Number of schools	1	1	1	0	0

### *Supplementary teaching of mother tongues and cultures for immigrant children*

In the 2012/13 school year, supplementary classes in Serbian language and culture were introduced for the first time for Serbian-speaking immigrant children at the Livada Primary School in Ljubljana. The classes, co-financed by the ministry responsible for education, were attended by 35 pupils (additional co-financing was provided under the Swiss project). In the years up to the 2016/17 school year, the number of children attending supplementary classes decreased to 7 pupils. In the 2017/18 school year, no supplementary Serbian language and culture classes were held, and in the following year they were held only for a few pupils.

The Serbian Ministry of Education has seconded eight teachers of supplementary classes in Serbian language and culture to Slovenia in 2020. In the 2020/21 school year, 16 primary schools for a total of 264 pupils applied for co-financing for supplementary Serbian language and culture classes, amounting to EUR 11,880. Due to Covid-19 and the resulting distance learning, not all teachers were able to actually provide these classes.

In the 2021/22 school year, 20 primary schools for a total of 301 pupils applied for co-financing for supplementary Serbian language and culture classes, amounting to EUR 13,846. This year, the lessons were delivered both remotely and in classrooms. In May 2021 and 2022, a professional meeting of teachers of supplementary classes was held by the Institute for Ethnic



Studies and the ministry responsible for education. In 2022/23, all eight teachers continue to provide supplementary teaching. The Slovenian ministry responsible for education provides them with all the necessary support.

## **2.1 Croatian**

### **Article 7: Objectives and principles**

#### **7.1.a**

"recognition of Croatian as an expression of cultural wealth"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.b**

"ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Croatian"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.c**

"resolute action to promote Croatian"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.d**

"facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Croatian, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **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"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.f**

"provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Croatian at all appropriate stages"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.g**

"provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Croatian to learn it"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for

Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021 (1. Croatian)).

#### **7.1.h**

"promotion of study and research on Croatian at universities or equivalent institutions"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.i**

"promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Croatian"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.2**

"eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Croatian"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **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"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

In addition, Slovenia explains that the Act Amending the Criminal Code (KZ-1J) was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia at its session of 27 January 2023 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*] No. 16/23. A new paragraph three was added after paragraph two of Article 49 that reads as follows: "(3) If the motive for a criminal offence is the nationality, race, religion or ethnicity of the injured party, their sex, skin colour, origin, material standing, education, social status, political or other conviction, disability, sexual orientation or any other personal circumstance, it shall be considered an aggravating circumstance."

The competition "Young people together against hate speech online", aimed at raising awareness among pupils about hate speech online, was published on the webpage of the ministry responsible for digital transformation (previously the Government Office for Digital Transformation) on 28 October 2022. The campaign against online hate speech "Bite your hateful tongue!" was launched in November 2022. Short films of Slovenian athletes who, according to the authors of this campaign, often have to deal with hate speech were published in December 2022 as part of the campaign.

One of the projects is also aimed at providing young people with knowledge about what constitutes hate speech, how to recognise it, how to combat it at the national level and what action we can take against it as individuals. The activities will continue, with an emphasis on intensifying efforts to combat stereotypes and prejudice against minority communities exposed to hate speech.

Pursuant to Article 23 of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos 24/05 –official consolidated version, 109/08, 38/10 –ZUKN, 8/12, 21/13, 47/13 –ZDU-1G, 65/14, 55/17, 163/22), the Prime Minister established the Strategic Council for the Prevention of Hate Speech, an advisory body to the Prime Minister. The Strategic Council's tasks are defined in Article 2 of the instrument on the establishment and appointment of members of the Strategic Council, and detailed priorities were set out by the members at the second council session held on 6 April 2023. These priorities are young people and education, prevention in society, media, operation of institutions, the internet, and law enforcement and the judiciary. The Strategic Council will elaborate its opinions and expert guidelines related to systemic regulation and prevention. To this end, the members of the Strategic Council agreed, by unanimous vote, that, in its capacity as an advisory body, the council would not express its views on individual specific instances of hate speech. The President of the Strategic Council and national coordinator for the prevention of hate speech was also appointed. The Government's guidelines state that a developed society must be based on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and fundamental rights. These values should not be tailored to political needs but should apply equally to everyone in comparable circumstances.

At the end of 2021, the Act Amending the Audiovisual Media Services Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 204/21; hereinafter: the ZAvMS-B) was adopted, which transposed into Slovenia's legal order Directive (EU) 2018/1808 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (the Audiovisual Media Services Directive) in view of changing market realities. A major change brought by the

amended ZAVMS-B is the expansion of the scope of regulation to platforms for the distribution of video content uploaded by users (YouTube and similar online platforms). Video-sharing platform providers are required to adopt measures to ensure the following:

Video-sharing platform providers under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Slovenia should adopt appropriate measures to protect (among other things):

- the general public from programmes, videos and audiovisual commercial communications promoting violence or hate against a group of people or a member of such group based on gender, race, skin colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, citizenship, association with a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Video-sharing platform providers should lay down and publish a set of rules stipulating:

- the prohibition of publishing videos in contravention of the provisions of the preceding paragraph;
- the possibility to report a violation of the rules in question;
- a procedure to consider reports of rule violations;
- measures for removing illegal content or stopping its distribution;
- a procedure for handling complaints against the measures specified in the previous indent.

The Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia is responsible for administrative and inspection supervision of the implementation of the Act in question.

One of the main tasks of the ministry responsible for internal affairs and the Police is to guarantee constitutionally protected rights. Equality before the law applies to all individuals, regardless of their affiliation. An important part of these activities pertains to the prevention of all forms of intolerance that occur in interpersonal interaction, particularly when certain intolerant behaviour as a form of expression already contains elements of minor offences or even criminal offences. In particular, the Police monitor and analyse all minor offences containing elements of intolerance. Such minor offences are regulated in Article 20 of the Protection of Public Order Act (ZJRM-1A, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 139/20). The findings of analyses carried out by the General Police Directorate are communicated to all units at the national, regional and local level. The General Police Directorate also directs, monitors and supervises the implementation of regulations with elements of intolerance and consequently the violations committed in the context of hate speech. The Police's work is and will continue to be based on preventing, detecting and dealing with all forms of intolerance, including hate speech.

#### 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"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

## **2.2 German**

### **Article 7: Objectives and principles**

#### **7.1.a**

"recognition of German as an expression of cultural wealth"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.b**

"ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of German"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.c**

"resolute action to promote German"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.d**

"facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of German, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **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"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.f**

"provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of German at all appropriate stages"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.g**

"provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of German to learn it"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021) (2. German).

#### **7.1.h**

"promotion of study and research on German at universities or equivalent institutions"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.i**

"promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of German"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.2**

"eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of German"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **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"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

Slovenia provided further clarification in Part II, point 2.1. Croatian, Article 7.3.

#### **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"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for



## **2.3 Hungarian**

### **Article 7 Objectives and principles**

#### **7.1.a**

"recognition of Hungarian as an expression of cultural wealth"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **7.1.b**

"ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **7.1.c**

"resolute action to promote Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodic reports.

#### **7.1.d**

"facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Hungarian, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life"

Slovenia provided responses to this recommendation under Articles 8.1.g, 8.1.h, 10.2.c and 10.2.d. The table of cultural programmes funded is annexed at the end of this report.

#### **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"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodic reports.

#### **7.1.f**

"provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Hungarian at all appropriate stages"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **7.1.g**

"provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Hungarian to learn it"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **7.1.h**

"promotion of study and research on Hungarian at universities or equivalent institutions"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **7.1.i**

"promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### **7.2**

"eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### **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"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodic reports.

### **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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## **Article 8**

### **Education**

Slovenia explains that the education system for members of the Hungarian national minority functions well. No demands or proposals for systemic changes were made during the reporting period, and therefore the emphasis was placed on certain non-systemic measures that can also contribute to the further development and strengthening of this part of the education system in Slovenia.

To support and strengthen the bilingual education system and raise the linguistic competences of minority language teachers, the ministry responsible for education provides additional training for teachers. Accordingly, the project Raising the Quality of Bilingual Education through New Teaching Approaches was implemented in 2021 and 2022. The project was partly financed by the European Social Fund.

In order to strengthen the bilingual education system, in September 2021, the National Education Institute recruited an additional education advisor for the Hungarian language and prepared a professional basis for the inclusion of Hungarian as a second language in the national examination system.

As follows from the explanation given in Article 8.1.g and 8.1.h, as a consequence, Hungarian language training has been strengthened during this reporting period, which will certainly also contribute to raising the linguistic abilities of Hungarian teachers. As a consequence, the publication of translations and/or the composition of new textbooks for bilingual education has also accelerated, as well as the translation of curricula and other curricular materials into Hungarian.

For the purpose of implementing the rights guaranteed to the Hungarian national community by law and further improving its situation, in 2020 the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Government concluded an Agreement on cooperation for the 2020–2022 period. The Agreement contains, among other things, commitments to improving the quality of the social environment's knowledge of the Italian and Hungarian languages and to further develop the system of education for the two autochthonous national communities.

The Agreement has proved to be a good form or way of exercising national minority rights in Slovenia, which is why a new agreement for the 2023–2026 period was signed on 25 May 2023 in the current Government's term of office.

In 2020, the Government adopted the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations Governing the Exercise of the Rights of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Republic of Slovenia for the 2021–2025 period. The programme of measures also includes the measure to improve the language competences of minority language teachers in bilingual educational institutions and in educational institutions with Italian and Hungarian as the language of instruction, which was

implemented by the ministry responsible for education in 2020–2022 through the project "Increasing the quality of education of national communities".

In accordance with the Organisation and Financing of Education Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 16/07; hereinafter: the ZOVFI) and the Act Guaranteeing Special Rights to Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 35/01, 102/07– ZOSn-F and 11/18, paragraph one of Article 21; hereinafter: the ZPIMVI), a special task force for the education of national communities (hereinafter: the task force) operates within the National Education Institute and is responsible for the development of and professional support for educating the Italian and Hungarian national communities. It consists of a leader and nine members, including education advisers, Italian and Hungarian language experts, and experts in the Italian-language school system and bilingual education. The work of the task force is based on the provisions of paragraph two of Article 21 of the ZPIMVI, previous monitoring of the education of national communities, international<sup>2</sup> and national recommendations, and the short- and long-term objectives of the National Education Institute. The task force has defined its professional work in more detail in the Action Plan for Development and Advisory Work in the Education of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities for the 2020–2023 period (hereinafter: "Action Plan for the Education of National Communities 2020–2023"), which is based on the professional basis and statutory provisions (ibid., paragraph two of Article 21 of the ZOFVI). In accordance with the Action Plan for the Education of National Communities 2020–2023, the task force has focused its medium-term advisory and development work on the following:

- A. Cooperation with the self-governing national communities.
- B. Cooperation with the ministry responsible for education and the National Examinations Centre in procedures for testing knowledge of the language of instruction, in national knowledge examinations, general and vocational matura (national upper secondary school-leaving external examination).
- C. Implementation and coordination of sustainable education and training of professional staff.
- D. Carrying out development and advisory work in the updating and development of programmes, as well as in the introduction, monitoring and evaluation of education programmes or programme elements and other innovations (participation in experiments and national and European Social Fund development and application projects, organisation and implementation of study meetings).
- E. Cooperation with public educational and cultural institutions and other institutions in the home country (implementation of bilateral agreements between the two countries).
- F. Coordination and updating of translation plans, lists of reprints of textbooks and teaching materials, and coordination of the production of new textbooks and teaching materials (consultation with authors and publishers, assessment of technical and linguistic suitability).
- G. Translation of curricula, knowledge catalogues, implementation guides, and other curricular and professional materials for educating the national communities.

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<sup>2</sup>See the Report of the Committee of Experts presented to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 16 of the Charter of 8 November 2019.

- H. Response to the current and other education needs of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, in accordance with the specificities of education and the development priorities of the country's education system.

The results of the work in the above-mentioned areas are presented under the individual articles.

#### 8.1.iii

"make available a substantial part of pre-school education in Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

Slovenia also adds that, in accordance with paragraph three of Article 3 of the ZOFVI, as regards the Hungarian national community, education and training take place in bilingual kindergartens and schools, where the Hungarian and Slovene languages are used in equal measure. In accordance with this provision, there is an independent kindergarten in Lendava and four separate kindergarten units in the Prekmurje region: two in the Prosenjakovci Bilingual Primary School, one in the Dobrovnik Bilingual Primary School and one as part of the kindergartens of the Moravske Toplice Municipality (see more in the table below).

1. LENDAVA KINDERGARTEN/ LENDVAI ÓVODA
1. PROSENJAKOVCI BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, two separate bilingual kindergarten units:
- DOMANJŠEVCI KINDERGARTEN/ ÓVODA DOMONKOSFA
- HODOŠ KINDERGARTEN/ ÓVODA HODOS
2. DOBROVNIK BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, a separate bilingual kindergarten unit:
- PIKAPOLONICA DOBROVNIK KINDERGARTEN/ DOBRONAKI KATICABOGÁR ÓVODA
3. KINDERGARTENS OF THE MORAVSKE TOPLICE MUNICIPALITY, a separate bilingual kindergarten unit:
- PROSENJAKOVCI BILINGUAL UNIT/KÉTNYELVŰ EGYSÉG PÁRTOSFALVA

In the 2019/20 school year, 486 children were enrolled in bilingual kindergartens. In the 2020/21 school year, the number of children enrolled has risen to 495. The same number of children attended kindergarten in the 2022/23 school year. Each kindergarten class has an average of 15 children and is taught by two pre-school teachers or a pre-school teacher and a pre-school teacher assistant. One of the teachers teaches in Hungarian and the other in Slovenian. The two languages are thus evenly interchanged.

In order to avoid a shortage of professional staff in the field of pre-school education, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training, in cooperation with the Lendava Bilingual Upper Secondary School, has created a new educational programme for upper secondary technical education "Pre-school Education" (bilingual teaching), which has been adapted for bilingual teaching in Slovenian and Hungarian in ethnically mixed areas. The programme was adopted by the Expert Council for General Education on 19 February 2021 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 51/21) and the programme will be implemented for the first time at the Lendava Bilingual Upper Secondary School in the 2021/2022 school year.

### 8.1.bii

"make available a substantial part of primary education in Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

In addition, Slovenia states that in the ethnically mixed area inhabited by members of the Slovenian nation and the Hungarian national community, there are two independent bilingual primary schools and two parent bilingual primary schools with three branches (one within the Lendava I Bilingual Primary School, two within the Prosenjakovci Bilingual Primary School).

In addition, there is also an independent primary school with an adapted bilingual programme with a lower educational standard in Lendava (see the table below for more information).

1. BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL I LENDAVA/ 1. SZÁMÚ LENDVAI KÉTNyelvű ÁLTALÁNOS ISKOLA, branch: - GABERJE/ GYERTYÁNOSI TAGISKOLA
2. GENTEROVCI BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL/ GÖNTÉRHÁZI KÉTNyelvű ÁLTALÁNOS ISKOLA
3. PROSENJAKOVCI BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL/ KÉTNyelvű ÁLTALÁNOS ISKOLA, PÁRTOSFALVA, branches: - DOMANJŠEVCI/ TERÜLETI ISKOLA DOMONKOSFA - HODOŠ/ TERÜLETI ISKOLA HODOS
4. DOBROVNIK BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL/ KÉTNyelvű ÁLTALÁNOS ISKOLA, DOBRONAK
5. BILINGUAL PRIMARY SCHOOL II LENDAVA (z NIS)/ 2. SZÁMÚ LENDVAI KÉTNyelvű ÁLTALÁNOS ISKOLA

The number of pupils enrolled in the bilingual primary school programme is relatively stable. Given the overall increase in births in Slovenia, the number of pupils is slightly increasing year on year (783 pupils in the 2019/20 school year and 818 pupils in the 2022/23 school year), as can be seen in more detail in the table below, which shows the number of pupils in the bilingual primary school programme during the reporting period.

Group	School year	No. of pupils	No. of classes	Average No. of pupils in classes of bilingual primary school
Bilingual primary school	2019/20	783	58	13.5
Bilingual primary school	2020/21	805	58	13.9

Bilingual primary school	2021/22	807	60	13.5
Bilingual primary school	2022/23	818	60	13.6

Given the low average number of pupils in each grade, pupils are sometimes placed in multigrade classes from two grades. The teaching process in the first educational period (grades 1, 2 and 3) is led by two teachers in each section, one in Hungarian and the other in Slovenian (the "one person one language" model). The normative and other work conditions in the classes are favourable and allow for an individualised and personalised educational approach.

The plan for creating textbooks for educating the Hungarian national community is made by the task force at the National Education Institute based on suggestions or requests from the professional staff of both national communities. The plan thus drawn up is an integral part of the Action Plan for the Education of National Communities 2020–2023.

On the basis of the Plan for the preparation of textbooks and textbook materials for Hungarian language schools, published in the Action Plan for the Education of National Communities 2020–2023, 36 textbooks and textbook materials for the bilingual primary school programme have been issued for the Hungarian national community or bilingual education in the period from 2019 to 31 January 2023.

The translation into Hungarian was slightly slower and was carried out under a different procedure, which was already foreseen in the Action Plan for the Education of National Communities 2020–2023, due to difficulties in recruiting translators with Hungarian language skills and knowledge of the Slovenian education system or Slovenian pedagogical terminology. Nevertheless, during the reporting period, the responsible authorities managed to translate and publish all the curricula for the bilingual primary school programme (14 curricula) and 15 curricula for the upper secondary school programmes (four curricula for bilingual general upper secondary schools, four curricula for bilingual upper secondary technical education, four curricula for bilingual vocational-technical upper secondary education and three curricula for bilingual vocational education).

The Implementing instructions for the implementation of the bilingual primary school programme, the Implementing instructions for the implementation of the educational programme with a lower educational standard for bilingual primary school and the Implementing instructions for the bilingual implementation of the bilingual Slovenian-Hungarian general upper secondary educational programme (in general upper secondary educational programmes and upper secondary educational programmes) have also been translated into Hungarian.

### 8.1.cii

"make available a substantial part of secondary education in Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

In addition, Slovenia states that upper secondary education (general upper secondary education programme, upper secondary technical education and vocational-technical upper secondary education) for interested pupils of the Hungarian national community is provided at the Lendava/Lendva Bilingual Upper Secondary School (number of pupils by school year – for more information see the table below).

	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Lendava Bilingual Upper Secondary School	257	284	263	276	279

#### 8.1.dii

"make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports and draws attention to the response under Article 8.1.cii.

#### 8.1.eiii

"encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Hungarian or of facilities for the study of Hungarian as an university or higher education subject"

In the Guidelines for outlining the elements comprising the contract on financing the study activity of public higher education institutions and private higher education institutions for concessionary study programmes for the 2021–2024 period, Slovenia, or the Ministry responsible for higher education, has included, under the development pillar of financing, among the development objectives with a broader systemic or societal impact that it has proposed to higher education institutions, the possibility of financing measures to increase enrolment in study programmes conducted in Italian or Hungarian.

For the 2021–2024 period, the University of Maribor has notified activities for:

- ensuring the competences of teachers in the ethnically mixed area through the implementation of modules or teaching units in the Hungarian language and literature; and
- ensuring the linguistic competences of employees in the business and public sectors in the ethnically mixed (bilingual) area through the implementation of modules or teaching units in the Hungarian language.

#### 8.1.fiii



"favour and/or encourage the offering of Hungarian as a subject of adult and continuing education"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

### **8.1.g**

"ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that the objectives concerning respect for difference, knowledge and deepening of understanding of minority languages, their culture, religion, history and the objectives of national communities, e.g. the preservation and development of the Italian and Hungarian languages, are part of the general goals of education in Slovenia, which follows from Article 2 of the ZOFVI. As follows from the 2010 survey<sup>3</sup>, such objectives are broadened and implemented throughout the entire vertical of education as part of subjects such as history, geography, patriotic and civic education and ethics, sociology, social sciences, Slovenian (ibid.). Their fundamental purpose is to promote awareness regarding individual and national diversity, to foster mutual respect and cooperation, and to develop the national and European identity both of the individual and of the nation as a whole.

In 2023, the National Education Institute will update its findings in this area and, to this end, will analyse the integration of such objectives in the curricula of relevant subjects at all levels of education. In light of the analysis's findings, the provisions of Article 2 of the ZOFVI and the recommendations in the Report of the Committee of Experts submitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (8 November 2019), as well as the needs of current times/societal developments, the curricula will be updated and upgraded accordingly.

### **8.1.h**

"provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that, in accordance with Article 28 of the ZOFVI and the Action Plan for the Education of National Communities, in the areas of bilingual education and education of the Hungarian national community, 19 further education and training courses (seminars) were carried out from 2019 to 31 January 2023, 14 of which were included the KATIS<sup>4</sup> catalogue and 5 of which were held at the Murska Sobota Regional Unit of the National Education Institute.

The KATIS catalogue seminars were mainly aimed at developing the linguistic capacities of Hungarian teachers and furthering their knowledge of the Hungarian language, e.g. raising

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<sup>3</sup> Formal forms of citizenship education in an intercultural society (2010). Ministry of Education and Sport, the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Educational Research Institute. Obtained from: <https://isim.zrc-sazu.si/sl/programi-in-projekti/strokovne-podlage-strategije-in-teoretske-tematizacije-za-izobra%C5%BEevanje-za> (10 January 2023).

<sup>4</sup> Catalogue of in-service teacher training courses (2019/20  
<https://paka3.mss.edus.si/katis/Katalogi/KATALOG1920.pdf>, 2020/21  
<https://paka3.mss.edus.si/katis/Katalogi/KATALOG2021.pdf>, 2021/2022  
<https://paka3.mss.edus.si/katis/Katalogi/KATALOG2122.pdf>, 2022/23  
<https://paka3.mss.edus.si/katis/Katalogi/KATALOG2223.pdf>)

awareness on the difference between the standard language and the dialect, familiarising them with Hungarian professional terms, strengthening some grammatical skills, and meeting curricular objectives and knowledge standards. To a lesser extent, the seminars addressed didactic topics, such as ways to improve learning achievement, experiential and drama pedagogy.

The aim of the seminars held at the Murska Sobota Regional Unit was mainly to provide professional support to pre-school teachers, teachers and other staff in kindergartens and schools in the annual and ongoing planning of educational work, to inform and encourage them to try out and implement innovations in digital technology and modern didactics, such as ICT-supported modern teaching, the basics of formative monitoring, innovative teaching strategies, teaching techniques (at the level of generalist classroom teaching), exploratory learning.

The seminars or training programmes for professional staff in bilingual education institutions were primarily aimed at specific professional profiles within bilingual education, e.g. Hungarian language teachers, kindergarten teachers, which was reflected in the rather low number of participants (from 5 to 26), although the response rate in some training sessions was 100%. In light of the findings, it would also be worth offering future programmes on the bilingual education system and their possible implementation models.

#### **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"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **8.2.**

"in territories other than those in which Hungarian is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of Hungarian at all the appropriate stages of education"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

### **Article 9 Judicial authorities**

#### **9.1.ai**

"provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the criminal proceedings in Hungarian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**9.1.ii**

"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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**9.1.iii**

"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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**9.1.iv**

"produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Hungarian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**9.1.bi**

"provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the civil proceedings in Hungarian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**9.1.biii**

"allow documents and evidence to be produced in Hungarian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**9.1.ci**

"provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings concerning administrative matters in Hungarian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**9.2.a**

"not to deny the validity of legal documents solely because they are drafted in Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that these undertakings are fulfilled.

**Article 10**

**Administrative authorities and public services**

**10.1.ai**

"ensure that local branches of the national authorities use Hungarian"

Slovenia emphasises that, as regards the constitutional and legal situation of the Hungarian national community, the information contained in the preceding fifth report on the application of the Charter remains relevant.

Slovenia also states that at the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic in 2020, the website "Coronavirus disease" was launched, which was managed by the Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

Throughout the epidemic, the website was updated in Slovenian, English and the two minority languages. The translations included basic information, such as texts providing guidance on measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and guidance on the implementation of quarantine as produced by the National Institute of Public Health, as well as content derived from the Government decrees.

After the end of the epidemic in April 2022, the ministry responsible for health took over the management of the "Coronavirus disease" website. The general content of the website is still translated into Hungarian, including instructions to prevent the spread of the virus.

During the COVID-19 epidemic, quarantine was imposed by a decision of the Minister of Health in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act. Decisions for national minorities were also issued in Hungarian. In addition, the quarantine instructions that people received together with the decision were translated into Hungarian. When an online form for obtaining a Quarantine Statement was set up on the e-Government portal, it was also possible to complete the form in Hungarian.

For the enforcement of administrative procedures, the Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia employs inspectors in areas where minorities are present to facilitate the conduct of procedures in the minority language, namely one inspector in the Maribor and Murska Sobota Regional Units to ensure that the inspection procedure is carried out in Hungarian. From 8 April 2019 until June 2023, this inspector has attended 300 hours of language training (three Hungarian language courses).

The NIPH regularly publishes relevant information and materials translated into minority languages. These can be found on its website under the Hungarian tab.

For the past twenty years, the Murska Sobota Regional Unit has been carried out continuous and targeted media activities for the members of the Hungarian national minority. It produces regular monthly radio broadcasts in Hungarian. The broadcasts are tailored to address the national minority's health needs and focus on its way of life, particularly its cuisine. The broadcasts promote all aspects of healthy living, and are produced and presented in Hungarian by public health specialist doctors on RTV Slovenia's Hungarian programme channel. In addition to the regular monthly broadcasts, other statements and discussions are also included on topical issues such as COVID-19 or other current public health issues. All statements are in the original language or translated into Hungarian. A Hungarian-language TV broadcast on RTV Slovenia features a public health expert commenting on current public health issues. The NIPH publishes a monthly column on public health topics in the Hungarian minority newspaper "Népújság", with articles in Hungarian and Slovenian. The translation of the articles into Hungarian is funded from additional sources. In addition, articles on public health topics are regularly published in the municipal newsletters of the five municipalities where members of the Hungarian national minority live.

With regard to the provision of information to members of the national communities and Roma ethnic group, a report on the activities of the NIPH is included in the Annex at the end of the report. The report highlights activities that are of major public health significance and those that are part of ongoing health awareness and information programmes. Not all targeted information activities are included in this report due to the wide range of these activities, the way they are recorded and the NIPH's epidemiological activities in the 2020-2022 period, which required additional human resources. Providing culturally and language-appropriate information to target audiences is one of the NIPH's competencies and part of its methodological approaches in public health.

Slovenia further explains that the website of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia in the area inhabited by the Hungarian minority is bilingual, and that the District State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia in Murska Sobota also operates in the Hungarian language.

Slovenia adds that a new Consumer Protection Act (ZVPot-1) entered into force on 26 January 2023, which contains the same provisions as the previous Consumer Protection Act with regard to businesses operating in the areas inhabited by the autochthonous Italian or Hungarian national communities. As in the previous law, the new law stipulates that companies must use the Slovenian language in their dealings with consumers; in the areas inhabited by the autochthonous Italian or Hungarian national communities, they must also use the language of the respective national community. Companies must use their full names and registered offices in any written communication. The law further stipulates that the minister responsible for consumer protection shall specify in detail the business processes in which companies in the areas inhabited by the autochthonous Italian or Hungarian national communities must also use the language of the respective national community. On this basis, new Rules on the use of national community languages by companies in doing business with consumers in the areas inhabited by the Italian and Hungarian national communities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 142/22) were adopted, incorporating all the provisions of the preceding Rules – Rules on the use of national community languages by companies in doing business with consumers in the areas inhabited by the Italian and Hungarian national communities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos 78/08 and 130/22 – ZVPot-1).

#### **10.1.b**

"make available widely used national administrative texts and forms in Hungarian or in bilingual versions"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **10.1.c**

"allow the national authorities to draft documents in Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **10.2.a**

"use of Hungarian within the framework of the regional or local authority"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **10.2.b**

"possibility for users of Hungarian to submit oral or written applications in Hungarian to the regional or local authority"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **10.2.c**

"publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that the Office for Bilingualism, an internal organisational unit within the Hungarian Self-Governing National Community of Pomurje (hereinafter: the PMSNS) began to operate at the beginning of 2022. In its first year of operation, the Office focused mainly on providing translations for bilingual institutions, covering a wide range of materials (contracts, formal applications, letters, correspondence, brochures and documentation from Slovenian into Hungarian and vice versa). In its first year of operation, the Office's main tasks were as follows:

- providing translations of professional literature, letters, correspondence, documentation;
- assisting Hungarian institutions in ethnically mixed areas with translations;
- providing advice regarding the use and translation of the Hungarian language and translations intended for members of the national community;
- monitoring the use of bilingualism in the bilingual area and reporting any infringements.

The funds for the operation of the Office for Bilingualism are provided by the Slovenian Government Office for National Minorities on the basis of a general co-financing agreement.

#### **10.2.d**

"publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

Slovenia explains that in 2018, the Government adopted the Decree laying down detailed spending purposes and criteria for calculating the amount of funds allocated to municipalities or municipal self-governing national communities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 33/18) and in 2020, the Decree amending the Decree laying down detailed spending purposes and criteria for calculating the amount of funds allocated to municipalities or municipal self-governing national communities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 157/20; hereinafter: the Decree). The Decree amended the 2018 Decree, namely indent two of Article 4 has been amended so that, in implementing their activities and programmes, the municipal self-governing national communities may also use up to 30% of

the funds that were allocated to the material costs of operation for the major maintenance and repair of movable and immovable property.

The adopted Decree determines more detailed spending purposes and the criteria for calculating the amount of funds to be allocated to the municipalities (hereinafter: the municipality) or to the individual municipal self-governing national communities (hereinafter: the municipal self-governing national community), in which the Hungarian national community lives, as well as the procedure for determining the amount of funds to be allocated to the beneficiaries.

Under the Decree, the Government issues an annual decision on the co-financing of bilingualism and the exercise of the autochthonous Hungarian national community's constitutional rights, on the basis of which payments are made to the municipalities of Lendava, Moravske Toplice, Dobrovnik, Šalovci and Hodoš, and directly to the municipal self-governing communities if they opt for such a decision.

Decisions for 2020 were issued by the Government on 29 January 2020 and 12 October 2020 to provide additional funding due to the increase in the lump sum payments, the decision for 2021 was issued on 10 January 2021, for 2022 on 2 February 2022 and for 2023 on 2 February 2023.

Based on the financial plan of the Government Office for National Minorities, the State co-finances the following on a systemic basis:

- the operation of the PMSNS, the umbrella organisation of the Hungarian national community in Slovenia;
- the operation of the Institute for the Information Activity of the Hungarian National Community (MNTI);
- radio and television programmes for the Hungarian national community as part of RTV Slovenia;
- bilingualism and the exercise of the constitutional rights of the Hungarian national community in the municipalities of Lendava, Moravske Toplice, Dobrovnik, Hodoš and Šalovci.

On the basis of the Agreement on cooperation between the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia of 3 July 2021 and its Annex No 1 of 15 July 2021, additional funds were provided to the Italian and Hungarian national communities for the 2020–2022 period.

A new Agreement on cooperation between the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia was signed on 25 May 2023 for the duration of the current Government's term of office (2022-2026). All obligations arising from the Agreement on cooperation between the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia of 3 July 2021 and its Annex No 1 of 15 July 2021 have been included by the Government Office for National Minorities in the budget for 2022 and in the budgets for 2023 and 2024.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Decree, the municipal self-governing national communities are also eligible for reimbursement for the programme costs of ensuring contacts with the nation of origin (the presentation of various groups and associations in Hungary, Hungarian groups and associations in Slovenia, etc.).



By law, the Government Office for National Minorities co-finances the activities of the umbrella organisation of the Hungarian national community, with which it concludes an annual contract on the basis of the work programmes submitted. Other eligible purposes include the costs of contacts with the nation of origin.

With regard to cross-border co-operation, the annual reports of the municipalities and self-governing national communities in which members of the Hungarian national community live mainly describe contacts and participation in working meetings with representatives of the local authorities of Hungarian towns, participation in official meetings with high representatives of Hungary, participation in meetings with representatives of Hungarian associations and societies, Hungarian schools and cultural institutions, business meetings in Hungary, participation in cultural and art events, and fairs in Hungary, as well as participation in other social events promoting mutual contacts and friendship.

#### **10.2.e**

"use by regional authorities of Hungarian in debates in their assemblies"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports, and also draws attention to its response in Article 10.2.d.

#### **10.2.f**

"use by local authorities of Hungarian in debates in their assemblies"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports, and also draws attention to its response in Article 10.2.d.

#### **10.2.g**

"use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **10.3.a**

"ensure that Hungarian is used in the provision of public services"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

Slovenia adds that on 24 March 2021, the ministry responsible for public administration organised the sixth consultation on the use of bilingualism in nine municipalities with Italian and Hungarian national communities. The annual consultation is part of the systemic efforts of the ministry responsible for local self-government and the nine municipalities inhabited by the Italian and Hungarian national communities to close the gap between the prescribed and actual level of bilingualism. The theme of the sixth consultation was bilingualism during the COVID-19 epidemic. It was emphasised that, despite the health crisis, people's lives and state and local administrative operations had to continue. Through a gradual and multi-stage process, a

wide spectrum of measures were introduced, ranging from basic hygiene recommendations to partial or full restrictions on movement, bearing in mind the importance of informing the entire population of these measures and ensuring that everyone could understand them in their mother tongue or in the languages of the national communities. The aspect of bilingualism was also taken into account in developing the mobile app for the protection of public health #OstaniZdrav (#StayHealthy) and the content provided in the Italian and Hungarian languages. The participants discussed the specifics of implementing constitutional and legislative provisions relating to the special rights of the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities, the provision of services for members of the Hungarian national community during the COVID-19 epidemic and the performance of inspection and warden tasks during the COVID-19 epidemic. They also took note of the activities of the Lendava Library and the bilingual services provided by the public enterprise Javno podjetje Marjetica Koper during the epidemic.

On 1 June 2022, the ministry responsible for public administration organised the seventh consultation on bilingualism. The central topic of discussion was the issues of using bilingualism in the year of regular local elections. The consultation featured a presentation of experiences with the ORGANISATION and conduct of local elections or of the role of state authorities in carrying out elections to councils of self-governing national communities. The legal basis for elections to the councils of the self-governing national communities and for the establishment of electoral registers was also presented. The consultation also covered the specifics of the local elections to the councils of the self-governing national communities in the Slovene Littoral and Prekmurje regions.

#### **10.4.a**

"provide translation or interpretation"

The response to this recommendation is provided under Article 10.2.c. Slovenia further explains that the content of the gov.si website is also available in Hungarian.

#### **10.4.b**

"recruitment and training of officials and public service employees speaking Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **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"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **10.5**

"allow the use or adoption of family names in Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## **Article 11**

### **Media**

#### **11.1.ai**

"ensure the creation of at least one public radio station and one public television channel in Hungarian"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020) on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (Recommendation 4) and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021) ("Increase the duration and frequency of broadcasting in Hungarian on public television.").

#### **11.1.ei**

"encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

In addition, Slovenia draws attention to the response in Article 10.2.d.

#### **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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## **Article 12**

### **Cultural activities and facilities**

#### **12.1.a**

"encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

Slovenia also explains that the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2021–2025 was adopted on 1 June 2021, which also takes into account all speakers whose mother tongue is not Slovenian: members of the Hungarian and Italian national communities, the Roma community and various minority ethnic communities. This strategic document sets out the objectives and measures to preserve, develop and promote the language and culture of all language communities as part of language education and infrastructure. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of Slovenia's Language Policy draws up an annual report on the implementation of the objectives and measures set out in the Resolution (published at: <https://www.gov.si/zbirke/delovna-telesa/medresorska-delovna-skupina-za-spremljanje-izvajanja-jezikovne-politike-republike-slovenije/#e118035>).

#### **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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **12.1.e**

"ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **12.1.f**

"encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Hungarian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### **12.2**

"In territories other than those in which Hungarian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Hungarian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### **12.3**

"make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Hungarian and the culture it reflects"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### **Article 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"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

##### **13.1.b**

"prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that it already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and reiterates that in the Republic of Slovenia regulations and laws do not include any measures that would in any way prejudice the use of Hungarian in internal regulations of companies and private documents.

##### **13.1.c**

"oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Hungarian in connection with economic or social activities"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

##### **13.1.d**

"facilitate and/or encourage the use of Hungarian in economic and social life"

Slovenia explains that the response to this question is provided under Article 10.2.d. However, it adds that in order to exercise the constitutional rights of the Hungarian national community with the aim of building the economic base for the nationalities, which is regulated by the Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act and the Act Regulating the Use of Funds Arising from the Proceeds Based on the Transformation of Company Ownership Act, the ministry responsible for cohesion and regional development launched a Programme for the Promotion of the Economic Base of the Hungarian National Community for the 2017–2020 and 2021–2024 periods (hereinafter: the Programme) (<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in->

A specific feature of the programme is that the systemic measures to build the economic base of the autochthonous national communities (Italian and Hungarian) are implemented in the areas where the two national communities live. In this context, the entities eligible for specific support are not representative organisations of self-governing national communities but economic entities, regardless of whether their owners or employees are members of the majority nation, minorities or foreign investors.

The measures of the 2017–2020 programme were:

- boosting investments in the economic sector;
- promoting tourism activities and products;
- co-financing projects with approved European funds (no activities were carried out);
- promoting the area and supporting the implementation of the programme.

The measures of the 2021–2024 programme are:

- promoting investment in the economic sector in the programme area;
- promoting tourism activities and products;
- promoting the programme area and supporting the implementation of the programme;
- promoting agriculture in the programme area.

The programme also promotes the use of Hungarian in economic and social life in these areas where members of the Hungarian national community live.

### **13.2.a**

"include in financial and banking regulations provisions which allow the use of Hungarian in drawing up payment orders or other financial documents to ensure the implementation of such provisions"

Slovenia explains that it already provided the response to this recommendation in the fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter.

### **13.2.b**

"in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of Hungarian in economic and social life"

Slovenia explains that the response to this recommendation has already been provided under Articles 10.2.d, 10.3.a and 12.1.a, d, e, f.

### **13.2.c**

"ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that it already provided the response to this recommendation in the fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter.

Slovenia also states that Article 63 of the Health Services Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos [23/05](#) – official consolidated version, [15/08](#) – ZPacP, [23/08](#), [58/08](#) – ZZdrS-E, [77/08](#) – ZDZdr, [40/12](#) – ZUJF, [14/13](#), [88/16](#) – ZdZPZD, [64/17](#), [1/19](#) – Dec. of the CC, [73/19](#), [82/20](#), [152/20](#) – ZZUOOP, [203/20](#) – ZIUPOPDVE, [112/21](#) – ZNUPZ, [196/21](#) – ZDOsk, [100/22](#) – ZNUZSZS, [132/22](#) – Dec. of the CC, [141/22](#) – ZNUNBZ and [14/23](#) – Dec. of the CC), which regulates the content and provision of health activities, stipulates that health workers and health assistants who work directly with patients in bilingual areas must also be proficient in the language of the pertinent national community. Providers of health services included in the public healthcare network ensure that the patient is guaranteed the right to communicate with health or allied professionals in the Hungarian language at least at the proficiency level of B2 or C1 for oral communication in the areas inhabited by the Hungarian national community (paragraphs two and three of the aforementioned Article). The right may be provided to the patient at the hospital, nearest to the municipalities where the autochthonous national community lives, if no such institution exists in this area.

Article 19 of the Patients' Rights Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos [15/08](#), [55/17](#), [177/20](#) and [100/22](#) – ZNUZSZS) stipulates the manner of communication. Patients have the right to be addressed by or to communicate with health and allied professionals in Slovenian or in the language of a national community if they are treated in the area of a local community where Hungarian is recognised as an official language beside Slovenian.

Article 11 of the Medical Services Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos [72/06](#) – official consolidated version, [15/08](#) – ZPacP, [58/08](#), [107/10](#) – ZPPKZ, [40/12](#) – ZUJF, [88/16](#) – ZdZPZD, [40/17](#), [64/17](#) – ZZDej-K, [49/18](#), [66/19](#) and [199/21](#)) stipulates that medical doctors who practice medical services shall use the Slovenian language and, in the bilingual mixed area of the Hungarian national community, they shall also use the Hungarian language. This right may be provided to the patient at the hospital nearest to the municipalities where the autochthonous national community lives if no such institution exists in this area.

As regards the provision of medical services, Article 29 of the Act on Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Medical Doctors, Specialist Doctors, Doctors of Dental Medicine and Specialist Doctors of Dental Medicine (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos [107/10](#), [40/17](#) – ZZdrS-F and [203/20](#) – ZIUPOPDVE) stipulates that, prior to employment, a person must provide proof of their knowledge of the Slovenian language, and, in areas of municipalities where the Hungarian national community lives, proof of their knowledge of the Hungarian language in accordance with the linguistic level deemed necessary by the healthcare provider for individual work positions.

#### 13.2.d

"ensure that safety instructions are also drawn up in Hungarian"

Slovenia explains that it already provided the response to this recommendation in the fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter.

#### 13.2.e

"arrange for information provided by the authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in Hungarian"

The Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the Market Inspectorate) in the Murska Sobota Regional Unit ensures that adequate staff is available to provide information in the language of the local national community. The Market Inspectorate is a supervisory authority that, in accordance with the legislation in force, provides verbal information on consumer rights in Hungarian to anyone who wants or needs such information.

Slovenia explains that the legislation on consumer protection and competition is regulated in such a way that consumer protection and competition are also satisfactorily ensured in Hungarian in the bilingual area. It also draws attention to the response to Article 10.1.ai.

## **Article 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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **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 reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## **2.4 Italian**

## **Article 7**

### **Objectives and principles**

#### **7.1.a**

"recognition of Italian as an expression of cultural wealth"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.



#### **7.1.b**

"ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **7.1.c**

"resolute action to promote Italian"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **7.1.d**

"facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Italian, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life"

Slovenia draws attention to the responses under Articles 8.1.g, 8.1.h, 10.2.c and 10.2.d. The table of cultural programmes funded is annexed at the end of the report.

#### **7.1.e**

"maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Italian; establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **7.1.f**

"provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Italian at all appropriate stages"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **7.1.g**

"provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Italian to learn it"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **7.1.h**

"promotion of study and research on Italian at universities or equivalent institutions"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### 7.1.i

"promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### 7.2

"eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### 7.3

"promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country; promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Italian among the objectives of education and training; encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Italian among their objectives"

Slovenia explains that, pursuant to Article 4 of the Mass Media Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 110/06 – official consolidated version and the following), the ministry responsible for culture supports the mass media in the creation and dissemination of programmes important (among other things) for exercising the right of citizens of Slovenia, Slovenians living abroad, members of the Slovenian national minorities in Italy, Austria and Hungary, the Italian and Hungarian national communities in Slovenia, and the Roma community living in Slovenia to inform the public and be informed.

Furthermore, Slovenia explains that, based on regular annual public calls for proposals for the co-financing of media programmes, the ministry responsible for culture provides funds to co-finance:

- the plurality and democratic nature of general news printed media,
- the plurality and democratic nature of programmes of radio and television channels and electronic publications, and
- the development of the programmes of radio and television channels with the status of local, regional or student radio or television channel or non-profit radio or television channel.

Under the regular annual call for proposals for the co-financing of media programmes in 2022 (JPR-MV-2022), five projects were co-financed (for a total amount of EUR 334,075.59), which inter alia addressed the issues of both national communities and the Roma community in Slovenia, namely:

- Pomurski dnevnik – TV IDEA – KANAL 10, d. o. o. – The news broadcast mainly focuses on the life and state of the Hungarian national and Roma ethnic communities that have a strong presence in this local environment (co-financing amount: EUR 100,000);

- Most sožitja (Bridge of Coexistence) – UNION OF ROMA OF SLOVENIA (Radio Romic) – The Bridge of Coexistence project contains stories that counter prejudices against Roma, present the issues, life, habits and culture of Roma. The broadcasts are in Slovenian and partly in Romani (co-financing amount: EUR 29,964.92);
- Zahodno dolenski odmevi – UNIVOX, d. o. o. (Radio Univox) – The Romani urica broadcast provides information to the Roma and contributes to better cooperation between Roma and other members of the population, reports on the life of Roma, their cultural participation, their habits and their education (co-financing amount: EUR 68,111.03);
- Aktualno – osrednje informativne oddaje na Murskem valu (central informative programmes on Murski val) – RADIO MURSKI VAL, d. o. o. (Radio Murski val) – the central informative programme places particular emphasis on content relating to the Porabje Slovenians, cooperation with the neighbouring Austria, Hungary and Croatia, the lives and work of Hungarians and Roma in Prekmurje. A constant feature of the programme covers border issues and national politics in view of the fact that the Murski val radio operates in the area populated by the Hungarian national community and the Roma ethnic community as well as in the neighbourhood area – Porabje, populated with members of the Slovenian nationality (co-financing amount: EUR 35,999.64);
- Goriška danes (Goriška Today) – Radio Robin, radijska dejavnost, d. o. o. (Radio Robin) – the programmes cover current topics relevant to the life and work of the Italian minority and play an important role in maintaining ties between Slovenians in the neighbouring countries and the motherland. Current topics in the Goriška region are relevant to both the Italian minority and Slovenians in neighbouring countries, and are partly distributed in minority languages (co-financing amount: EUR 100,000).

#### **7.4**

"take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Italian; establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### **Article 8 Education**

Slovenia explains that the education system for members of the Italian national minority works well. No demands or proposals for systemic changes were made during the reporting period, and therefore the focus was placed on certain non-systemic measures that can also contribute to the further development and strengthening of this part of the education system in Slovenia.

With a view to exercising the rights guaranteed by law and further improving the situation of the Italian national community, the Agreement on cooperation between the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the 2020–2022 was concluded in 2020. The Agreement included commitments to improve the quality of the Italian language proficiency in the social environment and to further develop the education system of the two autochthonous national communities.

The Agreement proved to be a good form or way of exercising the rights of national minorities in Slovenia, so a new agreement for the 2023–2026 period was signed on 25 May 2023 in the current Government's term of office.

In 2020, the Government adopted the Programme of Measures of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Implementation of Regulations Governing the Exercise of the Rights of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Republic of Slovenia 2021–2025. The programme also includes the measure to improve the linguistic competences of minority language teachers in bilingual educational institutions and in institutions where Italian is the language of instruction; the measure implemented by the Ministry in the 2020–2022 period through the project "Increasing the quality of education of national communities".

In accordance with the Organisation and Financing of Education Act (ZOVFI) and the Act Regulating the Exercise of the Special Rights of Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education (ZPIMVI), a special Task Force for the Education of National Communities operates within the National Education Institute (hereinafter: the task force), which is responsible for the development of and professional support for the education system of the Italian national community. It consists of a leader and nine members, including education advisers, Italian-language experts and experts in the operational system of schools with Italian as the language of instruction and bilingual education. The work of the task force is based on the provisions of paragraph two of Article 21 of the ZPIMVI, previous monitoring of the education of nationalities, international<sup>5</sup> and national recommendations, the National Education Institute's short-term and long-term objectives.

The task force has further defined its expert work in the Action Plan for the development and advisory work in the education of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities for the 2020–2023 period (hereinafter "Action Plan for the Education of National Communities 2020–2023"), which is in line with the professional basis and statutory provisions (ibid., paragraph 2 of Article 21 of the ZOFVI). In accordance with the Action Plan for the Education of National Communities 2020–2023, the task force has focused its medium-term advisory and development work on the following:

- I. Cooperation with the self-governing national communities;
- J. Cooperation with the ministry responsible for education and the National Examinations Centre in the procedures for testing knowledge in the language of instruction, in national knowledge examinations, general and vocational matura (national upper secondary school-leaving external examination);
- K. Implementation and coordination of sustainable education and training of education staff;
- L. Carrying out development and advisory work in the updating and development of programmes, as well as in the introduction, monitoring and evaluation of education programmes or programme elements and other innovations (participation in experiments and national and ESF development and application projects, organisation and implementation of study meetings);
- M. Cooperation with public educational and cultural institutions and other institutions in the home country (implementation of bilateral agreements between the two countries);

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<sup>5</sup>See the Report of the Committee of Experts presented to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 16 of the Charter of 8 November 2019.

- N. Coordination and updating of translation plans, lists of reprints of textbooks and teaching materials, and coordination of the production of new textbooks and teaching materials (consultation with authors and publishers, assessment of technical and linguistic suitability);
- O. Translation of curricula, knowledge catalogues, implementation guides, and other curricular and professional materials for the education of national communities;
- P. Response to the current and other education needs of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, in accordance with the specificities of education and the development priorities of education system in the country.

The results of the work in the above-mentioned areas are presented under individual articles.

### 8.1.ai

"make available pre-school education in Italian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

Pursuant to paragraph two of Article 3 of the ZOFVI, in areas where members of the Italian national community reside, kindergartens or schools provide instruction or education in Italian. Accordingly, two independent educational institutions or kindergartens and nine units at a separate location operate with Italian as the language of instruction: five units within the kindergarten "Delfino Blu" in Koper, three units within the "La Coccinella" kindergarten in Piran and one unit within the kindergarten of the "Dante Alighieri Isola" primary school (kindergarten "Aquilone") (see more in the table below).

4. KINDERGARTEN DELFINO BLU KOPER/GIARDINO D'INFANZIA DELFINO BLU CAPODISTRIA (parent educational institution) Units with Italian as the language of instruction at a separate location:
- KOPER 2/ CAPODISTRIA 2
- SEMEDELA/SEMEDELLA
- HRVATINI/CREVATINI
- BERTOKI/BERTOCCHI
- ANKARAN/ANCARANO
2. KINDERGARTEN "LA COCCINELLA PIRAN/SCUOLA DELL'INFANZIA LA COCCINELLA PIRANO" (parent educational institution) Units with Italian as the language of instruction at a separate location:
- LUCIJA/LUCIA
- STRUNJAN/STRUGNANO
- SEČOVLJE/SICCIOLE
- KINDERGARTEN "L'AQUILONE ISOLA" WITHIN THE "DANTE ALIGHIERI ISOLA/SCUOLA MATERNA L'AQUILONE ISOLA" PRIMARY SCHOOL

In the 2019/20 school year, 602 children were enrolled in Italian-speaking kindergartens. This number has decreased slightly in subsequent years. In the 2020/21 school year, 571 children were enrolled in these kindergartens, 556 in the 2021/22 school year and 552 in the 2022/23 school year. The attending children are divided into 40 classes, with an average of 13-14 children per class.

### 8.1.bi

"make available primary education in Italian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

In the ethnically mixed area where members of the Italian national community live, the language of instruction is Italian. There are three independent primary schools in the area, with five primary school branches (three within the "Pier Paolo Vergerio il Vecchio Capodistria" primary school and two within the "Vincenzo e Diego de Castro Pirano" primary school) (see more in the table below).

1. "PIER PAOLO VERGERIO IL VECCHIO KOPER/SCUOLA ELEMENTARE PIER PAOLO VERGERIO IL VECCHIO CAPODISTRIA" PRIMARY SCHOOL School branches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SEMEDELA/SEMEDELLA</li><li>- HRVATINI/CREVATINI</li><li>- BERTOKI/BERTOCCHI</li></ul>
2. "DANTE ALIGHIERI IZOLA/SCUOLA ELEMENTARE DANTE ALIGHIERI ISOLA" PRIMARY SCHOOL
3. "VINCENZO E DIEGO DE CASTRO PIRAN/SCUOLA ELEMENTARE VINCENZO E DIEGO DE CASTRO PIRANO" PRIMARY SCHOOL School branches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SEČOVLJE/SICCOLE</li><li>- LUCIJA/LUCIA</li></ul>

The number of pupils enrolled in the programme of the primary school with Italian as the language of instruction has remained relatively stable or, given the increase in births, has increased slightly year on year (617 pupils in 2019/20 and 641 in 2022/23), as shown in the table below.

Group	School year	Number of pupils	No. of classes	Average no. of pupils in classes with Italian as the language of instruction
PS ITA	2019/20	617	52	11.9
PS ITA	2020/21	634	53	12.0
PS ITA	2021/22	633	54	11.7
PS ITA	2022/23	641	53	12.1

Given the low average number of pupils in each grade, pupils are sometimes placed in multigrade classes from two grades. Other classroom conditions are also favourable and allow for an individualised and personalised educational approach.

During the reporting period, all curricula (14) for the primary school programme with Italian as the language of instruction and all 16 curricula for the general upper secondary school programme with Italian as the language of instruction were translated into Italian. In addition, all the curricula for general education subjects in upper secondary school programmes with

Italian as the language of instruction have been translated: 8 curricula for upper secondary technical education programmes, 9 curricula for vocational and upper secondary technical education and 9 curricula for upper secondary vocational education.

#### **8.1.ci**

"make available secondary education in Italian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

Upper secondary education (for the Italian national community) with Italian as the language of instruction is provided by the Koper/Capodistria Gimnazija and Piran/Pirana Gimnazija (general upper secondary schools), and the Izola upper secondary school (number of students per school and year – see the table below).

	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>
Gimnazija Antonio Sema Piran	39	32	29	29	28
Gimnazija Gian Rinaldo Carli Koper	48	46	51	68	72
Srednja šola Pietro Coppo Izola/Scuola media Pietro Coppo Isola	70	77	78	73	85

#### **8.1.di**

"make available technical and vocational education in Italian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports as mentioned in point 8.1.ci.

#### **8.1.eiii**

"encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Italian or of facilities for the study of Italian as an university or higher education subject"

Slovenia explains that the University of Primorska receives funding to carry out the nationally important task of educating the professional staff of kindergartens and schools with Italian as the language of instruction, namely for:

- the first-cycle professional higher education study programme "Pre-school Education" aimed at institutions with Italian as the language of instruction;

- the university study programme "Primary School General (Class) Teaching" aimed at institutions with Italian as the language of instruction; offered by the University as part of an annual call for enrolment.

The ministry responsible for higher education provides funding to the University of Primorska in accordance with the "Strategy for the implementation of higher education programmes for pre-school education and primary school general (class) teaching in institutions with Italian as the language of instruction 2021–2024", No 0070-118/2021/6 of 2 July 2022 and No 0070-118/2021/8 of 8 April 2022.

Table 1: Overview of enrolment places for the academic years 2018/2019 – 2022/2023

Study programme	Field of study	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023
		1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year	1st year
<b>Pre-school education (first-cycle, professional higher education)</b>	Pre-school education aimed at institutions with Italian as the language of instruction	10	0	10	10	5
Primary school general (class) teaching (first-cycle, university)	Primary school general (class) teaching, aimed at institutions with Italian as the language of instruction	10	0	10	10	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>

Source: eVŠ

Table 2: Overview of students enrolled for the academic years 2018/2019 to 2021/2022

Study programme	Field of study	2018/ 2019	2019 / 2020	2020/2021		2021/ 2022	2022/2023		
		1st year	2nd year	1st year	3rd year	1st year	1st year	2nd year	3rd year
<b>Pre-school education (first-cycle, professional higher education)</b>	Pre-school education aimed at institutions with Italian as the language of instruction	11	6	6	7	5	4	2	4
<b>Primary school general (class) teaching (first-cycle, university)</b>	Primary school general (class) teaching, aimed at institutions with Italian as the language of instruction	4	3	1	1	2	1		1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

Source: eVŠ



### **8.1.fiii**

"favour and/or encourage the offering of Italian as a subject of adult and continuing education"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

### **8.1.g**

"ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Italian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

Slovenia further states that the objectives concerning respect for difference, knowledge and deepening of understanding of minority languages, their culture, religion, history and the objectives of national communities, e.g. the preservation and development of the Italian language, are part of the general goals of education in Slovenia, which follows from Article 2 of the ZOFVI. As follows from the 2010 survey<sup>6</sup>, such objectives are broadened and implemented throughout the entire vertical of education as part of subjects such as history, geography, patriotic and civic education and ethics, sociology, social sciences, Slovenian. Their fundamental purpose is to promote awareness regarding individual and national diversity, to foster mutual respect and cooperation, and to develop the national and European identity both of the individual and of the nation as a whole.

In 2023, the National Education Institute will update its findings in this area and, to this end, will analyse the integration of such goals in the curricula of relevant subjects at all levels of education. In light of the analysis's findings, the provisions of Article 2 of the ZOFVI and the recommendations in the Report of the Committee of Experts submitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (8 November 2019), as well as the needs of current times/societal developments, the curricula will be updated and upgraded accordingly.

### **8.1.h**

"provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Italian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

Slovenia further states that, in accordance with Article 28 of the ZOFVI, the National Education Institute is responsible for developmental and counselling work pertaining to pre-school education, primary and general upper secondary (gimnazija) education, general secondary education, education for children and teenagers with special needs and for general subjects in vocational and technical education. In accordance with the above and with the Action Plan for the Education of National Communities 2020–2023, 16 further education and training courses

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<sup>6</sup> Formal forms of citizenship education in an intercultural society (2010). Ministry of Education and Sport, the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Educational Research Institute. Taken from: <https://isim.zrc-sazu.si/sl/programi-in-projekti/strokovne-podlage-strategije-in-teoretske-tematizacije-za-izobra%C5%BEEvanje-za> (10 January 2023).

(seminars) were organised for the education sector of the Italian national community from 2019 to 31 January 2023, of which 11 were included in the KATIS catalogue<sup>7</sup> and 5 were held within the framework of the Koper Regional Unit at the National Education Institute.

The seminars were basically aimed at the deepening of the knowledge and communications abilities of the Italian language and culture, as well as at learning about didactic and methodological innovations tested and developed by the National Education Institute as part of development and applied projects, such as the basics of formative monitoring, innovative teaching strategies, didactics of the Italian language, and exploratory learning.

All programmes, with the exception of five, which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, were carried out live. The number of participants in each KATIS seminar ranged from 10 to 90 people. The summer and autumn seminars on Italian language and culture, aimed at all teaching staff in educational establishments with Italian as the language of instruction, were the most popular, with an average of 72 participants per seminar.

#### **8.1.i**

"set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Italian and for drawing up public periodical reports of its findings"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **8.2**

"in territories other than those in which Italian is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of Italian at all the appropriate stages of education"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

### **Article 9 Judicial authorities**

#### **9.1.ai**

"provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the criminal proceedings in Italian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **9.1.ii**

"guarantee the accused the right to use Italian in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned"

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<sup>7</sup>Catalogue of in-service teacher training courses

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.1.a.iii**

"provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Italian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.1.a.iv**

"produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Italian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.1.b.i**

"provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the civil proceedings in Italian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.1.b.ii**

"allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Italian in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.1.b.iii**

"allow documents and evidence to be produced in Italian in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.1.c.i**

"provide that the courts, at the request of one of the parties, shall conduct the proceedings concerning administrative matters in Italian, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.1.cii**

"allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Italian in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.1.ciii**

"allow documents and evidence to be produced in Italian in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.1.d**

"with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Italian and the related use of documents and evidence in Italian, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**9.2.a**

"not to deny the validity of legal documents solely because they are drafted in Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

**Article 10**

**Administrative authorities and public services**

**10.1.ai**

"ensure that local branches of the national authorities use Italian"

Slovenia emphasises that, as regards the constitutional and legal situation of the Italian national community, the information contained in the preceding fifth report on the application of the Charter remains relevant.

Slovenia also explains that, at the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic in 2020, the website "Coronavirus disease" was launched, which was managed by the Communication Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

Throughout the epidemic, the website was updated in Slovenian, English and the two minority languages. The translations included basic information, such as texts providing guidance on

measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and guidance on the implementation of quarantine, produced by the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH), as well as content derived from the Government decrees.

After the end of the epidemic in April 2022, the Ministry of Health took over the management of the "Coronavirus disease" website. The general content of the website was translated into Italian, including instructions on how to prevent the spread of the virus.

During the COVID-19 epidemic, quarantine was imposed by a decision of the minister responsible for health in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act. Decisions were also issued in Italian. The quarantine instructions that people were sent along with the decision were also translated into Italian. When the IT solution for obtaining a Quarantine Statement was set up on the e-Government portal, it was also possible to complete the form in Italian.

For the enforcement of administrative procedures, the Health Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia employs inspectors in areas where minorities are present to enable procedures to be carried out in a minority language: one inspector is employed in the Koper Regional Unit (there were two inspectors until 31 February 2022) to ensure that the inspection procedure is carried out in Italian. During the COVID-19 epidemic, the Health Inspectorate also provided information by telephone in Italian.

The NIPH regularly publishes relevant information and materials translated into minority languages. These can be found on its website under the Italian tab.

The Koper Regional Unit of the NIPH translates printed materials for the general public and professional circles into Italian as part of the National Screening and Early Detection Programme for Colorectal Cancer (Svit). The accession statements, instructions, etc. are also available in Italian. Printed matter, leaflets and posters in Italian are available in all bilingual areas of Koper. In 2022, a video clip in Italian was shown on LCD screens in Koper. Posters in the Koper and Piran municipalities were bilingual. The same applies to all printed matter of the Slovenian Cervical Cancer Screening Programme and Registry (ZORA) and the Slovenian Breast Cancer Screening Programme (DORA). For the purposes of the National Mental Health Programme (MIRA), certain materials (large and small brochures of the National Mental Health Programme 2018–2028, leaflets for mental health centres) were translated into Italian and distributed at events, in collaboration with local stakeholders, as well as at MIRA stands.

With regard to the provision of information to members of the national communities and Roma ethnic group, a report on the activities of the NIPH is included in the Annex at the end of the report. The report highlights activities that are of major public health importance and those that are part of ongoing health awareness and information programmes. Not all targeted information activities are included in this report due to the wide range of these activities, the way they are recorded and the NIPH's epidemiological activities in the 2020–2022 period, which required additional human resources. Providing culturally and language-appropriate information to target audiences is one of the NIPH's competencies and part of its methodological approaches in public health.

Slovenia further explains that the website of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia in the area inhabited by the Italian national community is bilingual, and

that the District State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia in Koper also employs a professional with knowledge of the Italian language and two female state prosecutors in case it should prove necessary to use the minority language in the proceedings with the parties. All the signage on and in the prosecutor's building are both in Slovenian and Italian.

Slovenia adds that a new Consumer Protection Act (ZVPot-1) entered into force on 26 January 2023, which contains the same provisions as the previous Consumer Protection Act with regard to businesses operating in areas where the autochthonous Italian or Hungarian national communities live. As in the previous law, the new law stipulates that companies must use the Slovenian language in their dealings with consumers; in the areas inhabited by the autochthonous Italian or Hungarian national communities, they must also use the language of the respective national community. Companies must use their full names and registered offices in any written communication. The law further stipulates that the minister responsible for consumer protection shall specify in detail the business processes in which companies in the areas inhabited by the autochthonous Italian or Hungarian national communities must also use the language of the respective national community. On this basis, new Rules on the use of national community languages by companies in doing business with consumers in the areas inhabited by the Italian and Hungarian national communities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 142/22) were adopted, incorporating all the provisions of the preceding Rules – Rules on the use of national community languages by companies in doing business with consumers in the areas inhabited by the Italian and Hungarian national communities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos 78/08 and 130/22 – ZVPot-1).

#### **10.1.b**

"make available widely used national administrative texts and forms in Italian or in bilingual versions"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **10.1.c**

"allow the national authorities to draft documents in Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **10.2.a**

"use of Italian within the framework of the regional or local authority"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **10.2.b**

"possibility for users of Italian to submit oral or written applications in Italian to the regional or local authority"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **10.2.c**

"publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in Italian"

Slovenia explains that at the beginning of 2022, the Office for Bilingualism, began to operate as an internal organisational unit of the Coastal Italian Self-Governing National Community (hereinafter: the OSSIN community), which, during its first year of operation, also carried out the following activities:

- monitoring the use of bilingualism in the ethnically mixed area (review of websites and other materials of public institutions and establishments, on-site verification);
- establishing contacts with educational institutions and identifying their needs for the translations of laws governing education (such as the ZPIMVI – already translated, and the ZOFVI – in translation) and consulting with the Institute of Education of the Republic of Slovenia (Regional Unit Koper);
- establishing contacts with the Inter-municipal Administration of Istria for future cooperation in the use of bilingualism;
- establishing contacts with public institutions at national level (Motorway Company of the Republic of Slovenia and the NIPH);
- processing reports received from members of the Italian national community about the lack of and incorrect use of bilingualism by both public authorities and private companies;
- informing all Slovenian political parties about the need to use bilingualism in the pre-election campaign;
- translating letters, laws, documents and other texts from Slovenian into Italian (e.g. the Decision on the opinion of the Istrian municipalities on draft provincial legislation, the Act Guaranteeing Special Rights of Members of the Italian and Hungarian National Communities in the Field of Education, part of the Instructions to educational institutions and residence halls for upper secondary students in the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 infection in an institution) and from Italian into Slovenian (e.g. the Statute of the Coastal Italian Self-Governing National Community).

The Office for Bilingualism is also a point of reference both for individual members of the Italian national community, who can contact the Office to report inconsistencies in the use of bilingualism and violations of the special rights of the national community, and for the institutions of the Italian national community, at it is at their disposal for the translation of texts intended for members of the Italian national community.

The funds for the Office for Bilingualism's operation are provided by the Slovenian Government Office for National Minorities on the basis of a general co-financing agreement.

#### **10.2.d**

"publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Italian"

Slovenia explains that in 2018 the Government adopted the Decree laying down detailed spending purposes and criteria for calculating the amount of funds allocated to municipalities or municipal self-governing national communities Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia

[*Uradni list RS*], No 33/18) and, in 2020, the Decree amending the Decree laying down detailed spending purposes and criteria for calculating the amount of funds allocated to municipalities or municipal self-governing national communities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 157/20; hereinafter: the Decree). The Decree amended the 2018 Decree, namely indent two of Article 4 has been amended so that, in implementing their activities and programmes, the municipal self-governing national communities may also use up to 30% of the funds that were allocated to the material costs of operation for the major maintenance and repair of movable and immovable property.

The adopted Decree determines more detailed spending purposes and the criteria for calculating the amount of funds to be allocated to the municipalities (hereinafter: the municipality) or to the individual municipal self-governing national communities (hereinafter: the municipal self-governing national community) in which the Italian national community lives, as well as the procedure for determining the amount of funds to be allocated to the beneficiaries.

Under the Decree, the Government issues an annual decision co-financing efforts to promote bilingualism and the exercise of the autochthonous Italian national community's constitutional rights, on the basis of which payments are made to the municipalities of Koper (urban municipality), Izola, Piran, Ankaran, and directly to the municipal self-governing communities if they opt for such a decision.

Decisions for 2020 were issued by the Government on 29 January 2020 and 12 October 2020 to provide additional funding due to the increase in the lump sum payments, the decision for 2021 was issued on 10 January 2021, for 2022 on 2 February 2022 and for 2023 on 2 February 2023.

In accordance with the Decree and the annual decision, the municipal administrations and authorities in the bilingual area may use the funds allocated to implement bilingual operations to cover the following:

- the cost of the bilingualism bonuses for employees;
- the cost of the meeting allowances for members of the municipal commission for issues of the Italian or Hungarian self-governing national communities;
- the cost of preparing and publishing bilingual materials for meetings of the municipal council and its working bodies, as well as the cost of translating, editing and publishing municipal regulations, bilingual forms and other material in the language of the Italian or Hungarian national community.

Municipal self-governing national communities in bilingual areas may use the funds allocated to implement activities and programmes for the following purposes:

- the operating costs of the council of the self-governing national community, its bodies and professional services;
- material operating costs;
- programme costs, which include their own programmes, the costs of contacts with the nation of origin and material costs, in accordance with the annual programme of the council of the municipal self-governing national community, insofar as this does not contravene the provisions of the law.

It follows from the above that Slovenia provides material support for the publication of official documents in Italian.



The Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for National Minorities or the State co-finances:

- the activities of the Coastal Italian Self-Governing National Community (OSSIN) as the umbrella organisation of the Italian national community in Slovenia;
- radio and television programmes for the Italian national community as part of RTV Slovenia;
- bilingualism and the exercise of the constitutional rights of the Italian national community in the municipalities of Koper (urban municipality), Izola, Piran and Ankaran.

On the basis of the Agreement on cooperation between the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia of 3 July 2021 and its Annex No 1 of 15 July 2021, additional funds were provided to the Italian national community for the 2020-2022 period.

A new Agreement on cooperation between the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia was signed on 25 May 2023 for the duration of the current Government's term of office (2022-2026).

All obligations arising from the Agreement on cooperation between the deputies of the National Assembly for the Italian and Hungarian national communities and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia of 3 July 2021 and its Annex No 1 of 15 July 2021 have been included by the Government Office for National Minorities in the budget for 2022 and in the budgets for 2023 and 2024.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Decree, the municipal self-governing national communities are also eligible for reimbursement for the programme costs of ensuring contacts with the nation of origin (the presentation of various groups and associations in Italy, Italian groups and associations in Slovenia, etc.).

By law, the Government Office for National Minorities co-finances the activities of the umbrella organisations of the Italian national community, with which it concludes an annual contract on the basis of the work programmes submitted. Other eligible purposes include the costs of contacts with the nation of origin.

With regard to cross-border co-operation, the annual reports of the municipalities and self-governing national communities in which members of the Italian national community live mainly describe contacts and cooperation in working meetings with representatives of the local authorities of Italian towns, cooperation in official meetings with high representatives of the Italian Republic, cooperation in meetings with representatives of Italian associations and societies, representatives of Italian educational and cultural institutions, participation in business meetings, cultural and art events in Italy, as well as participation in other social events promoting mutual contacts and friendship.

#### **10.2.e**

"use by regional authorities of Italian in debates in their assemblies"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports, and also draws attention to its response in Article 10.2.d.

### **10.2.f**

"use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Italian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports, and also draws attention to its response in Article 10.2.d.

### **10.2.g**

"use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Italian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

### **10.3.a**

"ensure that Italian is used in the provision of public services"

Slovenia explains that on 24 March 2021, the ministry responsible for public administration organised the sixth consultation on the use of bilingualism in nine municipalities with Italian and Hungarian national communities. The annual consultation is part of the systemic efforts of the ministry responsible for local self-government and the nine municipalities inhabited by the Italian and Hungarian national communities to close the gap between the prescribed and actual level of bilingualism. The theme of the sixth consultation was bilingualism during the COVID-19 epidemic. It was emphasised that despite the health crisis, people's lives and state and local administrative operations had to continue. Through a gradual and multi-stage process, a wide spectrum of measures were introduced, ranging from basic hygiene recommendations to partial or full restrictions on movement, bearing in mind the importance of informing the entire population of these measures and ensuring that everyone could understand them in their mother tongue or in the languages of the national communities. The aspect of bilingualism was also taken into account in developing the mobile app for the protection of public health #OstaniZdrav (#StayHealthy) and the content provided in the Italian and Hungarian languages. The participants discussed the specifics of implementing constitutional and legislative provisions relating to the special rights of the autochthonous Italian and Hungarian national communities, the provision of services for members of the Hungarian national community during the COVID-19 epidemic and the performance of inspection and warden tasks during the COVID-19 epidemic. They also took note of the activities of the Lendava Library and the bilingual services provided by the public enterprise Javno podjetje Marjetica Koper during the epidemic.

On 1 June 2022, the ministry responsible for public administration organised the seventh consultation on bilingualism. The central topic of discussion was the issues of using bilingualism in the year of regular local elections. The consultation featured a presentation of experiences with the organisation and conduct of local elections or of the role of state authorities in carrying out elections to councils of self-governing national communities. The legal basis for elections to the councils of the self-governing national communities and for the

establishment of electoral registers was also presented. The consultation also covered the specifics of the local elections to the councils of the self-governing national communities in the Slovene Littoral and Prekmurje regions.

#### **10.4.a**

"provide translation or interpretation"

The response to this recommendation is provided under Article 10.2.c. Slovenia further explains that the content of the gov.si website is also available in Italian.

#### **10.4.b**

"recruitment and training of officials and public service employees speaking Italian"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **10.4.c**

"comply with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of Italian to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

### **10.5**

"allow the use or adoption of family names in Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## **Article 11**

### **Media**

#### **11.1.ai**

"ensure the creation of at least one public radio station and one public television channel in Italian"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (Recommendation 4) and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021) "Ensure sufficient resources for the provision of radio and television programmes in Italian at least at the present level".

### **11.1.ei**

"encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

Slovenia also draws attention to the response provided under Article 10.2.d.

### **11.2**

"guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Italian; do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Italian; ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### **11.3**

"ensure that the interests of the users of Italian are represented or taken into account within bodies guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## **Article 12**

### **Cultural activities and facilities**

### **12.1.a**

"encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

Slovenia also explains that the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2021–2025 was adopted on 1 June 2021, which also takes into account all speakers whose mother tongue is not Slovenian: members of the Hungarian and Italian national communities, the Roma community and various minority ethnic communities. This strategic document sets out the objectives and measures to preserve, develop and promote the language and culture of all language communities as part of language education and infrastructure. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of Slovenia's Language Policy draws up an annual report on the implementation of the objectives and measures set out in the Resolution (published at: <https://www.gov.si/zbirke/delovna-telesa/medresorska-delovna-skupina-za-spremljanje-izvajanja-jezikovne-politike-republike-slovenije/#e118035>).

### **12.1.d**

"ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities incorporate the knowledge and use of the Italian language and culture in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **12.1.e**

"ensure that the bodies organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Italian"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **12.1.f**

"encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Italian in providing facilities and planning cultural activities"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

### **12.2**

"In territories other than those in which Italian is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Italian"

Slovenia explains that the measures are being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

### **12.3**

"make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Italian and the culture it reflects"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## **Article 13 Economic and social life**

### **13.1.a**

"eliminate from the legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Italian 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"

Slovenia takes the view that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

### **13.1.b**

"prohibit the insertion in internal regulations of companies and private documents of any clauses excluding or restricting the use of Italian"

Slovenia explains that it already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and reiterates that in the Republic of Slovenia regulations and laws do not include any measures which would in any way prejudice the use of Italian in internal regulations of companies and private documents.

### **13.1.c**

"oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Italian in connection with economic or social activities"

Slovenia takes the view that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

### **13.1.d**

"facilitate and/or encourage the use of Italian in economic and social life"

Slovenia explains that the response to this question is provided under Article 10.2.d. However, it adds that in order to exercise the constitutional rights of the Italian national community with the aim of building the economic base of the nationalities, which is regulated by the Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act and the Act Regulating the Use of Funds Arising from the Proceeds Based on the Transformation of Company Ownership Act, the ministry responsible for cohesion and regional development launched a Programme for the Promotion of the Economic Base of the Italian National Community for the 2017–2020 and 2021–2024 periods (hereinafter: the Programme) (<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/problemska-obmocja-in-obmocja-avtohtonih-narodnih-skupnosti/program-razvojnih-ukrepov-na-obmocju-kjer-zivi-italijanska-narodna-skupnost/>) (hereinafter: program).

One of the programme's specific features is that the systemic measures to build the economic base of the autochthonous national communities (Italian and Hungarian) are implemented in the areas where the two national communities live. In this context, the entities eligible for specific support are not representative organisations of self-governing national communities but economic entities, regardless of whether their owners or employees are members of the majority nation, minorities or foreign investors.

The measures of the programme are:

- boosting investments in the economic sector;
- promoting tourism activities and products;
- co-financing projects with approved European funds (no activities were carried out);
- promoting the area and supporting the implementation of the programme.

The programme also promotes the use of Italian in economic and social life in these areas where members of the Italian national community live.

### **13.2.a**

"include in financial and banking regulations provisions which allow the use of Italian in drawing up payment orders or other financial documents or ensure the implementation of such provisions"

Slovenia explains that it already provided the response to this recommendation in the fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter.

### **13.2.b**

"in the public sector, organise activities to promote the use of Italian in economic and social life"

Slovenia explains that the response to this recommendation has already been provided under Articles 10.2.d, 10.3.a and 12.1.a, d, e, f.

### **13.2.c**

"ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Italian"

Slovenia explains that it already provided the response to this recommendation in the fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter.

Slovenia also states that Article 63 of the Health Services Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos [23/05](#) – official consolidated version, [15/08](#) – ZPacP, [23/08](#), [58/08](#) – ZZdrS-E, [77/08](#) – ZDZdr, [40/12](#) – ZUJF, [14/13](#), [88/16](#) – ZdZPZD, [64/17](#), [1/19](#) – Dec. of the CC, [73/19](#), [82/20](#), [152/20](#) – ZZUOOP, [203/20](#) – ZIUPOPDVE, [112/21](#) – ZNUPZ, [196/21](#) – ZDOsk, [100/22](#) – ZNUZSZS, [132/22](#) – Dec. of the CC, [141/22](#) – ZNUNBZ and [14/23](#) – Dec. of the CC), which regulates the content and provision of health activities, stipulates that health workers and health assistants who work directly with patients in bilingual areas must also be proficient in the language of the national communities. Providers of health services included in the public health service network ensure that the patient is guaranteed the right to communicate with health or allied professionals in the Italian language at least at the proficiency level of B2 or C1 for oral communication in the areas inhabited by the Italian national community (paragraphs two and three of the aforementioned Article). The right may be provided to the patient at the hospital, nearest to the municipalities where the autochthonous national community lives, if no such institution exists in this area.

Article 19 of the Patients' Rights Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos [15/08](#), [55/17](#), [177/20](#) and [100/22](#) – ZNUZSZS) stipulates the manner of communication. Patients have the right to be addressed by or to communicate with health and allied professionals in Slovenian or in the language of a national community if they are treated in the area of a local community where Italian is recognised as an official language beside Slovenian.

Article 11 of the Medical Services Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos [72/06](#) – official consolidated version, [15/08](#) – ZPacP, [58/08](#), [107/10](#) – ZPPKZ, [40/12](#) – ZUJF, [88/16](#) – ZdZPZD, [40/17](#), [64/17](#) – ZZDej-K, [49/18](#), [66/19](#) and [199/21](#)) stipulates that the medical doctors who practice medical services shall use the Slovenian language, and in the bilingual mixed area of the Italian national community they shall also use the Italian language. The right may be provided to the patient at the hospital, nearest to the municipalities where the autochthonous national community lives, if no such institution exists in this area.

As regards the provision of medical services, Article 29 of the Act on Recognition of Professional Qualifications for Medical Doctors, Specialist Doctors, Doctors of Dental Medicine and Specialist Doctors of Dental Medicine (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos [107/10](#), [40/17](#) – ZZdrS-F and [203/20](#) – ZIUPOPdVE) stipulates that, prior to employment, a person must provide proof of their knowledge of the Slovenian language, and, in areas of municipalities where the Hungarian national community lives, proof of their knowledge of the Hungarian language in accordance with the linguistic level deemed necessary by the healthcare provider for individual work positions.

#### **13.2.d**

"ensure that safety instructions are also drawn up in Italian"

Slovenia explains that it already provided the response to this recommendation in the fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter.

#### **13.2.e**

"arrange for information provided by the authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in Italian"

The Market Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the Market Inspectorate) in the Koper/Capodistria - Postojna Regional Unit ensures that adequate staff is available to provide information in the language of the local national community. The Market Inspectorate is a supervisory authority that, in accordance with the legislation in force, provides verbal information on consumer rights in Italian to anyone who wants or needs such information.

Slovenia explains that the legislation on consumer protection and competition is regulated in such a way that consumer protection and competition are also satisfactorily ensured in Italian in the bilingual area. It also draws attention to the response to Article 10.1.ai.

### **Article 14 Transfrontier exchanges**

#### **14.a**

"apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Italian is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Italian"



in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **14.b**

"for the benefit of Italian, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Italian is used in identical or similar form"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## **2.5 Romani**

### **Article 7 Objectives and principles**

#### **7.1.a**

"recognition of Romani as an expression of cultural wealth"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

#### **7.1.b**

"ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Romani"

Slovenia explains that the undertaking is being fully implemented on the legal basis provided in the previous periodical reports.

#### **7.1.c**

"resolute action to promote Romani"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 2, and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021)) (5. Romani).

#### **7.1.d**

"facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Romani, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life"

Slovenia explains that the Romani language has been included in the national language policies programme (2007–2011 and 2014–2018) as well as in the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2021–2025, adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 1 June 2021, with various objectives and through measures to preserve, develop and promote the language and culture of minority communities as part of language education and infrastructure.

Pursuant to Article 65 of the Exercising of the Public Interest in Culture Act (ZUJIK), the ministry responsible for culture finances, based on the annual public call for proposals, various cultural projects aimed at the preservation, promotion and development of culture, language and identity of the Roma community, the promotion of Roma community members' cultural activity and creativity, cultural integration while preserving cultural diversity and awareness-raising on the culture and language of the Roma community. The call for proposals is open to the Roma community's non-profit cultural organisations with the status of legal entity governed by private law that are registered for the performance of cultural and artistic activities and the provision of cultural goods in Slovenia and have been for at least one year from the date of registration working on the Roma community, and for culture professionals of the Roma community in Slovenia who have the status of self-employed professionals in culture.

The ministry responsible for culture approved the co-financing of projects in all areas of culture: editorial and publishing activities, editing and hosting of websites, activities of cultural groups, cultural animation, activities for the preservation of the Roma language, international cooperation, mutual cultural cooperation of various minority ethnic groups, presentations of Roma cultural activities and problems to wider public, events, lectures, seminars, workshops, digitalisation, etc.

In 2020, a total of EUR 92,115 was approved to co-finance 66 projects. 59 projects in the total amount of EUR 81,715 were carried out. In 2020, the realisation (91.59%) was the lowest since the introduction of this special call for proposals. This was due to the COVID-19 epidemic, as providers found it difficult or impossible to implement projects. The first complication was the process of signing contracts, which for some providers was delayed until the autumn because of a temporary suspension of the fulfilment of budget obligations. To ease the situation, providers had the possibility of requesting an extension of the deadline for the completion of their project (up to one year), which some of them did and thus obtained annexes to their contracts.

In 2021, the realisation was high (99.11%) despite certain government measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 and the possibility to extend the project completion deadline, which the providers no longer took advantage of. 71 projects totalling EUR 92,115 were approved and 70 projects totalling EUR 91,296 were carried out.

In 2022, the call for proposal increased the funds available, resulting in 86 projects being approved for a total of EUR 142,114 and EUR 141,599.11 being realised or disbursed for 85 projects, a realisation rate of 99.64%.

In 2023, a total of EUR 142,115 was approved to co-finance 69 projects. Contracts have been signed and funds are being drawn down. The number of projects implemented and the funds realised will be known at a later stage, after 2023.

A table of funded cultural programmes is annexed at the end of the report.

#### **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"

Slovenia explains that the response to this question is provided under Article 7.1.d.

#### **7.1.f**

"provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Romani at all appropriate stages"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 2, and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021) (5. Romani).

#### **7.1.g**

"provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Romani to learn it"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 2, in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021) (5. Romani) and in the fifth report on the application of the Charter.

#### **7.1.h**

"promotion of study and research on Romani at universities or equivalent institutions"

Slovenia already replied to this recommendation in the fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter.

#### **7.1.i**

"promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Romani"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## 7.2

"eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Romani"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## 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"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 2, and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021) (5. Romani).

Slovenia explains that, pursuant to Article 4 of the Mass Media Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 110/06 – official consolidated version and the following), the ministry responsible for culture supports the mass media in the creation and dissemination of programmes important (among other things) for exercising the right of citizens of Slovenia, Slovenians living abroad, members of the Slovenian national minorities in Italy, Austria and Hungary, the Italian and Hungarian national communities in Slovenia, and the Roma community living in Slovenia to inform the public and be informed.

In addition, based on regular annual public calls for proposals for the co-financing of media programmes, the ministry responsible for culture provides funds to co-finance:

- the plurality and democratic nature of general news printed media,
- the plurality and democratic nature of programmes of radio and television channels and electronic publications, and
- the development of the programmes of radio and television channels with the status of local, regional or student radio or television channel or non-profit radio or television channel.

Under the regular annual call for proposals for the co-financing of media programmes in 2022 (JPR-MV-2022), three projects were co-financed (for a total amount of EUR 134,075.59), which inter alia addressed the issues of the Roma community in Slovenia, namely:

- Most sožitja (Bridge of Coexistence) – UNION OF ROMA OF SLOVENIA (Radio Romic)
  - The Bridge of Coexistence project contains stories that counter prejudices against Roma, present the issues, life, habits and culture of Roma. The broadcasts are in Slovenian and partly in Romani (co-financing amount: EUR 29,964.92);

- Zahodno dolenski odmevi – UNIVOX, d. o. o. (Radio Univox) – The Romani urica broadcast provides information to Roma and contributes to better cooperation between Roma and other members of the population, reports on the life of Roma, their cultural participation, their habits and their education (co-financing amount: EUR 68,111.03);
- Aktualno – osrednje informativne oddaje na Murskem valu (central informative programmes on Murski val) – RADIO MURSKI VAL, d. o. o. (Radio Murski val) – the central informative programme places particular emphasis on content relating to the Porabje Slovenians, cooperation with the neighbouring Austria, Hungary and Croatia, the lives and work of Hungarians and Roma in Prekmurje. A constant feature of the programme covers border issues and national politics in view of the fact that the Murski val radio operates in the area populated by the Hungarian national community and the Roma ethnic community as well as in the neighbourhood area – Porabje, populated with members of the Slovenian nationality (co-financing amount: EUR 35,999.64);

Slovenia expresses great understanding and support for radio and television channels for the Roma community, which is also reflected in co-financing. The main source of financing for all radio and television channels, in accordance with the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act (hereinafter: the ZRTVS-1), is a contribution, a special type of public duty aimed at financing the public media service.

The funds provided by Slovenia to co-finance radio and television channels for the Roma community pursuant to the ZRTVS-1 have increased in recent years, as shown in the table below.

RTV channels, in EUR	2019	2020	2021	2022	Plan for 2023
for the Roma community	183,000	193,000	193,000	193,000	193,000

#### 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"

The Committee of Experts reiterates its previous conclusion that this undertaking is fulfilled.

## 2.6 Serbian

### Article 7 Objectives and principles

#### 7.1.a

"recognition of Serbian as an expression of cultural wealth"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also

the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.b**

"ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Serbian"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.c**

"resolute action to promote Serbian"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.d**

"facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Serbian, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **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"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.f**

"provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Serbian at all appropriate stages"

Slovenia already responded to this recommendation in its fifth periodical report on the application of the Charter and no changes have been made in this area, nor are any planned for the future until the submission of the sixth report on the application of the Charter. See also the explanation in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.g**

"provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Serbian to learn it"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM(2021)134 of 20 October 2021) (6. Serbian).

#### **7.1.h**

"promotion of study and research on Serbian at universities or equivalent institutions"

The response to this recommendation is contained in paragraphs five, six and seven of the introduction of the sixth report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

#### **7.1.i**

"promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Serbian"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for

Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

## **7.2**

"eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Serbian"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

## **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"

The response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1. Slovenia provided further clarification in Part II, point 2.1. Croatian, Article 7.3

## **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 response to this recommendation is contained in the Clarifications to the Recommendations of the Ministers' Deputies on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Slovenia (document CM/Rec(2020)2 of 23 September 2020), Recommendation 1.

## **Part III**

### **Specific questions**

In the follow-up dialogue with the Advisory Committee, States Parties may be invited to provide responses to specific questions relating to specific national circumstances.

Slovenia has not received any specific questions.

## **Part IV**



## Additional information

Slovenia provides in a separate document the contact details of authorities or associations representing members of national minorities and/or promoting their rights, which will not be published. It also includes the responses of the OSSIN, JRC, PMSNS at the time of the drafting of the sixth report.

## **Annexes**

Report on the activities of the Ministry of Health  
Table of cultural programmes