

Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2005

Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
Secretariat of the Council for National Minorities of the Government of the
Czech Republic

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Government Resolution No 689 of 7 June 2006 concerning the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2005

Introduction

This Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2005 (hereinafter referred to as 'Report') offers, for the fifth year running, a general summary of public administration measures adopted in relation to the members of national minorities, and an overview of the activities of members of national minorities in the last calendar year. This Report is a document published by the Council for National Minorities of the Government of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as 'Council') and was prepared by the Council's Secretariat based on supporting documents from the competent ministries, self-government bodies, and other public administration authorities, as well as from the representatives of national minorities, Council members, and their associates.

The Report is structured in much the same way as in previous years, although this year there is a greater emphasis on measures connected with the exercise of national-minority rights at regional and local level. The report is structured into four thematic blocks:

- a) an overview of international obligations and evaluation of developments in the Government's national minority policy and measures implemented by public administration authorities,
- b) an assessment of the conditions for the development of the activities of members of national minorities, including an overview of the grant policy applied in the relevant programmes,
- c) a survey of the activities of self-government bodies in relation to members of national minorities,
- d) self-reflection by the representatives of national minorities, assessing the position and activities of their own particular minority.

Information on the Czech Republic's national minority policy is detailed in documents regularly published on the Council's web pages (http://wtd.vlada.cz/pages/rvk_rmm.htm), which are part of the server run by the Office of the Government.

The activities of organizations comprising members of national minorities are linked to the local situation and conditions in the regions. Therefore, the Report focuses more on assessing cooperation with members of national minorities and support for their activities from self-government bodies, i.e. the assemblies of municipalities, chartered cities and regions. This is the most extensive monitoring to date of the activities carried out by self-government bodies in relation to national minorities. The annexes to the Report provide an overview of grant programmes for the support of the activities of national minorities. This overview reveals the themes of projects implemented by national minority organizations and the overall amount of financial assistance from the national budget made available for national minority activities.

1. International Obligations

1.1. Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Further to the Second Periodic Report on the Fulfilment of the Principles Appointed under the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as 'Framework Convention') in 2004, and in accordance with the control mechanisms set out in the Framework Convention, the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe on the Convention (hereinafter referred to as 'Advisory Committee') paid a monitoring visit to the Czech Republic at the end of the same year. Based on its observations, it drew up an opinion on the Second Periodic Report and, in accordance with Article 23 of Resolution No 97(10) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, presented it to the Committee of Ministers on 24 March 2005. The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic received a copy of this opinion on 31 March 2005. After this, in accordance with the Framework Convention and Ministerial Resolution the Czech Republic had four months as of 24 March 2005 to present its own comments on the Advisory Committee's opinion, i.e. until 24 July 2005. It took up this option and drew up comments on the Advisory Committee's opinion because it believed that the text of the opinion contained certain errors in formulation and incorrect interpretations.

The Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities (hereinafter referred to as 'Council Secretariat') sent the Advisory Committee's opinion to public authorities and to the representatives of national minorities (Council members), who expressed comments on the points relevant to them. The Council Secretariat took due note of their suggestions in drawing up the comments for the Advisory Committee. The Council discussed the preparations for the comments at its meeting held on 4 May 2005. The draft comments, prepared as a document for a Government meeting, was dispatched by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Justice and the President of the Council for interdepartmental comment procedure. Once this procedure had been completed, the Comments of the Czech Republic on the second opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities regarding the fulfilment of the Czech Republic's obligations under this Convention (ACFC/OPII(2005)002) were presented to the Government meeting on 7 July 2005. The Government discussed this document and adopted Resolution No 858 approving the Comments on the main observations from the Advisory Committee's monitoring activity. The Czech Republic's comments, in Czech and English, were delivered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe on 18 July 2005. For the Czech Republic, this rounded off the second monitoring cycle of the Framework Convention.¹⁾

The Czech Republic's reservations about the Advisory Committee's opinion primarily concerned the negative evaluation of the Czech Republic's practical application of laws on the exercise of the rights of national minorities, the distorted interpretation of figures in official statistics and unofficial estimates of the number of members of national minorities, especially Roma, the status of the Roma in the Czech Republic (current measures in education and

¹⁾ At its 958th meeting on 15 March 2006, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on the implementation of the Convention by the Czech Republic. The resolution approves the Czech Republic's Second Periodic Report on the fulfilment of principles set out in the Convention (http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/minorities/2_framework_convention_%28monitoring%29/2_monitoring_mechanism/5_C_comments_by_the_States_concerned/2_Second_cycle/2nd_Com_CzechRepublic_ang.asp#TopOfPagev). Text of Resolution CMN(2006)2:

http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/minorities/2_framework_convention_%28monitoring%29/2_monitoring_mechanism/4_opinions_of_the_advisory_committee/1_country_specific_opinions/2_Second_cycle/List_2nd_Opinions.asp#TopOfPage.

In keeping with the control mechanism of the Framework Convention, the Czech Republic is required to submit a Third Periodic Report on the fulfilment of the principles set out in the Framework Convention in 2009.

support for integration processes with a view to preventing the social exclusion of the Roma, and measures in preparation stemming from an investigation into the sterilization of Roma women without their prior free and informed consent), the use of minority languages, national-minority education and the participation of national minorities in the solutions to matters that affect them. The Comments contain a detailed analysis and an in-depth study of the Advisory Committee's interpretation of the fulfilment of principles under individual provisions of the Framework Convention. The full text of the document is publicly available on the website of the Council in Czech and English,²⁾ with a reference to the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers posted on the website of the Council of Europe.

1.2. European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The Government of the Czech Republic approved the signing of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter referred to as 'Charter') under Resolution No 1029 of 16 September 2000. The Charter was signed on behalf of the Czech Republic on 9 November 2000 by the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary Jiří Mucha, Head of the Czech Republic's Permanent Mission to the Council of Europe. The resolution under which the Government approved the signing of the Charter inter alia enjoined members of the Government to review the compliance of legislation with the Charter and, where necessary, to take action so that the obligations arising from the Charter's entry into force for the Czech Republic could be fully met. The obligations under the Charter were then gradually reflected in the ongoing legislative process. This process culminated at the end of 2004 with the adoption of the new Act No 561/2004 on preschool, primary, secondary, further vocational, and other education (the Schools Act), which entered into effect on 1 January 2005, and Act No 500/2004 the Rules of Administrative Procedure, for which 1 January 2006 was appointed as the effective date.

As soon as these two laws were passed, negotiations on preparations for the ratification of the Charter resumed. At the beginning of 2005, an interdepartmental working party was set up to assess the possibilities of fulfilling the individual articles of the Charter with consideration for the current legislative conditions in the Czech Republic. An analysis of legislation was also carried out to examine the special status of the Slovak language and the possibilities of its use in official communications. At the same time, the representatives of national minorities – Council members – were asked for their standpoint on the possibilities of the Czech Republic's accession to the Charter, especially with regard to the extent to which minority languages are used in personal and public life. In this respect, the Council Secretariat held two meetings with representatives of local government authorities and the Moravskoslezsko Region, where the implementation of the Charter for the Polish language is a topical issue.

In general, the representatives of all national minorities (Council members) and all representatives of minority organizations delivered the unanimous opinion that the Czech Republic should confirm its international obligations in the field of national-minority rights by ratifying the Charter. However, only representatives of the Polish minority presented specific proposals of the points applicable to Polish.

A significant move in the preparation of the draft document for the ratification of the Charter was a seminar on observations made to date from the process of Charter ratification in selected countries of the Council of Europe. This event was held at the instigation of the Charter's secretariat at the Council of Europe and was prepared by the Council Secretariat in cooperation with the human rights department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar took place at Hrzán Palace in Prague on 7 June 2005. The aim was to hold discussions with

²⁾ http://wtd.vlada.cz/files/rvk/rnm/zprava_mensiny04_prilohy.pdf; http://wtd.vlada.cz/files/rvk/rnm/report04_en.pdf

experts from the Council of Europe on open issues connected with the preparation of the Charter's ratification in the Czech Republic, and to find inspiration and guidance from examples of implementation in countries where it has already been ratified.

The seminar on the ratification of the Charter was intended primarily for representatives of state administration whose departments were directly affected by matters related to the ratification of the Charter, and for representatives of national minorities. The Charter secretariat at the Council of Europe also organized for experts on matters related to the Charter to be present. These included: Philip Blair, Director of Cooperation for Local and Regional Democracy, Council of Europe Directorate General of Legal Affairs, Elena Jurado, a member of staff from the Charter's Secretariat at the Council of Europe, Robert Dunbar, reader in law at the University of Aberdeen, UK, Judit L. Solymosi and Antal Paulik from the Officer for National and Ethnic Minorities of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Hungary, and Heinz Tichy from the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in Austria. These discussions gave rise to a collection of contributions from the seminar, entitled 'Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Czech Republic', which was published by the Office of the Government in August 2005. The seminar report and contributions have been posted on the Council's website.³⁾

The Council discussed the proposal for the ratification of the Charter at its meeting held on 4 October 2005. Under Resolution No 44/2005, the Council approved the presented documents and recommended that, after the incorporation of the comments and suggestions raised at the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Justice and President of the Council (all one person) distribute the prepared document for comment procedure and, after the evaluation, that he present the proposal for the ratification of the Charter at a Government meeting. The Government approved the ratification of the Charter under Resolution No 1574 of 7 December 2005 on the proposal for the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ETS 148), opened for signature by the Member States of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 5 November 1992; at the same time, the Government tasked the Prime Minister with the presentation of the Charter to the Parliament of the Czech Republic for approval and recommended that the President of the Republic ratify the Charter once consent had been granted by the Parliament of the Czech Republic.⁴⁾ The Prime Minister presented the Charter to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 15 December 2005 and to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 16 December 2005.⁵⁾

It is estimated that the implementation of the Charter will hike the financial burden on the national budget, within the scope of regional budgets, by up to CZK 5,000,000, mainly as regards the fulfilment of selected obligations set out, for example, in Article 10 of the Charter. As this is a new expense within the national budget for 2007 and the years thereafter which was not planned for in the approved medium-term outlook of the national budget for 2007 and 2008, the Government decided that the necessary financial coverage would be incorporated into the national budget bill every year as part of budget heading 304 – Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, where it would be listed under subsidies to local authorities. The procedure for

³⁾ <http://wtd.vlada.cz/files/rvk/rnm/sbornik-charta.pdf>

⁴⁾ Within the meaning of Article 49(e) of the Constitution of the Czech Republic, the Charter is a presidential treaty. Prior to ratification by the President, both chambers of the Czech Parliament are required to grant their consent under Article 39(1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Czech Republic.

⁵⁾ The Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament discussed the Charter (as Parliamentary Press 1220) in its first reading on 9 February 2006. The Senate of the Czech Parliament discussed the Charter (as Senate Press 194) at its session on 16 March 2006 and approved the ratification and proposed declaration. The Chamber of Deputies finished the discussion of the Charter in the Czech Parliament at its 55th session on 19 April 2006 - in the second reading it expressed its approval of the ratification and proposed declaration.

the provision of these subsidies is laid down in a directive currently being prepared which, in accordance with point IV/2/b) of Government Resolution No 1574 of 7 December 2005, will set out the rules to safeguard the provision of subsidies to local governments within the scope of expenditure linked to the implementation of the Charter.

2. Tasks under the Government resolution

- Amendment to Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (the Municipal Order), as amended (the Municipalities Act)

In 2004 and 2005, representatives of the Polish national minority motioned for an amendment to the Municipalities Act, in particular Section 29(2), which stipulates the condition that, for the submission of a petition to exercise the right to use the name of a municipality, parts thereof, streets and other public places and the signs of building housing state authorities and local government bodies in both Czech and the language of the relevant national minority, at least 40% of the adult inhabitants of the municipality who claim membership of that national minority must sign the petition. The representatives of the Polish minority pointed out the problems with organizing a petition in a municipality, including the fact that this process requires an awareness campaign, which can disrupt civil co-existence in a nationally mixed municipality. They also brought attention to a certain inconsistency associated with the act of petitioning, namely that the municipality authority to which the petition is submitted has no means of verifying whether the signatories genuinely claim membership of the given minority (or whether, in the census, they state that their nationality is not Czech). They also expressed concern about other negative issues, such as the possibility that petitions could be misused as a list of troublesome members of a national minority in a municipality and, potentially, for the purposes of hidden discrimination. Therefore they asked for an amendment where bilingual names could be used on condition that 10% of the inhabitants of a municipality who claim membership of a national minority in the census sign the petition.

The inappropriateness of petitions was also discussed by the Council. Therefore, in point III/2 of Resolution No 742 of 15 June 2005, the Government enjoined the Minister of the Interior, in cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Justice and Council President, to draw up and present to the Government, by 31 December 2005, an amendment to Section 29(2) of the Municipalities Act to the effect that it would revoke the requirement of the submission of a petition by at least 40% of persons of legal age in a municipality who are members of a national minority. The draft amendment was prepared by the legislative and legal unit of the public administration oversight and inspection department at the Ministry of the Interior in collaboration with the Council Secretariat. This draft amendment revoked the petitioning requirement and stipulated that representatives of the relevant national minority in the municipality should apply for the bilingual use of names via the committee for national minorities, as laid down in Section 117(3) of the relevant law. The proposed change was incorporated into a more extensive amendment to a Government bill amending Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (the Municipal order), as amended, Act No 129/2000 on regions (the Regional order), as amended, Act No 131/2000 on the City of Prague, as amended, Act No 182/1993 on the Constitutional Court, as amended, and Act No 22/2004 on local referendums and amending certain laws.⁶⁾

- Reconstruction of the Henryk Sienkiewicz Primary School in Jablunkov where the language of instruction is Polish

As part of measures to safeguard the running of the school in Jablunkov which provides instruction in Polish, point III/2 of Government Resolution No 663 of 30 June 2004 enjoined

⁶⁾ The Government bill, as Parliamentary Press No 987, was approved by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 27 January 2006. The Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic discussed the bill (Senate Press No 281) on 21 March 2006 and returned it to the Chamber of Deputies with amendments. The Chamber of Deputies passed the bill on 25 April 2006. The President of the Republic signed the act on 11 May 2006.

the Deputy Prime Minister for Research and Development, Human Rights and Human Resources, in association with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and the Minister for Education, Youth and Sport, to incorporate an item on the reconstruction of the premises of the Henryk Sienkiewicz Primary School in Jablunkov with Polish as the language of instruction in the amount of CZK 65,000,000 into the bill on the national budget of the Czech Republic for 2005, under the budget heading of the Public Treasury Administration. As part of the agreement of the provision of this financial amount as a capital grant for Jablunkov, the town undertook to organize the remainder of the funding required to refurbish the school buildings. This item was included among the national budget indicators in 2005 (Act No 675/2004 on the national budget of the Czech Republic for 2005) and the town of Jablunkov implemented the project *Reconstruction of Henryk Sienkiewicz Primary School, Jablunkov – Stage Two* (Ref. No: 298 210 7000, Zoning Decision: 98662) at a total aggregate capital cost of CZK 81,091,000. The deadline for the completion of the project was met when the building approbation decision entered into force on 27 December 2005. The town of Jablunkov submitted the final project evaluation to the territorial budgets department of the Ministry of Finance on 15 February 2006.⁷⁾

- Aid for the reconstruction of the primary school with Polish as the language of instruction in Vendryně

On 9 May 2005, the municipal assembly in Vendryně (in the north-eastern part of the Moravskoslezsko Region) submitted a grant application to the Ministry of Finance for the project *School Playground, Courtyard Repair and Central Heating at the Primary School with Polish as the Language of Instruction in Vendryně* (Programme 298 210 – support for the development and replacement of the material and technological base of regional education). Attached to the application was project and pre-project documentation, planning permission issued by the Třinec Municipal Authority, and a detailed description of the general overhaul, including the recommendations of the Moravskoslezsko Regional Authority. The chairperson of the municipality of Vendryně also applied to the Council for assistance. As part of the programme to safeguard Polish national minority education, point III/1 of Government Resolution No 742 of 15 June 2005 enjoined the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Justice, in cooperation with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and the Minister for Education, Youth and Sport, to incorporate an item on the reconstruction of the premises of the primary school in Vendryně, where Polish is the language of instruction, in the amount of CZK 5,000,000 into the bill on the national budget of the Czech Republic for 2006, under the budget heading of the Public Treasury Administration.

Vendryně is a municipality with a population of multiple nationalities (it currently has a population of 3,919 inhabitants, of whom 35% claim Polish nationality). There are two primary schools in the municipality – one with Czech and one with Polish as the language of instruction. The building of the current primary school with Polish as the language of instruction was built in 1905 and the school's management is currently overseeing operations in difficult circumstances. Representatives of the Polish national minority consider the support of the material and technological base of the school building to be a priority in Polish national minority education. The Council gave its full backing to the municipality's application at a meeting held on 4 May 2005. As the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports does not have the capital resources required for this purpose, a proposal was approved where the funds would be incorporated into the bill on the national budget for 2006 under the budgetary heading of the Public Treasury Administration. The Council's proposal is

⁷⁾ The Henryk Sienkiewicz Primary School with Polish as the language of instruction in Jablunkov was officially opened on 20 April 2006.

contained in the approved 2006 National Budget Act. Therefore, the finances have been secured to reconstruct the school premises in 2006.

- Museum of Roma Culture in Brno

The Report for 2001 offers a detailed overview of the procedure used to safeguard conditions conducive to the operations of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno (hereinafter referred to as 'Museum'). The Government has also repeatedly expressed its support for a solution to the unsatisfactory circumstances of the Museum. The twists and turns accompanying the process of institutional transformation from a federal museum culminated at the end of 2004 when an agreement was signed between the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno [*Muzeum romské kultury v Brně o.p.s.*] and the Society of Experts and Friends of the Museum of Roma Culture [*Společnost odborníků a přátel Muzea romské kultury*] and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. This agreement provided that the Museum would continue to operate as an organization set up by the Ministry of Culture and partly financed from the public purse as of 1 January 2005. This marked a new era in the history of this State-sponsored institution of Roma studies.

This type of Museum is seldom seen in Europe. It specializes in the collection of documents that shed light on the material and spiritual culture of the Roma and their co-existence with majority society. The Museum publishes an annual *Bulletin of the Museum of Roma Culture* [*Bulletin Muzea romské kultury*], which offers an overview of the Museum's activities for the year and publishes expert articles, findings, reviews and notes on literature in the field of the Roma community and Roma studies – especially work by Roma authors. A relatively detailed rundown of the Museum's activities is also presented on the website at <http://www.rommuz.cz>.

Summary of the Museum's operations in 2005:

Exhibitions - short-term at the Museum:

- E luma romane jakhenca – The World Through the Eyes of Roma (artwork by the Roma), up to 30 March 2005
- Perhaps – Loving (national minorities), from 2 February 2005 to 25 February 2005
- Under One Sky (photographs by Pavel Zuchnický), from 7 April 2005 to 29 May 2005
- People Around Us (national minorities in the Jihomoravsko Region), from 7 April 2005 to 29 May 2005
- Bacht the balvaj pheňa hin / Happiness and the Wind are One (photographs by Hana Šebková), from 7 April 2005 to 18 September 2005
- Parno maro – kaľi phuv / Black Land – White Bread (the influence of Roma culture on the majority), from 20 May 2005 to 7 October 2005
- Roma in Poland (rerun of an exhibition first held in Tarnow, Poland), from 9 June 2005
- Beautiful Times ...? (photographs from the Museum's collections), from 13 October 2005
- Roma in the News: from the photo archives of ČTK (photographs), from 13 October 2005
- Roma in Gemer (living in and around Rimavská Sobota, rerun of an exhibition first held in Rimavská Sobota), from 13 October 2005

Exhibitions - short-term outside the Museum:

- Black Craft (held by the Moravian Museum, artefacts loaned in 2005)
- Roma in Brno, Ostrava Municipal Library (photographs), from 5 April 2005 to 19 April 2005
- Seen with the Heart, Oliva Gallery, Prague (Božena Přikrylová, ceramics), from 21 April 2005 to 10 May 2005
- Die Welt in den Augen der Roma, Universitätsbibliothek Magdeburg (artwork), from 2 May 2005 to 18 May 2005

- Exhibition of the Work of Božena Přikrylová. Special School for the Sight-Impaired (ceramics), from 5 May to 10 May 2005
- Roma in Brno, Parésia 2005 – church in Horní Dubenky (photographs), from 2 August 2005 to 29 August 2005
- The World is Open to Everyone / O svetos hin phundraro sakoneske, Blansko Library (history and culture of the Roma), from 16 September 2005 to 7 October 2005
- Exhibition of embroidery by Markéta Šestáková, Gender Studies, Prague, from 4 October 2005 to 30 November 2005
- Roma in Brno, Orthodox Church Community, Znojmo, from 28 November 2005 to 30 December 2005

Permanent exhibition – The Story of the Roma:

Official opening of two halls (5 and 6) of the exhibition (covering 1945-2005) on 1 December 2005

Lectures and talks

- Lecture series for the public: Who are the Roma?
- R. Milgren: Roma World of Dance, 22 February 2005
- M. Hajska, O. Poduška: The Roma Settlement in Rožkovany, 15 March 2005
- B. Šebová, K. Urbanová, K. Diestbierová: Our Trip to the Roma in France, 19 April 2005
- M. Kročil: Field Social Work, 17 May 2005
- J. Poláková: A Useful Trade Pays Dividends (presentation of the Museum's collections - trades), 18 October 2005
- H. Danielová: Clothes Make the Man (presentation of the Museum's collections – clothes and jewellery), 15 November 2005
- J. Poláková: What You Sow... (presentation of the Museum's collections – the influence of the Roma culture on the majority culture), 13 December 2005
- The Cult of the Swastika, with a lecture on racism, 8 November 2005
- M. Mareš: lecture and talk on racism, with a film screening, 8 November 2005

Lecture series on Roma literature (at the Jiří Mahen Library)

- H. Sadílková: Overview and Development of Roma Literature in the Czech Republic, 10 October 2005
- K. Rývolová: Parallels between Roma and Jewish Literature, 17 October 2005
- Medallion of the Writer Erika Oláhová, 24 October 2005

Talks with personalities from the Roma community:

- Iveta Kováčová + Triny, 26 October 2005
- Richard Samko + Bengas, 16 November 2005
- Zuzana Gáborová, 23 November 2005

Other events organized by the Museum:

- Courses of Romani (ongoing)
- Children's Club – art, interactive games, drama, dance (ongoing)

Video screenings:

- Snatch, 5 October 2005
- Carmen – Wild Passion, 19 October 2005
- Memorial Evening to mark the Holocaust, 27 January 2005
- Presentation of the Museum yearbook – Bulletin 2002-2003 and the book 'Memoirs of Roma Women', 23 February 2005
- Ceremony in remembrance of the first transportation of the Roma to Auschwitz, 7 March 2005
- Museum night in Brno, 20 May 2005
- Ceremony in the former Gypsy camp Hodonín u Kunštátu and at the cemetery in Černovice, 21 August 2005

- Khamoro World Roma Festival 2005

Point III/3 of Government Resolution No 347 of 7 April 2003 on support of the Khamoro Prague World Roma Festival requires the incorporation of an annual specific binding indicator for the support of the Khamoro Prague World Roma Festival in the budget heading of the budget heading ‘Public Treasury Administration’. In 2005, CZK 1,600,000 was earmarked for this festival. At the same time, the grant programme managed by the Ministry of Culture in support of the cultural activities of national minorities provided a non-investment grant of CZK 150,000 for side events at the festival. The main organizer of the event was the civic association *Word 21 (Slovo 21)*.

The seventh annual Khamoro festival took place on 23-28 May 2005. The co-organizer of the event, as in past years, was the City of Prague. The festival’s main aim was to present the culture of Roma living in European countries and elsewhere. The festival programme also included the official launch of *Decade of Roma Integration*, a project in which the Czech Republic is participating.

Main items on the festival agenda:

- Opening of the festival – Brožík Hall, Old Town Hall,
- Readings from the collections *Romano Suno* (Roma Dream) in cooperation with *new School – Globe Café* (*Novou školou, o.p.s. – Kavárna Globe*),
- Specialist seminar on the theme of *Roma Assistants in Schools*, prepared for university students; this was also a national meeting of Roma teaching assistants held by *New School* in collaboration with the Social Work Department of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Humanities at Charles University,
- Preview of an exhibition of glass images by Rudolf Dzurko – *Oliva Gallery*,
- Preview of the exhibition *Roma Costumes, Puppets and Portraits* – Polish institute in Prague,
- Roma Craftswomen – *Romen Shop*,
- Day of Hungarian Roma – *Hungarian Cultural Centre*,
- Gypsy jazz concert, featuring *Shine* from France and *Basily* from the Netherlands – *Jazz Club Reduta*,
- Concert of traditional Roma music (groups from India, Finland, Austria, Bulgaria and Ukraine) – *Klub Roxy*,
- Gala concert of traditional Roma music – *Great Hall, Lucerna*,

As in previous years, Khamoro 2005 kindled public interest in the musical tradition of the Roma and in Roma culture in its broader international context. The festival was visited by approximately 8,000 people.

The Ministry of Culture ran checks on the drawdown and use of national budget funds made available as grants for Khamoro 2005. The checks showed that the grant beneficiaries proceeded in accordance with the Ministry’s decision in the drawdown and use of funds. The total costs of holding the festival in 2005 came to CZK 5,894,000. The following costs were covered from the national budget grant:

<i>purpose</i>	<i>total expenditure (TCZK)</i>	<i>covered by the grant (TCZK)</i>	<i>purpose</i>
material costs	160	27	stationery
non-material costs	3 952	1 138	special equipment, lighting, the screening of visual materials, etc.
		of which: 138	
		286	Travel expenses
		489	Accommodation
		177	the publication of documents, proceedings of the seminar
		48	a parade by the participants

production - manpower costs (including statutory contributions)	1 782	585	wages, project manager, project coordinator, seminar coordinator, etc.
		of which: 200	
		385	production, other personnel costs, work agreements, lecturers (seminar), moderators, interpreting, auxiliary work, graphic design
Total	5 894	1 750	

- House of National Minorities in Prague

In accordance with point III/1 of Government Resolution No 663 of 30 June 2004 on the Report on the Situation of National Minorities, an item of CZK 20,000,000 for the reconstruction of premises with a view to establishing a House of National Minorities in Prague was incorporated into the 2005 National Budget Bill (budget heading: Public Treasury Administration) as a capital grant earmarked for the City of Prague (Programme 398090). However, construction work did not begin in 2005 in line with the building reconstruction project schedule owing to the ongoing judicial proceedings to determine ownership of the building. In December 2004, the plaintiff (Czech Electrical Union [*Elektrotechnický svaz český*]), after the judgment passed in the matter was not in its favour, appealed against the judgment of the Praha 2 District Court, and therefore the judicial proceedings continued in 2005 at the Municipal Court in Prague. This court also ruled against the plaintiff and the judgment (39 Co 46/2005-87) confirming the City of Prague as the owner of the building at Vocelova ul. 602/3, Praha 2, entered into force on 24 October 2005. In this situation, it was no longer to feasible to draw on the earmarked funds of CZK 20,000,000 at the end of 2005, or to make arrangements for construction work so that the funds from the national budget could be used in full for their set purpose. Therefore, on 15 November 2005, representatives of the City of Prague (Municipal Investor Department) and the Council Secretariat held talks with representatives of the Territorial Budget Financing Department of the Ministry of Finance. The proposed solution was to prepare an updated draft of the documentation on the establishment of a House of National Minorities in Prague for a Government meeting, under which the Government would express consent to the release of CZK 20,000,000 in funding for this purpose from the Government budget reserve in 2006.

The Council discussed the draft documentation on assistance for the establishment of the House at its meeting on 6 December 2005. It recommended that, after the incorporation of the comments and suggestions raised at the meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Justice and President of the Council (all one person) distribute the prepared document for abridged interdepartmental comment procedure and, after the evaluation, that he present the material at a Government meeting.⁸⁾

- Humanitarian gesture – Government declaration to active opponents of Nazism

Based on an initiative submitted by the civic association *Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia* [*Shromáždění Němců v Čechách, na Moravě a ve Slezsku*] and the *Association of Citizens of Croatian Nationality in the Czech Republic* [*Sdružení občanů*]

⁸⁾ The documentation was distributed for restricted interdepartmental comment procedure by means of a letter of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs and Council President on 22 December 2005; the deadline for the delivery of standpoints and opinions was 10 January 2006. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Justice and Council President subsequently presented the documentation at a Government meeting. Under Government Resolution No 92 of 25 January 2006 on support for the establishment of a House of National Minorities in Prague, the Government approved the release of CZK 20,000,000 in funding in 2006 from Budget Heating 398 (Public Treasury Administration, Item: Government contingency) for the reconstruction of premises in preparation for the establishment of a House of National Minorities in Prague, which will be used as a capital grant earmarked for the City of Prague.

chorvatské národnosti v České republice] to the constitutional authorities of the Czech Republic in 2002, the Government adopted Resolution No 822 of 6 August 2003 on the 2002 Report, under point III/4 of which it enjoined the Deputy Prime Minister for Research and Development, Human Rights and Human Resources to prepare, in collaboration with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Justice, the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, the Minister for Education, Youth and Sports, and the Minister Responsible for Legislation, a proposal, for submission to the Government by 31 October 2003, on how to tackle the problems of members of national minorities who suffered personal loss as a result of measures implemented after the Second World War against the 'hostile population' on the territory of what is now the Czech Republic. As this humanitarian gesture became a political issue, the deadline for the submission of the draft documentation to the Government meeting was repeatedly extended. The most recent deadline was 31 December 2005.

In accordance with the Government Resolution, this task was handled by an interdepartmental working party. The draft document *Humanitarian Gesture to Active Opponents of Nazism and to Members of National Minorities in the Czech Republic who Suffered Individual Detriment in Consequence of Measures Adopted after the Second World War against 'Enemy Inhabitants' on the Territory of the Contemporary Czech Republic* was drawn up by the Council Secretariat in cooperation with representatives of the Central European States Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Czech-German Fund for the Future. The prepared draft document envisaged a target group of persons who, as active opponents of the National Socialist regime, demonstrated loyalty to the Czechoslovak Republic by actively participating in the struggle for the country's freedom or suffered under Nazi and fascist terror but then, as soon as the Second World War was over, were deprived of their Czechoslovak citizenship and were treated as enemy inhabitants. This target group included a sub-group of members of national minorities, i.e. people of German, Croatian, Hungarian and other nationality. It was proposed that direct victims be granted a lump-sum financial benefit; this is why the humanitarian gesture was meant to be carried out by the Czech-German Fund for the Future as an entity with good experience of similar projects.

In the reporting period, neither of the Prime Ministers (Vladimír Špidla and Stanislav Gross) discussed this gesture, and therefore the current Prime Minister, Jiří Paroubek, came up with a conceptually fresh solution. In the *Declaration of the Government of the Czech Republic vis-à-vis active opponents of Nazism who, after the Second World War, suffered in consequence of measures applied in Czechoslovakia against 'enemy inhabitants' and on the support of a project to document the fate of these persons*, approved under Resolution No 1081 of 24 August 2005, the Government expressed its profound acknowledgement and regret that certain persons did not receive the recognition they deserved at the end of the Second World War. The Government also apologized to all active opponents of Nazism who suffered in this manner, irrespective of their subsequent nationality and place of residence. In this respect, the Government approved the procedure and rules for the implementation of a project to document the fates of these persons and earmarked a financial contribution of CZK 30,000,000 for this purpose.

3. Activities of public administration authorities in relation to national minorities

3.1. Bodies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

- Sub-Committee for National Minorities of the Committee on Petitions of the Chamber of Deputies

The Sub-Committee for National Minorities of the Committee on Petitions of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as ‘Sub-Committee’) communicated with the representatives of national minorities with regard to topical issues concerning their status as follows:

On 27 May 2005, a seminar was held at the Chamber of Deputies (in cooperation with the Council Secretariat) on the theme of *Current affairs concerning the status of national minorities in the Czech Republic*. The seminar was managed by Václav Votava, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, who introduced the event by delivering a paper on ‘Rights of national minorities in the legislative environment of the Czech Republic’. This was followed up by Andrej Sulitka, the head of the Council Secretariat, who provided information about the competence of the Council and the activities of its secretariat. A key item on the agenda of the seminar was a presentation by the representatives of national minorities – Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, and Ukrainian. In this respect, it is worth singling out the speech by Richard Šulko, the representative of the German national minority, who spoke about the expectations of the German minority that the Czech Government would make a humanitarian gesture to members of the German minority who suffered personal detriment in consequence of measures applied after the Second World War, i.e. citizens who had done nothing to harm Czechoslovak interests. Another speech which attracted considerable attention was that of Alexej N. Kelin, the representative of the Russian national minority, who highlighted the problems faced by Russian migrants in the Czech Republic who had managed to ‘organize a residence permit’ often in a corrupt environment. The representative of the Ministry of the Interior, Václav Henych, the Deputy Minister and a Council member, responded to this speech by asking for more details of specific cases, and promised to investigate suspicions of errors within the Ministry of the Interior.

On 12 May 2005, the Sub-Committee for National Minorities held a discussion on the Government Bill on equal treatment and on the legal resources for protection against discrimination (the Antidiscrimination Act), which was also attended by representatives of the Human Rights Department of the Office of the Government. This meeting discussed the concept behind the bill; the authors justified the need to adopt a separate antidiscrimination legal regulation, accompanied by an act amending certain laws in connection with the adoption of the Antidiscrimination Act.⁹⁾

In 2005, the Sub-Committee also discussed the Report on the Situation of National Minorities for 2004, the issue of setting up committees for national minorities at the level of municipalities and regions (it also requested that the Minister of the Interior supply it with an overview of committees or other bodies for national minorities at the level of regional self-

⁹⁾ As Parliamentary Press No 866, the bill was approved by the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic at its 51st session held on 7 December 2005 (Resolution No 2028). The bill was also discussed by the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, and was rejected, as Senate Press No 201, at the Senate session held on 26 January 2006 (Resolution No 306). The bill rejected by the Senate was placed by the Chamber of Deputies on the agenda of its 54th session. The Chamber of Deputies adjourned the discussion of the bill on 15 March 2006. The bill was then placed on the agenda of the 55th session of the Chamber of Deputies as of 18 April 2006, but was not discussed by the time of the parliamentary elections in June 2006.

government), and the situation of Roma communities and the handling of the memorial at Lety, near Písek.

- Senate Committee for Education, Science, Culture, Human Rights and Petitions

The Committee discussed the Government draft of the ‘Final Recommendations of the UN Committee for the Prevention of Torture – supervisory body of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment’, as well as a Government proposal presented to the Parliament of the Czech Republic for its approval of the ratification of Protocol No 14 to the Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; it also assumed the patronage of the presentation of the project *Love, Probably [Asi-milovaní]– the Co-Existence of Nationalities in the Czech Republic*.

Under Resolution No 49 of 20 April 2005, the Committee set up a Sub-Committee for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education. At a public hearing held on 23 November 2005, the Sub-Committee discussed a petition from the Association of Advocates of Children’s Rights concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The petition recommends that the Parliament of the Czech Republic take into account, in its legislative activity, the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

3.2. Measures of ministries in relation to national minorities

3.2.1. Ministry of the Interior

The only legislative measure in the coordination of the Ministry concerning the rights of members of national minorities in 2005 was the application of a proposed amendment to a Government bill amending Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (the Municipal Order), as amended, Act No 129/2000 on regions (the Regional Order), as amended, Act No 131/2000 on the City of Prague, as amended, Act No 182/1993 on the Constitutional Court, as amended, and Act No 22/2004 on local referendums and amending certain laws (the ‘Supervisory Amendment’).

The Government Bill of the Supervisory Amendment was presented to the Chamber of Deputies on 15 May 2005. As part of the discussion of the amendment (Parliamentary Press No 987), on 9 November 2005 an amendment proposal was made, via the Committee for Public Administration, Regional Development and the Environment of the Chamber of Deputies, concerning Section 29(2) of Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (the Municipal Order), as amended, which reflects a request from representatives of the Polish minority for the cancellation of the requirement to present a petition (see above – Part 2 Tasks stemming from Government resolutions). The bill – inter alia in the wording of this amendment proposal, which was subsequently changed by the Senate – was approved by the Chamber of Deputies on 25 April 2006 the law was signed by the President of the Republic on 11 May 2006.¹⁰⁾

Legislation on the use of minority languages in administrative proceedings is addressed by Act No 500/2004, the Rules of Administrative Procedure, which entered into effect as of 1 January 2006. In Section 16(4), this Act stipulates that citizens of the Czech Republic belonging to a national minority which has resided traditionally and long term in the Czech Republic are entitled to make submissions to an administrative authority and to hold talks with an administrative authority in the language of their national minority.¹¹⁾ If an

¹⁰⁾ See Note 6 above.

¹¹⁾ In this respect, the issue of the legal definition of a member of a national minority was discussed within the advisory body of the Minister of the Interior on the Rules of Administrative Procedure in 2005, i.e. the discussion covered the possibility of an assessment by the public authority whether a person is a member of a

administrative body does not have an official proficient in the language of a national minority, the citizen is responsible for hiring an interpreter registered in the list of interpreters, and the cost of interpreting or translation is covered by the administrative authority in this case; the provisions of Section 25(4) lay down that if a public decree concerns the affairs and rights of members of national minorities and if a committee for national minorities or another body for the affairs of national minorities has been set up in the administrative district of the administrative authority, the administrative authority is also required to publish the public decree in the language of the relevant national minority; finally, Section 164(4) stipulates that if the administrative authority requires a translation of a public-law contract drawn up in the language of a member of a national minority that concerns the matters of national minorities, the administrative authority is responsible for covering the cost of the translation.

With regard to safeguarding the rights of national minorities, before the reporting period several government resolutions had been adopted; specifically, under Government Resolution No 243 of 12 March 2003 the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, in collaboration with the Deputy Prime Minister for Research and Development, Human Rights and Human Resources, was enjoined to ensure the constant monitoring of the fulfilment of tasks connected with Roma integration by regions and municipalities (Section 6(7) and (8) of Act No 273/2001 on the rights of members of national minorities and amending certain laws). As part of the implementation of this task, in 2005 visits to regional authorities were organized with a view to monitoring the situation in municipalities with extended competence, and other municipalities within the region (monitoring the creation of national minority committees of municipal assemblies, whether a Roma adviser has been appointed at municipal authorities, what the current problems are in relation to Roma integration, etc.).

On 20 December 2004, the Ministry of the Interior received Resolution No 4 of the Sub-Committee for National Minorities of the Committee on Petitions of the Chamber of Deputies. In point II of this resolution, the Ministry of the Interior is asked to conduct an audit, in cooperation with the regional authorities, of the establishment of committees for national minorities and measures for the implementation of Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000, as amended, Section 78(2) of Act No 129/2000, as amended, and Section 78(1) of Act No 131/2000, as amended. The following findings arise from the documentation delivered to the Ministry by the regional authorities and Prague City Hall: there was no statutory obligation for any region or for the City of Prague to set up a committee for national minorities; however, Karlovarsko, Moravskoslezsko and Ústecko opted to establish this committee. In the Karlovarsko Region, the Pardubicko Region and the Ústecko Region, committees for national minorities were established at the level of certain municipalities. At the City of Prague, a City of Prague Council Commission was set up. The position of Roma

national minority or not. It was stated that, in the procedure of public authorities, it is necessary to take account of the definition of the term *national minority* and *member of national minorities* as per Act No 273/2001 on the rights of members of national minorities and amending certain laws, as amended. Another source that can be used in this matter is the Statutes of the Government Council for National Minorities, which are approved in the form of a Government Resolution (current text – see Government Resolution No 746 of 15 June 2005). The members of this Council include, among others, representatives of the following national minorities: Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, and Ukrainian. At the same time, we can draw on the explanatory memorandum to Act No 273/2001, which states that members of the Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Austrian, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak and Ukrainian minorities have traditionally and long-term lived on the territory of the Czech Republic.

For the requirements of practical implementation, the interpretation of the terms *national minority* and *member of a national minority* will be discussed by the Council and its body, the Committee for Cooperation with Local Government Authorities in accordance with the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which is due to enter into force for the Czech Republic in 2007.

adviser coordinators was set up in all regions and in the City of Prague. The situation in self-governing units is described in more detail in Chapter 5.

Under Resolution No 1573 of 7 December 2005 on the implementation plan for the fulfilment of the Concept of Roma Integration in 2006-2009, the Government decreed that the agenda of methodological assistance for regional Roma coordinators and advisers in the integration of members of the Roma community into society is in the competence of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. This Resolution inter alia set the following tasks:

- as part of supervision, assess the legitimacy of the conditions of access to municipal housing stock of the Ministry of the Interior within the scope of subsequent supervision in accordance with Section 123 and, subsequently, Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (the Municipal Order), as amended, consistently assess the lawfulness of generally binding decrees and other measures of municipalities regulating access to the municipal housing stock;
- draw up a concept and system of low-cost housing, including legal provisions and investment support; the Ministry of the Interior is prepared, in accordance with the needs and requirements of the coordinator (the Ministry of Regional Development) to contribute to the creation of low-cost housing legislation, especially as the coordinator of physical amendments to the Municipalities Act.

Further to Government Resolution No 607 of 16 June 2004 on information on the fulfilment of Government resolutions concerning the integration of Roma communities and an active approach by State administration in the implementation of measures adopted under these resolutions as at 31 December 2003, and on a proposal for a third update of the Roma integration policy, as at 31 December 2005 the Minister of the Interior presented the Government with a *Strategy for the Work of the Police Force of the Czech Republic in Relation to Minorities for the 2006-2007 period*. The Government took due note of this document in Resolution No 49 of 11 January 2006.

The aim of the *Strategy* is to hone the work of police officers as they seek to improve the quality of their approach to minorities and enhance effective relations with them. The *Strategy* is based on the need for an equal approach to, and respect for, minority differences, but does not mean unlawful conduct will be tolerated. Equal treatment assumes an understanding of differences in cultural values, based on which a member of a minority cannot be convicted, restricted or generally discriminated against if this member of a minority does not break the law. The *Strategy* concentrates in particular on the training of police officers, the consistent application of antidiscrimination procedures in police work, and crime prevention in minority communities, and places a great emphasis on cooperation between the Czech Police Force, regional government and the nongovernmental sector.

In 2003 and 2004, when preceding documents were approved (i.e. the *National Strategy for the Work of the Police Force of the Czech Republic in Relation to National and Ethnic Minorities* and the *Report on the progress and interim results of implementing the National Strategy for the work of the Czech Police Force in relation to national minorities and ethnic minorities*) the Czech Police Force examined new mechanisms of police work with minorities in several pilot localities and, as of 31 January 2005, implemented them on a systemic basis. The position of liaison officers for minorities was set up in all regions, the mechanism of Czech Police assistance has been expanded. The liaison officer is a police officer specializing in minority issues who acts as an intermediary facilitating contact and communication between minorities and the Czech Police Force. He also helps to handle conflicts and serious infractions and offers members of minorities assistance in tackling specific problems.

The work of liaison officers for minorities can be complemented by police assistants in localities where there are higher proportions of minorities. Police assistance is a field service which facilitates contact and communication with the police for inhabitants in socially

excluded localities, where minorities tend to live. The clients of Czech Police Force assistants are mainly victims and witnesses of latent crime (usury, procurement, drug distribution, trafficking in human beings, youth crime, etc.). In addition to helping their clients, police assistants also provide aid to police officers. Through their knowledge of the local environment and the people living there, assistants help police navigate their way round a specific setting better and faster. It became clear during the implementation of projects that the use of assistance services is justified in police work, as it is an effective tool that the Czech Police Force can use to eliminate crime in problem areas. At present, police assistants are used by three district headquarters of the Czech Police Force: Ostrava, Cheb and Ústí nad Labem; projects are being prepared in other localities (Prague, Brno, Most). Police assistants are employed by the local government authority or a nongovernmental organization, and the project is therefore based on partnership and close cooperation between the Czech Police Force and other entities.

Besides police assistance in minority communities, the police carry out other projects aimed at preventing crime among members of minorities (e.g. the project *Shared World* by the Moravskoslezsko Regional Authority and the *Bridge Building* project in Strakonice).

In addition to these practical measures, the Czech Police Force also focuses on training police officers in how to work with minorities; both new recruits and officers in active service receive training. Special courses are held in regions where minorities make up a larger portion of the population. The priority for the next two years will be the training of police management. The Ministry and the Czech Police Force are also preparing for the more intensive recruitment of members of minorities to the Czech Police Force; they are funding research to map out crime that affects minority communities, and are striving to maintain quality cooperation with the nongovernmental sector. The Ministry and the police force are planning to develop relations previously established with organizations specializing in the integration of minorities into society; these plans include joint projects and partial activities.

Since 1 September 2005, new basic vocational training is being provided in a pilot project at secondary police schools of the Ministry of the Interior in Prague, Jihlava, Brno and Holešov. Elements from the *Strategy* have been transformed into training programme content and are interlinked with the whole curriculum. In particular employment and model situations, specific methods of communication and conduct are trained, inter alia directly with the members of national and ethnic minorities. In addition, all police training centres run a course called *Multicultural Studies – Extremism-Racism*; officers from the individual services within the Czech Police Force are gradually passing through this training. The instructors at police training centres and the teachers at secondary police schools have the chance to use the manual *The Police Officer in a Multicultural Environment*, published by the Ministry of the Interior in 2005, as part of the teaching process.

In 2005, the project *Preparation for citizens from national minorities ready for acceptance as officers of the Police Force of the Czech Republic* was evaluated. The first course was launched in 2000 and the last (the ninth) was run in 2004. The tenth course planned for 2005 did not take place because of the lack of candidates from the ranks of the Czech Republic's national minorities. In the first nine preparatory courses, 107 candidates enrolled; 30 completed the course successfully and met the conditions of the selection procedure, and 27 were recruited as officers of the Czech Police Force. Most graduates recruited as officers came from the Severomoravsko Region.

In the non-legislative sphere of protection against racial discrimination, the Ministry of the Interior paid increased attention in 2005 to the implementation of preventive programmes at local level (municipality, region). The fundamental conceptual document of the State's crime prevention policy is the 'Crime prevention strategy 2004-2007' (the 'Strategy'), which was

passed by the Czech Government under Resolution No 393 of 28 April 2004. The specific aid system is secured under the *Programme of crime prevention in the local community – Partnership* (the ‘Partnership Programme’).

The *Partnership Programme* is a non-repressive method that has made it possible, since 1996, to foster a systematic approach to improved inter-ethnic relations, to overcome prejudices, to limit xenophobia, to increase tolerance and patience on the part of the majority, and to ensure emancipation, training, and inclusion in society for the Roma minority. The aim is to eliminate or diminish the social exclusion of Roma communities, as such exclusion results in the increased risk of racist or extremist views and moods. The projects focus primarily on children and young people, whose system of values and habits is the most open to positive change.

The priority of the Partnership Programme is the Roma national minority, which in terms of security has proven to be at the highest risk in the long term. The programme attempts to reduce the social handicaps of Roma and to support their full integration. The general goals of the Partnership Programme are to minimize the risks and consequences associated with crime, to increase the feeling of safety among the public and to reinforce confidence in the police and public administration institutions. Towns with the highest crime rate and with a concentration of other socially pathological phenomena (unemployment, poverty, extremist manifestations, socially excluded Roma communities) are placed in the Partnership Programme.

In 2005, funding of CZK 390,000 was provided for seven projects related to the Roma community in six municipalities. These funds are released from the Public Treasury Administration budget heading (i.e. not from the budget of the Ministry of the Interior) in accordance with Government resolutions. Conditions for the support of a project are co-financing from the municipality and the active participation of Roma in the implementation of projects.

Within the Ministry, there is a Working Party of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Roma Community Affairs for National Affairs and the Police Force of the Czech Republic. The chairman of this working party is the First Deputy Minister, and members are experts from the Ministry and the Czech Police Force, representatives of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs, the office of this Commission and, in particular, the Roma coordinators of regional authorities. This is the only official working party that draws together the Roma coordinators of regional authorities.

At the beginning of 2004, the working party drew up a plan of activities for 2004-2005 which contained the following themes: Roma migration, the work of the Czech Police Force in relation to national and ethnic minorities, discrimination and racism, specific problems of the Roma community (usury, social exclusion, drugs, the role of local public administration, the activities of Roma coordinators from regional authorities, the work of Roma advisers at the level of municipalities with extended competent, conceptual measures).

In 2005, the working party focused on racially motivated crimes where the victims are Roma, and on improving the quality of the Czech Police Force’s operations in this field by tightening the selection and vocational training of future and current police officers, the possibilities for Roma to work for the municipal police, a crime prevention system at local level and the *National Strategy for the Work of the Czech Police Force in Relation to National and Ethnic Minorities*.

The Czech Police Force cooperates with the organizations of members of national minorities at the level of regional administrations and district headquarters. In Prague, police officers cooperated on a project of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs called *Support of Field Social Work*, cooperated with the People in Need association on a project of

'police assistants' in the City of Prague, developed cooperation in the *Equal* project with the nongovernmental organizations *Romea* and *Slovo 21*, and cooperated with Roma and non-Roma civic associations, in particular *Romodrom*, *Dženo*, *R-Bridges*, *International Union of Bulgarians in Central Europe*, *Artek*, *Palaestra Box Praha*, *Socioklub* and *Romano Dives*. The liaison officer is a member of the Advisory Body of Roma Advisers of the Prague City Hall.

In Central Bohemia, police officers drew up a project called *Proximitas*, which counts on the creation of a position similar to that of the liaison officer and working parties at the level of district police headquarters.

In Southern Bohemia, police officers drew up the *Bridge Building* project, which focuses on pupils from the sixth to ninth grades of the Special-needs school in Strakonice; approximately 85% of the school's pupils are from Roma families. The police force's aim here is to regulate the problematic behaviour of pupils through regular monothematic seminars with pupils from higher grades, to promote the work done by the Czech Police Force and to set up an anonymous 'police advice centre' for children and parents. Although the project did not receive any funding, work started on implementing it.

In West Bohemia, police officers found that the self-government authorities in individual municipalities in the Sokolov area were not interested in actively tackling security and safety problems by setting up the position of 'police assistants'. Only Kraslice Municipal Authority expressed an interest in the experience of Roma assistants in Cheb. The liaison officer, together with police officers from the *Eger* team, attended an ROS conference aimed at launching the process of unifying Roma organizations in the Karlovarsko Region. The *General Project of Field Social Work*, covering the whole of the Karlovarsko Region, was presented at this conference. The General Project supervisory board called on the liaison officer to continue helping with the integration of the Roma community into society. Police officers also organized a *Days of the Czech Police Force* to demonstrate the operations of the different police services at summer children's camps held by Roma organizations, and lectures at a weekend stay called 'Chances to prevent socio-pathological phenomena' (for children from socially excluded localities).

In the Severočesko Region, working parties of police officers were set up to handle the prevention, detection and solving of crimes within the scope of ethnic groups in Most and Ústí nad Labem faced with elementary isolation. The working party in Ústí nad Labem, for example, has two Roma assistants, one of whom is from the *Romano Jasnica* civic association. In Teplice, a police officer was delegated to handle the issues of national minorities at the district police headquarters; during the year she qualified as a commissioner for minority issues. In Most, police officers contribute to preventive activities and teaching activities of the community centres of nongovernmental organizations (*Chánov House of Roma Culture [Dům romské kultury Chánov, o.p.s.]*, Multipurpose Centre, *Chánov Community Centre [Komunitní centrum Chánov, o.s.]*, the civic association *Lačodrom Bečov*, the civic association *Co-existence [Společné soužití]*) and participate in events held by the local government (it is worth highlighting the good cooperation with Most City Hall in the newly opened club of national minorities).

In East Bohemia, police officers held lectures at a Roma camp in Pec pod Sněžkou on the theme of Ethnic Minorities and Drugs. Police officers also instigated the organization of roundtables, where workers from state administration and nongovernmental organizations can meet. One roundtable took place at the City Hall in Pardubice. Another roundtable was held in South Moravia in 2005. Police officers launched cooperation with the associations *DROM*, *IQ Roma servis*, *Association of Roma in Moravia [Společenství Romů na Moravě]*, and *Teen challenge*. This was not unilateral cooperation, e.g. a Roma lector from *DROM* held lectures for police officers from the Brno municipal headquarters.

Police officers from North Moravia implemented a project called *Shared World* and prepared the follow-up project *Shared World II*. This project includes the training of police officers in communication skills in their work with minorities and foreigners, the publication of the Czech Police Force's information bulletin for national and ethnic minorities, called *Občasník [Occasional Periodical]*, joint seminars with other institutions involved in problems connected with the lives of minorities, the participation of police officers as leaders at summer camps for children from socially weak families. Positive results are palpable primarily in Ostrava, Karviná, Nový Jičín and Bruntál. Active searches for partners for mutual cooperation resulted in exemplary cooperation with the civic association *Mutual Co-existence [Vzájemné soužití]* and *Jekhetane* from Ostrava, *Neighbours' Dialogue [Dialog sousedů]* from Bohumín, and *Association of Roma in Moravia*, from Karviná. Cooperation with nongovernmental organizations in Ostrava can be rated as better than average. Contacts in minority and socially excluded communities were established primarily through Roma field workers and Roma coordinators. However, the position of Roma coordinator is not a standard part of the administration of many municipalities, as has previously been suggested.

The operations of liaison officers to date indicate that there is disagreement between the various Roma and nongovernmental organizations on whether to tackle problems with the Roma minority from the ethnic or social aspect. Also, the representatives of the Roma minority do not always reach a consensus on whether non-Roma organizations and movements can contribute to individual projects. In contrast, police officers agree that the best cooperation is with civic associations where Roma and representatives of majority society can work side by side. Associations formed as purely Roma organizations are usually unstable and represent only a small part of the Roma population in the given location (often only one family).

However, cases have been recorded where attempts by the police to establish contact with representatives of minority associations with a view to securing above-standard cooperation have met without response. For example, establishing contact with the Vietnamese community is very difficult, not just because of the language barrier, but also because of the lack of interest in being in contact with the police and state administration, unless motivation is provided in the form of business assistance and the resultant profit. Cooperation is also complicated by the absence of any authority in local communities, i.e. spokespersons to speak on behalf of the minority. Cooperation with the representatives of Roma communities, notably the group of Olash Roma, is also difficult. There are also some Roma who do not claim Roma nationality. This makes it difficult to set up a Roma community centre.

The community of Olash Roma officially falls under the *Union of Olash Roma of the Czech Republic* in external relations. Although the police force has established personal contact with the leadership of this community, all attempts to implement preventive programmes to help eliminate negative phenomena have failed with this community. Some community members openly express strong racist tendencies not only towards other Roma, but also to the representatives of majority society.

The Czech Police Force draws on funding for its projects involving work with minorities mainly from the funds of the Ministry of the Interior. However, police officers are also involved in the projects of municipalities and nongovernmental organizations which receive grants from other sources.

3.2.2. Ministry of Culture

In 2005, the Ministry did not draw up any draft legislation on the rights of national minorities. However, it is worth highlighting the indirect link to national minorities that can be found in Act No 483/2004 amending Act No 122/2000 on the protection of collections of a museum nature and amending certain other laws, as amended by Act No 186/2004. This legislation

ensures equal access to knowledge and use of movable cultural heritage. Although it does not explicitly define the cultural heritage of national minorities, it does not restrict national minorities in the development of their cultural activities either.

In the field of libraries, a significant document by the Ministry is the *Concept for the Development of Libraries in the Czech Republic 2004-2010*, adopted under Government Resolution No 679 of 7 July 2004. The rights of members of national minorities are affected by point 13, which focuses on improving the accessibility of libraries and their services, removing barriers to their use, expanding library services for the disabled and national minorities, the employed and other disadvantaged social groups.

3.2.3. Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Act No 561/2004 on preschool, primary, secondary, further vocational, and other education (the Schools Act) entered into effect as at 1 January 2005. Section 14 of the Act stipulates that national minority education is guaranteed on fulfilment of legal conditions in those municipalities where, in keeping with Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (the Municipal Order), a Committee for National Minorities has been set up (i.e. in municipalities where, in the last census, at least 10% of the population claimed membership of a national minority). This solution complies with the wording of Article 14 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which stipulates that ‘In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language, whereby this education shall not be to the detriment of the teaching of or in the official language.’ Section 14 of the Schools Act lays down the minimum numbers of children and pupils in schools and classes of national minorities; these numbers are much lower than the conditions set for the majority population. The Act also provides the opportunity for a head teacher, with the consent of the founder and in order to promote the interests of members of national minorities, to include subjects, or parts thereof, in the school’s curriculum where instruction can be given bilingually, i.e. also in the language of a national minority. The Act also provides for report cards, certificates of apprenticeship, and leaving-school diplomas to be issued in two languages (i.e. in Czech and in the language of a national minority) in schools where the language of a national minority is used for instruction. The passage on school-leaving examinations takes account of features specific to education in the language of a national minority. Municipalities, associations of municipalities, or regions, subject to permission from the regional authority, may open preparatory classes of primary school for children in the final year before the start of compulsory full-time schooling who are socially disadvantaged and where it is expected that their placement in a preparatory class will level out their development. Another new element in primary education is the introduction of verbal evaluations in subjects of a formative specialization and a new system for the transfer of pupils to higher years, whereby pupils may repeat a year only once in each of the two levels of the primary school.

Further to the adoption of the Schools Act, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports published Decree No 48/2005 on primary education and particulars concerning the fulfilment of compulsory full-time schooling. Section 7(6) provides that preparatory class teachers must draw up a report at the end of the second half of the school year detailing the progress made in the preschool preparation of each child in the school year. In addition, the report should contain comments on the extent to which the main educational objectives in the structure defined by the Framework Curriculum for Pre-Primary Education have been fulfilled. The

report should also detail the characteristics of special educational needs, comment on the expected skills, talents and interests of the child, and make recommendations for the preparation of an individual educational plan for the child's education in the upcoming period, or other recommendations concerning the child's education. At the end of the second half of the school year, the school presents the report to the child's legal guardian and the school where the child is to attend compulsory full-time schooling, unless this is the same school in which the child attended the preparatory class. The report becomes part of the school's documentation.

In 2005, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports issued Directive No 33 377/2004-45 laying down binding principles according to which regional authorities itemize national budget funding allocated in accordance with Section 161(6)(b) of the Schools Act, and according to which the municipal authorities of municipalities with extended competence make draft itemizations of national budget funding. This directive enables the regional authority to increase the budget of a legal person by a certain amount from contingency funds. The Schools Act also makes it possible to provide national budget funding for schools' activities outside the system of standards, i.e. in accordance with Section 163(1), under which trial monitoring and development programmes in the field of education are financed.

Based on authorization under Act No 563/2004 on teaching staff and amending certain laws, which regulates the requirements for the performance of the activities of teaching staff, their further training, and their career system, the Ministry published Decree No 317/2005 on the further training of teaching staff, the accreditation commission and the career system of teaching staff. The scope of direct teaching, direct upbringing, direct special-needs teaching and direct counselling activities of teaching staff is laid down in Governmental Order No 75/2005 of 26 January 2005 laying down the scope of direct teaching, direct upbringing, direct special-needs teaching and direct counselling activities of teaching staff.

Within the scope of legislative modifications in the competence of the Ministry, Act No 383/2005 amending Act No 109/2002 on institutional care or protective care in educational establishments and on preventive care in educational establishments and amending other laws, as amended, and related laws entered into effect on 1 December 2005.

Further to the Schools Act, in 2005 the Ministry approved the programming document 'Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education' (the 'FEPPE').¹²⁾ The issues of national minorities and human rights are explicitly contained in the section *Humankind and Society*, focusing in the formation of positive civic attitudes and the reinforcement of desirable value orientation, and integrates knowledge and skills from various (especially humanity) fields.

As regards teacher training, in 2005 the Ministry contributed to the following activities:

- in August 2005, the *Summer School for Teachers of Civil Studies and Social Sciences* at the Teacher Training Faculty of Palacký University, Olomouc. The programme covered terrorism, violence and bullying, multicultural education (the theme of Islam, foreigners, and us – the Vietnamese, Ukrainians), the theme of the presidential election in the USA, the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a multicultural society;
- the seminars *How to Teach the Holocaust* (the Ministry accredited the Terežín Monument and the Resource and Cultural Centre of the Jewish Museum in Prague, which are unique educational establishments with exclusive authorization to organize seminars for the teachers of primary and secondary schools. The Ministry finances the

¹²⁾ The consolidated text of the document can be found at [http://www.msmt.cz/DOMEK/Default.asp?ARI=103073&CAI=2701&EXPS="RÁMCOVÝ*" AND "VZDĚLÁVAC*](http://www.msmt.cz/DOMEK/Default.asp?ARI=103073&CAI=2701&EXPS=).

seminars and makes financial contributions to the organization of international conferences. As at 30 December 2005, approximately 1,500 teachers had received training – after attending the seminar they are recognized as trained methodologists for teaching about the Holocaust at primary and secondary schools in the Czech Republic).

- the Educational and Psychological Counselling Institute organized a series of lectures on the theme of the Roma ethnic group and seminars on extremism.¹³⁾

A key ‘innovating’ element which affected contemporary teaching practices in relation to the Roma community came from the adoption of the new Schools Act which inter alia no longer anticipates the existence of special needs schools (*zvláštní školy*). This legislation removed the institution of special needs schools as a detrimental environment which did not guarantee Roma children an education corresponding to their ability. This institution evidently failed to compensate for the disadvantages of the socio-cultural environment from which most pupils of these schools came, and did little to prepare them for life (co-existence) with the majority population. The discontinuance of special needs schools can also be viewed as a political project, i.e. a requirement which, on fulfilment, would see only ordinary primary schools remain. The promotion of this plan was accompanied by maximum efforts to ensure fresh conditions for the integration of Roma children into the education system. However, such ‘radical’ integration efforts disconcerted some experts in this field and necessitated certain modifications, which were resolved by Decree of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports No 73/2005 on the education of children, pupils and students with special educational needs. As a result, the classification of ‘practical primary school’ (i.e. formally a special needs school), which is not recognized under the Schools Act, is on a par with the classification ‘special primary school’ (i.e. the former auxiliary school), which is a term applied in the Schools Act. The most fundamental factor in this respect is the higher standards applicable to these schools, which is partly reflected in the higher outlay incurred in the education of these children. The discussion on this part of the law gave rise to the following: ‘Children, pupils and students with special educational needs have the right to an education, the content, form and method of which shall correspond to the educational needs and capacity, to the creation of the necessary conditions that will facilitate this education, and to counselling from the school and an educational counselling establishment.’¹⁴⁾

3.2.4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

As in previous years, in 2005 the Minister for Foreign Affairs again provided information, in the scope of the task set under Government Resolution No 720 of 14 July 1999, to the Ministry representatives and the missions of the Czech Republic abroad concerning measures adopted in the Czech Republic to clamp down on racially, nationally or otherwise extremist motivated crimes and concerning attempts to eliminate all manifestations of racial discrimination in society. In these activities, the Ministry receives considerable assistance in the form of annual reports (especially Information on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic and the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic), which contain the above-mentioned information and which can be presented to foreign partners.

Although the Ministry does not run its own grant policy in support of national minorities, it does promote the activities of certain international organizations in the form of financial contributions every year. In 2005, however, for logistical reasons the Ministry did not provide

¹³⁾ A list of all training activities is published at www.ippp.cz.

¹⁴⁾ See, for example, Švancar, R. (2005): ‘Zezákladnění zvláštních škol’ [‘Making special needs schools into primary schools’], *Učitel'ské noviny*, No 35/2005.

its traditional contribution of EUR 10,000 to the *Contact Point for Roma and Sinti*, which is part of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), because the documentation for the transfer of this amount was not supplied by the ODIHR until after the closing date for the financial period. The Ministry plans to provide this contribution in 2006.

Every year, the Ministry cooperates with the civic association *Word 21 [Slovo 21]* in the organization of the international Roma festival Khamoro. It also sponsored the eighth annual football tournament for the Tomáš Holomek Trophy, held by the *Union of Vlachike Roma in Ostrava*.

- Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The Ministry is the collaborative coordinator of this Convention and therefore contributed to preparatory work on the document *Proposal for the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ETS 148)*, opened for signature by the Member States of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 5 November 1992 for a Government meeting, and on further steps in the ratification process.

- Discussion of periodic reports

Under Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and in accordance with the final recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerning the fifth periodic report on the fulfilment of obligations under the Convention, in the period from 1 June 2002 to 31 March 2005 the sixth and seventh periodic reports on the fulfilment of obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination were drawn up and submitted via the Permanent Mission in Geneva. No date for the discussion of the submitted report has been set yet.

- Council of Europe

Further to the second opinion of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities concerning the Czech Republic, and the reply of the Czech Government to this opinion in 2005, the Secretariat of the Council of Europe drew up a draft resolution of the Committee of Ministers on the implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities by the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic had until 4 January 2006 to send a statement on the text of the resolution. The Czech Republic's comments and suggestions, drawn up by the Ministry in cooperation with the Council, are being prepared ready for the final version of the text.¹⁵⁾

On 4 May 2005, the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights presented the Report on the situation of the Roma, Sinti and travellers in the field of human rights in Europe, in respect of which the Czech Republic had the opportunity to send comments and suggestions by 15 September 2005. Besides the Ministry, the Security Policy Department of the Ministry of the Interior and the Office of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs contributed to the preparation of this document. All comments and suggestions raised by the Czech Republic were duly considered by the Office of the Commission for Human Rights in the final version of the text.¹⁶⁾

- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The Ministry's representatives also provided information about diverse measures adopted in the Czech Republic to support the integration of the Roma community at the OCSE Tenth Human Dimension Implementation Meeting held in Warsaw on 19-30 September 2005. In an

¹⁵⁾ see point 1.1 of this Report.

¹⁶⁾ The report was presented at the 956th meeting of the Committee of Ministers' Delegates on 15 February 2006.

address by the US representative on Roma and Sinti problems, the Czech Republic was praised at this meeting for an exhibition of photographs about the concentration camp in Lety.

- European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia

The EUMC published a National Annual Report for 2005 which inter alia sums up developments in the process of integrating the Roma population in the Czech Republic.

3.2.5. Departmental forums for national minority issues

The support of key areas concerning the exercise of rights by members of national minorities is in the competence of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Therefore forums have been set up at both these departments for national minority affairs; their members are also representatives of national minorities. In 2005, the Council repeatedly discussed the nominations of representatives of national minorities to these forums. This concerns the *Advisory Body of the Deputy Minister for Culture on Issues of the Culture of National Minorities*, members of which are also members of the *Grant Selection Committee for Projects on the Dissemination and Receipt of Information in the Languages of National Minorities*. At the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the body in question is the Ministry's *Grant Selection Committee for projects in the Programme for the Support of Education in the Languages of National Minorities and Multicultural Upbringing* and the *Advisory Group for Issues of Education in the Languages of National Minorities*.

3.3. Office of the President of the Republic

The President of the Republic treats all citizens in the same manner and does not distinguish between national minorities and members of majority society. Although the Office of the President of the Republic does not have budget funds to promote the projects of national minorities, the President of the Republic and his Office pay attention to cooperation with representatives and organizations of members of national minorities.

The President of the Republic regularly meets the representatives of countries whose national minorities live in the Czech Republic, and the problems faced by these minorities are not left off the agenda. In February 2005, for example, the President of the Republic, received the Speaker of the *Verkhovna Rada ('Supreme Council') of Ukraine*, Mr Volodymyr Lytvyn, with whom he discussed, among other things, the wave of migration from Ukraine to the Czech Republic as Ukrainians try to find work.

During his domestic trips, the President of the Republic often touches on this theme in negotiations with the representatives of individual municipalities. During a visit to the Zlínsko Region in May 2005, the President of the Republic visited the *Halfway House* in Valašské Meziříčí, a project resulting from exemplary cooperation between the city and the Roma community, and met representatives of the local Roma community and regional Roma coordinators.

As in previous years, in 2005 the wife of the President of the Republic visited the Eighth Roma National Representative Ball in Lysá nad Labem. In September 2005, Ms Klausová opened an exhibition at Prague Castle called *Roma Rising. Romské obrození*, which was held under her aegis.

Employees of the Office of the President of the Republic regularly take part in ceremonies at the Roma monument in Lety, near Písek.

3.4. Ombudsman

During 2005, the ombudsman received more than 80 complaints about unauthorized sterilization of Roma women. As the ombudsman is not competent to handle complaints that private individuals make about healthcare facilities, he passed on the complaints to the Ministry of Health, whose activities the ombudsman could then inspect. The mandate of the advisory body established by the Ministry to investigate these cases was to examine not only whether the operations were carried out in accordance with the rules of medical science, i.e. *lege artis*, but also whether the legal conditions for the performance of the operations had been met. The ombudsman rounded off this investigation by criticizing the Ministry, or more specifically the advisory body, whose results the Ministry had approved for the ombudsman, for its inadequate investigation and for the incorrectness or complete absence of any conclusions from the facts that had come to light. A fundamental defect in the approach of the Ministry of Health was its emphasis and reliance on the formal aspect, which did not to encompass the broader context of the cases; this has consequences for the legal assessment of the quality of the acts in law (fully informed and free consent) of the sterilized persons. Previous attempts by state authorities to investigate this matter suffered from a similar deficiency. Therefore, within the scope of remediation measures, the ombudsman proposed certain legislative measures for the Ministry of Health concerning the preparation of the Health Care Act, methodological recommendations in the non-legislative field, and recommended considering the adoption of legislation that would facilitate compensation for the victims.

As regards complaints about housing, focused on rented accommodation in municipal flats, the situation did not change that much. The relationship between the private-law essence of the lease relationship, where the municipality is the owner of the flats, and the public-law aspect of these relations, where the municipality is obliged to cover the housing needs of its citizens, remains unresolved. The rules regulating this process continue to be considered non-reviewable by regional authorities in the spirit of the formalistic approach to Section 124 of Act No 128/2000, which mentions the review of resolutions, decisions and measures of the body of a municipality in autonomous competence by a regional authority but, within the meaning of Section 124(5), must not concern breaches of provisions of civil, commercial or labour law. Rules for the allocation of flats therefore become regulations of conduct which have no close link to legal provisions or legal notions in general. As a result, the whole issue remains within the confines of municipalities' right to self-government, entailing the right to the autonomous administration of municipalities' assets, and the central government is not permitted to intervene in this area. Therefore this field is still closed to any effective checks by state authorities, including the ombudsman.

In 2005, people continued to contact the ombudsman with initiatives for compensation. These initiatives are mainly connected with compensation under Act No 261/2001 on the provision of a lump-sum financial amount to participants in the national struggle for freedom, political prisoners and persons placed in military labour camps on racial or religious grounds and amending Act No 39/2000 on the provision of a lump-sum financial amount to members of Czechoslovak foreign armies and allied in the period from 1939 to 1945. Complainants seeking compensation for their concealment over the Second World War on racial grounds point to the fact that their applications have been rejected. The Czech Social Security Administration justifies the rejection by the fact that the applicants failed to prove, with any clarity, the period and conditions of their concealment. However, compensation applicants have no documentary proof to back up their application, as no such documentary evidence exists. Therefore they have to rely on the testimony of survivors, which can be difficult to obtain after sixty years, not to mention the fact that, because of the time that has passed, such testimony does not tend to be

precise enough in the details as strictly required by the administrative authority which decides on compensation. Considering the legal conditions that have been set, most of the applicants (seeking compensation for their concealment on racial grounds) are not compensated as they fail to meet the requirements of the law.

3.5. Government Council for National Minorities

The Council's activities, including its committees and working parties, are organized by the Council Secretariat, which is a department within the organizational structure of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. The Council Secretariat operates within the scope of the Section for Human Rights and Equal Opportunities of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Considering the cohesion of the issues covered by the Council and the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs, the Council Secretariat and the Office of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs work together closely, especially in the organization and monitoring of grant schemes.

In 2005, the Council's standing bodies – the grant policy committee and the committee for cooperation with local government authorities – were engaged in limited activity. In contrast, the Council's working party for national-minority television broadcasting was very active. This working party prepared documentation for a seminar of the Czech Television [ČT] Council on minority broadcasting and also formulated the basic conceptual definition of national-minority television broadcasting, a requirement placed on ČT.¹⁷⁾

o Council meetings

In 2005, four Council meetings were held.

- At the meeting held on 2 March 2005, the Council discussed preparations for the ratification of the Charter and discussed the grant schemes of the relevant ministries in relation to members of national minorities, specifically support for the cultural activities of members of national minorities, support for the dissemination and acceptance of information in the languages of national minorities, support for education in the languages of national minorities and multi-cultural studies, and support for the integration of members of Roma communities; it also discussed the reconstruction of the Council's committees and the grant forums of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.
- On 2 May 2005, the Council discussed the draft Report on the Situation of National Minorities for 2004 and the draft Annual Report on the Council's Activities for 2004 (it adopted resolutions on these documents and recommended that the President of the Council present them to a Government meeting), and discussed preparations for the draft of a specific binding indicator for the activities of national minorities in the national budget for 2006, in particular preparations for a seminar on the implementation of the Charter and preparations for the Czech Republic's Comments on the CoE Advisory Committee's Opinion on the Second Periodic Report on the fulfilment of the principles set out in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities concerning the Czech Republic.
- On 4 October 2005, the Council discussed the working version of the draft document on the ratification of the Charter, and discussed the grant procedures in programmes focusing on the

¹⁷⁾ The ČT Council seminar on minority broadcasting was held on 15 February 2006. It was attended by representatives of almost all the national minorities in the Council. The draft solution of national-minority television broadcasting was delivered on behalf of the working party by Tomáš Kraus.

activities of national minorities in 2005 and 2006, as well as suggestions for the planned seminar of the Czech Television Council on national-minority television broadcasting.

- On 6 December 2005, an overview was presented to the Council meeting detailing an evaluation of interdepartmental comment procedure concerning the draft document of the ratification of the Charter for the Government meeting; the meeting discussed a draft document for the Government meeting concerning the establishment of a House of National Minorities in Prague, an overview of the Council's non-legislative and legislative tasks for 2006, and conclusions from the expert committee of the Council of Europe DH-MIN.
- o Overview of materials presented for Government meetings
 - The audit conclusion reached by the Supreme Audit Office from Audit 03/01 Financial management of national budget funds expended on the support of national minorities – Government Resolution No 51 of 12 January 2005;
 - Governmental Order amending Governmental Order No 98/2002 laying down the conditions and method for the provision of grants from the national budget for the activities of members of national minorities – Government Resolution No 556 of 11 May 2005 (the document was presented by the Minister for Education, Youth and Sports);
 - Annual report on the activities of the Council for National Minorities of the Government of the Czech Republic for 2004 – this document was presented to the Government meeting for information purposes on 25 May 2005; the Government took due note of it;
 - Report on the Situation of National Minorities for 2004, the Government discussed the draft document on 15 June 2005 and adopted Resolution No 742; this resolution is also published in the Government Journal for Regional and Municipal Authorities of 20 September 2005;
 - Amendment to the Statutes of the Government Council for National Minorities the removal and appointment of new members; Government Resolution No 746 of 15 June 2005;
 - Comments of the Czech Republic on the second opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities regarding the fulfilment of the Czech Republic's obligations under this Convention - Government Resolution No 858 of 7 July 2005;
 - Proposal for the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ETS 148), opened for signature by the Member States of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 5 November 1992 – Government Resolution No 1574 of 7 December 2005.
- o Publishing activity of the Council Secretariat

The Council Secretariat organized regular presentations of the results of the Council's activities on the website of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.¹⁸⁾ In addition, the Council Secretariat issued the following publications in 2005:

- Issues related to the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Czech Republic. A collection of contributions from a seminar held in Prague on 7 June 2005. The following were prepared for publication: Martina Jirasová and Andrej Sulitka. Edited by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (ISBN 80-86734-53-6), 120 pp.

¹⁸⁾ The presentation of the activities of the Council can be found on the server of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic at: http://wtd.vlada.cz/pages/rvk_rnm.htm.

- *Zpráva o situaci národnostních menšin v České republice za rok 2004* [Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2004]. Edited by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (ISBN 80-86734-52-8). Prague, 2005, 165 pp. + appendices.¹⁹⁾

- o Activity of the representatives of the Council Secretariat in bodies of the Council of Europe

Representatives of the Council Secretariat attended meetings of the Expert Committee of the Council of Europe for National Minority Issues (DH-MIN) in Strasbourg twice in 2005 (in May and October). This is an advisory body of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, where Member States dispatch state administration representatives who are responsible for national-minority policy. In 2005, the DH-MIN Committee inter alia discussed the participation of members in the handling of public affairs, especially the matters which apply to them. The starting point for discussions on this theme was a compendium prepared by Marc Weller (director of the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg, Germany), which contained an extensive study and systematic processing of the mechanisms of advisory bodies for national-minority issues in those CoE countries which responded to a questionnaire survey in 2004 (including the Czech Republic, on behalf of whom answers were prepared by the Council Secretariat). This document should form the basis for a manual of examples of good practice in the future.

- o Cooperation between the Council Secretariat and universities abroad

Based on an agreement on the organization of a student internship between the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic and the college *Science Po Paris*, Helena Pichová, a student of the *Institut de Science Politiques de Paris*, was granted an internship which lasted until 30 April 2005. At the end of her placement, she submitted an independent work entitled *Analysis of the activities of national-minority civic associations in the Czech Republic* (68 pp.).

3.6. Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs

There were no significant changes in the institutional framework of the programme for the integration of Roma communities in 2005. Although the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs does not hold any direct executive powers, it is the main guarantor for the organization of programmes for the integration of members of Roma communities. At the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of the Interior, there are special expert departments which pay attention to this theme in the scope of their competence. Part of the institutional organization at local level comprises Roma advisers, or workers entrusted with the agenda for the integration of members of Roma communities and assistants in municipalities, as well as coordinators for Roma affairs at regional authorities.²⁰⁾ In the broader sense of the word, institutional organization is also provided by other professionals employed by the central or local government, i.e. assistant teachers in schools and Roma field social workers in municipalities. A separate document by the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs provides a detailed overview of the situation of the Roma communities in the Czech Republic in 2005.²¹⁾

¹⁹⁾ English version of the Report: Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2004. Edited by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (ISBN 80-86734-41-2). Prague 2005

²⁰⁾ The position of regional coordinator for Roma affairs was set up in accordance with Section 67(1)(f) of Act No 129/2000 on regions (the Regional Order), as amended.

²¹⁾ Report on the situation of Roma communities in 2005 and information about the fulfilment of Government resolutions concerning the integration of Roma communities and the active approach of state administration in the implementation of measures adopted under related Government resolutions as at 31 December 2005. See Government Resolution No 473 of 26 April 2006.

4. Ministerial grant programmes

4.1. Ministry of Culture – programme for the support of cultural activities

The provision of grants to members of national minorities was regulated in 2002 by Governmental Order No 98/2002 laying down the conditions and method for the provision of grants from the national budget for the activities of members of national minorities and for the support of the integration of members of the Roma community, as amended. The content of projects entered in grant proceedings for the support of the cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic may be

- artistic activities,
- cultural and educational activities,
- study and analyses of national-minority culture and folk traditions,
- national-minority documentation,
- publishing (non-periodical publications),
- multi-ethnic cultural events (aimed inter alia at combating negative manifestations of extremism, racial and national-minority intolerance and xenophobia).

The grant policy of the Ministry of Culture for members of national minorities explicitly concerns the Department of Regional and National-Minority Culture (the programme for the support of the cultural activities of national minorities – overview of projects for 2005 is provided in Annex No 1) and the Media and Audiovisual Department (the programme for the support of the dissemination and acceptance of information in the languages of national minorities – an overview of projects for 2005 is provided in section 4.2.). The grant policies of other departments do not focus specifically on national minorities, but grants for their activities are awarded, specifically within the scope of the grant scheme of the Art and Libraries Department (overview of grants – see Annex No 2) and the Department for the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage, Museums and Galleries (an overview is provided in Annex No 3). An overview of projects focusing on national and ethnic minorities which received grants from the autonomous unit of state fund administration is provided in Annex No 6.

In the grant award procedure for projects in the programme to promote the cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic in 2005, 64 entities with 108 projects applied for government grants; 83 projects received government grants. The total amount of funding distributed in this grant award procedure was CZK 8,235,000. Under Czech Government Resolution No 347 of 7 April 2003, the Ministry of Culture provided a grant of CZK 1,600,000 for the implementation of a project for the World Roma Festival KHAMORO 2005. The overview states amounts, including increases and refunds of unused funding (51 entities and 81 projects). The total amount made available for the programme was CZK 10,097,004.

An overview of grants in the Programme to Support the Integration of Members of the Roma Community is provided in Annex No 5, and is also discussed by the separate sub-section 4.4.1.

4.1.1. Cultural activities in 2005 by individual national minority

BULGARIAN

The following civic associations contributed to the implementation of cultural projects that received support in the grant award procedure: *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Organization*, *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Association in Brno*, *Pirin* and *Vazraždane*. Their principal goal is to contribute to the preservation of the traditions of Bulgarian culture.

HUNGARIAN

The *Union of Hungarians Living in the Czech Republic*, the largest cultural association of citizens of the Hungarian national minority in the Czech Republic, carries out extensive cultural activities. The most significant project of this organization is its annual *Days of Hungarian Culture*. Hungarian culture is presented in the form of diverse cultural events in several towns and cities in the Czech Republic (Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Teplice). The idea is to deepen the identity of the Hungarian minority, maintain cultural traditions and spread Hungarian culture in a Czech environment.

GERMAN

The *Large Gathering of Folk Art and Culture of the German Minority and Friends of Germans from All Regions* was again one of the largest cultural events organized by and for citizens of German nationality. This is an annual meeting of regional associations organized in Prague by the *Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia*. Another organization, the *Cultural Association of Citizens of German Nationality*, holds a number of cultural events focusing on cultural heritage and the preservation of the folk traditions of the German minority. Other civic associations run projects focusing on traditional folk culture of the German minority in the Czech Republic, e.g. the *Union of Germans, Hřebečsko Regional Group, Union of Germans, Chebsko Region, Silesian German Association in Hlučínsko, Union of Germans – North Moravia, Orlické hory, Union of Germans – Liberec, Lužice – North Bohemia, Silesian German Union and Association of Friends of Šumava*. In the grant award procedure, a grant was provided to the *Society of Friends of Germany, Kravaře*, for a project to release a CD/MC containing German folk songs sung by the people of Hlučínsko – *Heimatmelodien III*. Despite repeated reminders the civic association did not place the grant to account and the matter is now being handled in proceedings managed by the Opava Revenue Office.

POLISH

The *Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic (PZKO)* is the largest cultural organization of members of national minorities. Every year it runs a project called *Culture and Education*. The main aim is to ensure the development of cultural heritage, make active presentations, conduct academic research and publish with the aim of providing information to the general public. One of the traditional events is the *Gorolski Święto* in Jablunkov which focuses on folk performances. *Bajka Puppet Theatre* has had a powerful influence on the artistic and national sentiment of the youngest generation.

The *Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic* is an umbrella organization of associations for the Polish minority. A significant activity of this organization is its documentary operations – it gathers artefacts of an archiving, book and museum nature that document the past of the Polish national minority on the territory of the Czech Republic and makes them accessible to others, thus popularizing them.

The choirs of the civic associations *Ars Musica* and *Collegium Canticorum* from Český Těšín and the *Hutnik Polish Choir*, performing at the House of Culture – Association of Art and Special-Interest Activities in Třinec, are active. Regular exhibitions of Polish books combined with accompanying literary events are held by the *Association of Polish Book Friends* in Český Těšín. The *School Foundation in the Czech Republic*, from Český Těšín, organizes a festival of children's songs in Havířov.

As part of the programme to promote foreign contacts in the field of amateur art activities, which is also in the competence of the Regional and National-Minority Culture Department, the *Ars Musica* Polish Art Association received a grant of CZK 10,000.

ROMA

One of the most significant projects focusing on the presentation of Roma culture in an international context is the *KHAMORO World Roma Festival 2005*, organized by the civic association *Word 21*. Every year, it draws top-class domestic and foreign Roma companies and bands. The now traditional festival of Roma culture *Sara – Patron Saint of the Roma*, organized by the civic association *Cultural Tradition [Kulturní tradice]*, has become popular, as has the *Karviná Roma Festival*, a project of the *Association of Roma in North Moravia*, and the festival *Roma Song*, held in the outdoor complex of the Wallachian Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm.

On 1 January 2005 the *Museum of Roma Culture*, an organization partly financed from the public purse, was set up by the Ministry of Culture with an approved operating grant for 2005 of CZK 7,500,000. In the programme for the support of the *Integration of Members of the Roma Community*, the *Museum of Roma Culture* received a grant for its projects *Forgotten Crafts* and *Roma Mirror*. The project *Museum of Roma Culture in Brno, p.b.o., Catalogue of Work by Roma Artists*, also received funding.

In the programme for the promotion of traditional folk culture, the project *Traditional Roma Crafts 2005* received support of CZK 50,000; this project was presented by the charity *Drom*, Brno.

As part of the support of international cultural activities, the Foreign Affairs Department awarded a grant of CZK 60,000 to a project by the civic association *Word 21* for a *Presentation of Roma Culture in the Netherlands*.

RUTHENIAN

The *Skejušan Folklore Ensemble* from Chomutov is an active organization. It mainly performs at folk festivals in the Czech Republic.

RUSSIAN

The *Association of Compatriots and Friends of Russian Tradition in the Czech Republic* focused, in the project *Cultural – Social Activities of Russian Tradition*, on lecture series and talks in Prague, Brno and Lysá nad Labem.

As part of a competition for the promotion of amateur artistic activities, the *Czech Association of Russianists*, Prague, received a grant of CZK 55,000.

GREEK

Civic associations of the Greek national minority are geared primarily towards traditional culture. The *Association of Greek Communities*, in the project *Culture Activities of the Greek Minority in the Czech Republic*, acquainted the general public with traditional Greek oral, music and dance culture. The aim of the project *Preservation and Development of the Culture of the Greek Minority in the Czech Republic*, presented by the civic association *Lyceum for Greek Girls*, is to take care of cultural heritage, preserve folk traditions and provide year-round activities. In this project, Greek national costumes are presented at festivals and performances by the dance company.

SLOVAK

The activities of the *Club of Slovak Culture* include cultural and educational events, exhibitions and publishing. The Club of Slovak Culture pays special attention to the documentation of the Slovak minority and Czech-Slovak relations in the Czech Republic. The *Community of Slovaks in the Czech Republic* organizes an international festival of Slovak folk art called *Jánošík's Ducat*, the seventh year of which took place in 2005, once again in the

Wallachain Outdoor Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm. This event was held under the aegis of the Minister for Culture. The festival's mission is to develop positive relations, especially among young people, with traditional Slovak folk culture, to encourage creativity, and to make room for the development of cooperation and exchanges of experience between folk ensembles from various countries. The festival programme includes a presentation of folk crafts.

In 2005, the *Slovak-Czech Club* again organized *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic*, which was held in nine towns throughout the Czech Republic. In addition it continued its club evenings called *Slovak Touches*.

The *Limborá Slovak Folk Association* and the *PÚČIK Folk Association* have focused long term on the traditions and customs of the Slovak people as preserved in folk songs and dance. The *Šarvanci Folk Ensemble* is of a similar bent.

SERBIAN

The *Serbian Association of St Sava* presented Serbian artists and academics through exhibitions, music performances, literary evenings, lectures and talks as part of the *Days of Serbian Culture in Prague*. This event was held under the aegis of the Minister of Culture.

UKRAINIAN

The civic association *Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic* implemented a project called *Ukrainian Club*, including the year-round cultural life of the association. Activities centred on expert lectures, cultural meetings, film screenings with a Ukrainian theme, exhibitions, and music, dance and reading clubs.

The main activity of another organization – the *Association of Ukrainians and Friends of Ukraine* – is music. The *Choir of St Vladimir* holds performances within the framework of this association.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

In the grant scheme for the promotion of the cultural activities of members of national minorities the project *Drawings and Fates of Terezín's Children*, presented by the Jewish Museum in Prague, received support.

Projects concerning the Jewish community receive support from the Ministry of Culture in a grant scheme overseen by the Department for the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage, Museums and Galleries in the field of the expert press, focusing for example on the history of Jewish settlement in Moravia. The Department for the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage, Museums and Galleries is responsible for the implementation of Government Resolution No 797 of 28 July 1999, which enjoins the Minister for Culture to secure support for studies and educational activities in the field of the Holocaust.

In all materials, studies and other activities on this theme, the Holocaust of the Jews is juxtaposed with the Holocaust of the Roma. This theme is systematically covered by Terezín Monument [*Památník Terezín*] (an organization partly financed from the public purse, set up by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno). The Holocaust of the Roma is revisited in an exhibition by the Terezín Monument and in the foreign museum exhibitions managed by this organization in the former concentration camps in Auschwitz and Ravensbrück. The organization holds seminars and workshops for experts on this theme and, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, for teachers, pupils and students.

4.2. Ministry of Culture – programme of support to disseminate and accept information in the languages of national minorities

In the programme to support the dissemination and acceptance of information in the languages of members of national minorities, over two sessions the grant committee assessed 36 projects seeking assistance from the national budget totalling CZK 30,000,000. In all, 29 projects were supported. Of these, 28 were implemented (one beneficiary eventually opted not to run the project).

Grants were awarded to the publishers of 25 periodicals, one television programme of Czech Television, and two Internet radio stations. Assistance was granted to three projects for the Polish minority, six Roma projects, five Slovak, three German, two Bulgarian, one Greek, one Russian, one Ruthenian, two Ukrainian, one Jewish, one Serbian and one Hungarian project, and one programme produced by Czech Television.

During 2005, one beneficiary fully and another partially refunded their grants; these were then distributed in a second round of the grant award procedure.

Of the budget available, 99.11% was exhausted. Funds totalling CZK 269,750 were transferred to the reserve fund and will be used for projects in 2006.

In the financial settlement of grants, CZK 261,411.50 was remitted to the deposit account of the Ministry of Culture by four grantees on 15 February 2006 and 28 February 2006 respectively.

4.2.1 Overview of periodicals (projects) of individual national minorities in 2005

BULGARIAN MINORITY

o *Roden glas*

The civic association *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Organization* was granted funding for a project from the reserve created by the grant commission and after approval by the management meeting. The funds were released to cover the production costs of the publication of three issues between 1 August 2005 and the end of 2005. The periodical provided information on the social and cultural activities of the Bulgarian minority. Receipts from sales reflect the fact that three issues were published. Project expenses were also covered out of the association's cultural fund. This periodical has 24 + 4 pages.

Roden glas	2005
Grant	CZK 200,000
Publication	bimonthly
Price per issue	CZK 10 subscriptions CZK 15 over the counter
Print run	1,000 per issue, issue 3 1,200, total of 3,200
Total expenses	CZK 320,187
Share of grant in project	Decision: 63.59% implemented: 62.46%
Receipts from sales	CZK 19,995
Receipts from advertising	
Unsold copies	0
Average monthly wage of editing staff	Agreement, CZK 7,000 per issue
Copies sold, measured by receipts	6,2%

The periodical has recently been available on the Internet (<http://www.sweb.cz/rodenglas/>); the web pages are not fully functional, unlike the links to the publisher's commercial activities.

○ *Balgari*

The project implementer is the civic association *Vazraždane*. The periodical received funding in 2005 after a break caused by the need to tackle problems within the association. Five issues were published, of which one was a double edition. The periodical has 30 + 4 pages; it is sold for CZK 20 and is printed in Bulgarian. The low receipts from sales mean that the periodical is gradually trying to find a readership after a two-year break. The project originally received CZK 400,000 in the grant award procedure, but a lack of further resources meant the association was forced to revise the project and adjust the decision to a realistic amount.

The periodical is not currently published in an electronic version.

Balgari	2005
Grant	CZK 400 000 partially refused, CZK 300,000 paid
Publication	6 x year
Price per issue	CZK 20
Print run	1 000 / issue, 1,2,3-4, 5, 6 total: 5 000
Total expenses	CZK 428 600
Share of grant in project	70%
Carried forward to 2006 (reserve fund)	CZK 100 000
Receipts from sales	CZK 39 960
Receipts from advertising	CZK 29 000
Unsold copies	approximately 30% 1457 = CZK 29 140
Average monthly wage of editing staff	royalties
Copies sold, measured by receipts	9.3%

HUNGARIAN MINORITY

○ *Prágai Tükör*

The publisher of this periodical is the *Union of Hungarians Living in the Czech Republic*. It is a cultural and social affairs periodical that contributes to the preservation of the cultural identity of the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic. On average, the periodical has 117 pages per issue; it only uses Hungarian. Each issue contains a summary in Czech; it is readily marketable and has a loyal readership. It is a quality presentation of the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic, exemplary among national-minority periodicals, both in terms of the choice and balance of themes and the standard of graphic design, as well as the expedience of the financial outlay.

The periodical has been available on the Internet for a long time, and offers an archive stretching back to 2001 (<http://www.pragaitukor.com/archive/pt200505/tartalom.php>).

Prágai Tükör	2005
Grant	CZK 997 000
Publication	5x year
Price per issue	CZK 30, subscriptions CZK 20
Print run	1000 / issue total 5000
Total expenses	CZK 1 427 412
Share of grant in project	69.85%
Receipts from sales	CZK 118 387
Receipts from advertising	CZK 0
Unsold copies	217 copies, CZK 6 510
Average monthly wage of editing staff	royalties
Copies sold, measured by receipts	80.1%

GERMAN MINORITY

o *Landes-Zeitung*

The publisher of this title is the *Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia*. The newspaper is intended for the German national minority in the Czech Republic. This fortnightly periodical carries information about the life of the German minority and other current affairs. Twenty-six issues were published in 2005. There was a moderate rise in receipts from sales and advertising; the newspaper sells well. The original grant for this project was CZK 1,900,000. As the association failed to obtain the sum it required to co-finance the project, it applied for a change in the grant decision. The value of the grant was then adjusted to the stated sum in order to respect the percentage of the project taken up by the grant.

The periodical is accessible on the Internet, in full, back to 2001 (<http://www.landeszeitung.cz/>).

Landes-Zeitung	2005
Grant	CZK 1 778 500
Publication	once every two weeks
Price per issue	CZK 7.50
Print run	2 000 / issue Total 52 000
Total expenses	CZK 2 7820 980
Share of grant in project	63.91%
Refund of grant to the deposit account of the Ministry of Culture	
Receipts from sales	CZK 231 423
Receipts from advertising	CZK 10 065
Unsold copies	CZK 55 956
Average monthly wage of editing staff	CZK 14 000
Copies sold, measured by receipts	74.17%

o *Prager Volkszeitung*

This periodical was published by the *Cultural Association of Citizens of German Ethnicity of the Czech Republic*. The title provides news and comments, in German, on the activities of the association, as well as on national and international events. During the year, 25 issues of 12 pages each were published.

The civic association has had long-term difficulties raising funds for the implementation of the project. The only source of financing besides the grant from the Ministry of Culture is from the sale of the newspaper, but this is diminishing every year. Of the print run of 3,500, only 3,000 are collected; of these, 1,200 are distributed to subscribers, 600-880 are sold over the counter, 600 are sent to schools and institutions free of charge, and approximately 520 are returns. This situation will be unsustainable in the future. Association members have been warned that a grant covering 85% of the project implementation, as permitted in the grant decision was an exceptional measure. This decision was made after an on-the-spot inspection of the project. For the implementation of the project in the next year, the association will have to raise funds of approximately CZK 550,000, which will be very difficult, and the association is considering halting the project in 2006. The settlement of the grant for 2005 was adjusted and closed.

Prager Volkszeitung	2005
Grant	CZK 1 900 000
Publication	once every two weeks
Price per issue	CZK 12
Print run	3 500 / issue, total 87 500, only 75 000 dispatched from printers
Total expenses	CZK 2 208 061
Share of grant in project	85%
Receipts from sales	CZK 292 206
Receipts from advertising	0
Unsold copies	CZK 273 000
Average monthly wage of editing staff	CZK 17 096
Copies sold, measured by receipts	40.62%

The periodical is not produced in an electronic version, mainly because the overwhelming majority of the readership does not use this type of communication.

o *Kleiner Brünner Gassenbote*

This periodical was published by the *German Language and Cultural Association in Brno* for the requirements of its members and friends in South Moravia. It is distributed free of charge not only to members but also to supporters in the border areas of Austria; therefore it is not possible to assess receipts from sales, unsold copies, or copies sold as a percentage of receipts. The grant was used to cover only items as specified in the grant decision. Project expenses were also covered out of contributions and donations. The settlement statement was submitted late; the competent revenue office has been informed.

Kleiner Brünner Gassenbote	2005
Grant	CZK 30 000
Publication	six times a year
Price per issue	0
Print run	1-3/200, 4-5/225, 6/375, total 1225
Total expenses	CZK 74 880
Share of grant in project	R 41.95, actual 40%
Receipts from sales	free distribution
Receipts from advertising	0
Unsold copies	0
Average monthly wage of editing staff	0
Copies sold, measured by receipts	0

The periodical is not published in an electronic version.

POLISH MINORITY

o *Głos Ludu*

The publisher of this newspaper is the *Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic*. The newspaper helped maintain knowledge of Polish among the Polish minority. In addition, the periodical is an important source of information for the Polish minority community in Těšínské Slezsko.

During the year 150 eight-page issues were published. The share of the grant in total costs is very favourable compared to other publishers printing for national minorities. The only income except the grant from the Ministry of Culture is receipts from subscriptions and advertising. There was no income from

Głos Ludu	2005
Grant	CZK 4 850 000
Publication	three times per week
Price per issue	CZK 6
Print run	Tue 4 845, Thu 4 681, Sat 5 159, 150 issues, total 739 149
Total expenses	CZK 9 393 338
Share of grant in project	51.63%
Receipts from sales	CZK 3 378 882
Receipts from advertising	CZK 1 160 925
Unsold copies	CZK 508 194
Average monthly wage of editing staff	CZK 15 000
Copies sold, measured by receipts	76.21%

other grant sources or other means of financing. In 2005, this project was inspected by the revenue office. The inspection focused on grants from previous years. Until the deficiencies identified in the inspection were resolved, the payment of the grant was suspended, but on completion the grant was paid in full.

Since March 2006, the newspaper has been published online (www.glosludu.cz).

o *Nasza Gazetka*

This is a periodical for children and young people and is published by *Harcerstwo Polskie w RC*. Twenty issues were published in 2005. The periodical is published during the school year, i.e. from September to June, at a rate of two issues a month. The project also received grants from other sources; the Regional Authority of the Moravskoslezsko Region donated CZK 62,000 to the project, the Polish Senate made a contribution of CZK 36,496 through the organization *Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska*, and Český Těšín Municipal Authority also contributed. This periodical is warmly received by readers and is also used as a teaching aid. The periodical is not published in an electronic version.

Nasza Gazetka	2005
Grant	CZK 947 000
Publication	20 issues
Price per issue	CZK 5
Print run	1 000 / issue 20 000 total
Total expenses	CZK 1 392 328
Share of grant in project	R 70% / actual 69.95%
Receipts from sales	CZK 79 700
Receipts from advertising	CZK 233 000
Unsold copies	CZK 16 3000
Average monthly wage of editing staff	CZK 9 000
Copies sold, measured by receipts	79.7%

o *Zwrot*

The cultural monthly *Zwrot* is published by the Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic. Number of pages: 80 + 4 cover pages. Throughout its existence, this monthly periodical has kept to a consistent content focusing on culture, awareness, history, and the contemporary existence of the Polish national minority in the Czech Republic. Receipts from sales are higher than in 2004; receipts from advertising are negligible. The project received funding of CZK 67,114 from the Polish Senate through the company *Stowarzyszenie Wspólnota Polska*.

The receipts from sales stated in the table are reduced by postage of CZK 7 per periodical per subscriber. The proportion of copies sold is high; there were only 1,614 returns. The periodical is not published in an electronic version.

Zwrot	2005
Grant	CZK 1 100 000
Publication	once a month
Price per issue	CZK 20 (+ CZK 7 postage), OTC CZK 20
Print run	I-VII 1600, VIII-XII 1450, 18450 total
Total expenses	CZK 1 756 368
Share of grant in project	R 63.43% / actual 62.62%
Refunded to the national budget	CZK 51 568
Receipts from sales	CZK 408 981
Receipts from advertising	CZK 1 900
Unsold copies	CZK 32 288
Average monthly wage of editing staff	CZK 15 000 gross wage
Copies sold, measured by receipts	approximately 95%

The publisher had to return some of the funds to the national budget because they had not been used in accordance with the grant decision. These funds were not remitted to the account of the Ministry of Culture until 28 February 2006. Since the eighth issue, the periodical has been published with a reduced print run of 1,450 copies, which has seen the number of returns drop. However, this has not been reflected in the grant decision as the association did not apply for a change. The physically and locally competent revenue office is now investigating the matter and the case should be settled in May this year.

○ *Kurier Praski*

The publisher of this periodical was meant to be the civic association *Kurier Praski*, but it refused the grant awarded for 2005 and publication of the periodical ceased in 2005. The grant amount was distributed in the second round of the grant award procedure.

Kurier Praski	2005
Grant	CZK 99 000 GRANT REFUSED

ROMA MINORITY

○ *Rota Internet Radio*

This is an Internet radio station project. In 2005, there was another expansion in programming. ROTA station continued to produce and transmit programmes in Czech, English, and the Roma language (Romani) - used in almost a third of the programmes - over the Internet. The web pages on which the programmes are posted have good visitor rates and record an average of 250 impressions a day. This unique project of an Internet radio station for Roma has generated interest among listeners and other media. The radio station's web address is <http://streamer.radiorota.cz/rota64ogg.m3u>, and also broadcasts on

ROTA Internet radio	2005
Grant	CZK 1 250 000
Publication	13.5 hours a week, three times a week
Price per issue	
Print run	
Total expenses	CZK 1 995 445
Share of grant in project	62.6%
Receipts from sales	0
Receipts from advertising	0
Unsold copies	
Average monthly wage of editing staff	0
Copies sold, measured by receipts	

http://www.dzeno.cz/?r_id=32. English, German and Romani versions are also available.

The settlement of the grant reported irregularities; in addition, documents complying with the items in the grant decision were not available. These were supplied late; moreover, it was discovered that some of the funding was used in contravention of the grant decision. The case was passed on to Praha 1 Revenue Office.

○ *Amaro Gendalos*

In the second round of the tender, a project published by the civic association *Dženo* was supported. It was an attempt to support the printing of two issues of a periodical which since 2003 had been published only in electronic form on the association's website (http://www.dzeno.cz/?r_id=263). In the end, the association refused part of the grant and only one issue was published, with a print run of 1,000 copies; approximately 750 copies were distributed free of charge and the remainder will be used by the association for advertising purposes.

Amaro Gendalos	2005
Grant	CZK 55 000, partially refused, CZK 35 000 paid
Publication	1 issue
Price per issue	free
Print run	1000
Total expenses	CZK 55 900
Share of grant in project	
Receipts from sales	0
Receipts from advertising	0
Unsold copies	0
Average monthly wage of editing staff	0
Copies sold, measured by receipts	

The association applied for a grant only in the second round (in November 2005).

○ *Kereka-Kruh*

In 2005, this monthly periodical was published by the *Democratic Alliance of Roma in the Czech Republic*; a regular issue has 36 pages plus an eight-page supplement, while a double issue has 44 pages and an eight-page supplement. The print run settled at 3,000 copies and the number of returns fell. Unsold copies are presented at talks and other events held by the Roma community. Contributions in the periodical were published in Czech and Romani. The magazine was used as an aid in schools with Roma pupils, nursery schools and the lower grades of primary schools. It helps further the integration of Roma children and young people. Since 2005, it has also been published on the Internet, although the web pages are sometimes down.

Kereka-Kruh	2005
Grant	CZK 1 850 000
Publication	monthly
Price per issue	CZK 12, double issue CZK 20
Print run	10 issues / 3000, total 30 000
Total expenses	CZK 2 642 905
Share of grant in project	70%
Receipts from sales	CZK 319 596
Receipts from advertising	CZK 0
Unsold copies	CZK 79 756
Average monthly wage of editing staff	CZK 16 500
Copies sold, measured by receipts	83.2%

○ *Romano hangos*

The public benefit organization named *Společenství Romů na Moravě* [Association of Roma in Moravia] continued publishing the newspaper *Romano hangos* in 2005. The whole project has been accompanied by a constant lack of funding; insufficient resources have been obtained to cover the difference between the grant and the total project implementation costs. During the year, the grantor held talks with the company's representatives on the possibility of increasing the share of grant funding above the level specified in the grant decision, but this option was not used in the end. This is a highly specific project within the scope of the Roma minority.

Romano hangos	2005
Grant	CZK 1 300 000
Publication	fortnightly
Price per issue	CZK 6
Print run	3100 / issue total 37200
Total expenses	CZK 1 857 000
Share of grant in project	R 70% actual after refund 68%
Refunded to the deposit account of the Ministry of Culture after 15 February 2006.	CZK 42 877
Receipts from advertising	
Unsold copies	
Average monthly wage of editing staff	
Copies sold, measured by receipts	

The newspaper is essentially distributed free of charge in the Roma community. The publisher did not respect the stated periodicity. Only 21 issues were published, the last at the beginning of December 2005. However, at this time the publisher did not take the opportunity to draw the overall implementation of the project into line with the grant decision. The project implementers did not contact the Ministry. These circumstances came to light on presentation of the settlement statement, and by this time there was no way of ensuring the hitch-free implementation of the project. Some of the funding was used in contravention of the purpose of the grant; these funds were refunded to the account of the Ministry of Culture, but not until 28 February 2006. This project was passed on to the local revenue office for investigation.

The periodical is available online (<http://www.romanohangos.cz/>), including an archive.

○ *Romano vodi*

The publisher of this periodical was the civic association *Romea*. As deficiencies were discovered in the settlement of the grant from 2004, the 2004 project was investigated by the revenue office. Therefore, the payment of the 2005 grant was suspended until the investigation had been completed. The association published the periodical from its own resources and loans. The inspection by Praha 10 Revenue Office ended in August; it stated that there had been a breach of budgetary discipline and the association was required to refund some of the funding. On settlement of this amount, the grantor released the 2005 grant in full. A decision was issued. In October the association contacted the Ministry of

Romano vodi	2005
Grant	CZK 1 736 000
Publication	once a month (2x double issue)
Price per issue	CZK 20 (subscriptions CZK 18)
Print run	1 500 / issue total 15000
Total expenses	CZK 2 046 685.20
Share of grant in project	85%
Refunded to the national budget	CZK 103 817.50
Receipts from sales	CZK 22 640
Receipts from advertising	CZK 0
Unsold copies	1967, CZK 39 340
Average monthly wage of editing staff	Royalties
Copies sold, measured by receipts	7.5%

Culture with a request for assistance in the implementation of this project. The association failed to gather the money it needed to implement the project in full. The Ministry of Culture considered all the circumstances and, particularly noting the need for the project, made an exception allowing 85% rather than the original 70% of the project to be funded from the grant.

In the settlement of the 2005 budget, deficiencies were identified; the association had used some of the funds in contravention of the grant purpose and had to return them to the national budget. This payment of CZK 103,817 was not made until 28 February 2006. The project was passed on to Praha 10 Revenue Office for inspection.

The periodical is of a very high standard in terms of graphic design and content; it is positively received by readers from the Roma minority and others. However, the association does not pay enough attention to the formal aspects of the project, and can only blame itself for repeatedly finding itself in trouble.

The publisher has a good-quality Internet portal (<http://www.romea.cz/>), where the periodical is also presented.

○ *Romano džaniben*

This project, which has the format of an almanac, contains 240-310 pages. It is run by the civic association *Romano džaniben*, set up by students of Roma Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, for whom the periodical is a unique platform for the presentation of their own academic results in Roma Studies. The periodical is extraordinary in content and form.

The periodical is also published online (<http://www.dzaniben.cz/>), including all copies issued since 1994.

Romano džaniben	2005
Grant	CZK 221 000
Publication	twice a year, 600 copies
Price per issue	CZK 140
Print run	1200
Total expenses	CZK 441 747
Share of grant in project	R 50.16%, actual 50%
Receipts from sales	CZK 19 402
Receipts from advertising	
Unsold copies	approximately 440, CZK 61 600
Average monthly wage of editing staff	Agreement, only contributions paid
Copies sold, measured by receipts	4.39%

RUTHENIAN MINORITY

○ *Podkarpatská Rus*

The publisher is the civic association *Society of Ruthenians and Friends of Ruthenia*. Four issues were published, totalling 44 pages. Problems generating funds persist; some of the grant was not released in order to comply with the required percentage of the share of the grant in the project's total costs. The only income besides the grant is member contributions. This periodical is distributed free of charge among the Ruthenian minority and includes a supplement in Ruthenian.

The periodical has an online version (<http://sweb.cz/podkarpatska.rus/noviny.htm>), but this is not updated.

Podkarpatská Rus	2005
Grant	CZK 113 000, paid CZK 84 750
Publication	four times a year
Price per issue	free
Print run	1100 per issue 4400 total
Total expenses	CZK 112 380
Share of grant in project	R 70% / actual 69.21%
Receipts from sales	0
Receipts from advertising	0
Unsold copies	
Average monthly wage of editing staff	Royalties approximately CZK 6 000 per issue
Copies sold, measured by receipts	

RUSSIAN MINORITY

○ *Russkoye slovo*

The *Association of Compatriots and Friends of Russian Tradition* is an organization operating nationally in the Czech Republic and focuses on the development of cultural and social traditions of Russian groups in the fields of the arts, science, and education; it also helps compatriots from Russia to adapt to their new surroundings in the Czech Republic. The magazine was published as a full-colour version with 32 pages. There is no permanent editing staff; payment was in the form of royalties. Direct sales are weaker, but because of the advertising income and donations from business entities the share of the grant in total costs returns a favourable ratio. The periodical includes a supplement for children called *Slovo dyetyam*.

The settlement of the grant took place after the association added certain information and documents.

Since March 2006, the periodical has been published online (www.ruslo.cz).

Russkoye slovo	2005
Grant	1 350 000 CZK
Publication	6 x year
Price per issue	30 CZK
Print run	6 issues / 1000 total 12000
Total expenses	1 943 095 CZK
Share of grant in project	R 70% / actual 69,5%
Receipts from sales	17 591 CZK
Receipts from advertising	513 731 CZK
Unsold copies	34 320 CZK (periodicals distributed during events)
Average monthly wage of editing staff	Only royalties
Copies sold, measured by receipts	4.9%

GREEK MINORITY

o *Kalimera*

The publisher of this periodical was the *Prague Greek Community*. Besides the grant from the Ministry of Culture, the project was also funded out of sponsorship gifts and member contributions totalling CZK 251,000. This periodical is supplied free of charge to Community members and is also distributed to other Greek communities in the Czech Republic and abroad. This is why there is no information on receipts from sales or unsold copies. Six issues with an average

Kalimera	2005
Grant	400 000 CZK
Publication	6 x year
Price per issue	0
Print run	1000 / issue; total 6000
Total expenses	651 600 CZK
Share of grant in project	61.39%
Receipts from sales	free distribution
Receipts from advertising	0
Unsold copies	0
Average monthly wage of editing staff	royalties
Copies sold, measured by receipts	0

of 28 pages were published in 2005. According to the response, the periodical has been rated positively and found to be useful by community representatives.

SLOVAK MINORITY

o *Korene*

This monthly periodical was published by the *Community of Slovaks in the Czech Republic*. Only 11 issues were published in 2005; a double issue (7/8) with a higher number of pages was published in the summer. Despite the relatively low receipts from sales, advertising income is such that a balanced project budget can be maintained.

Korene	2005
Grant	2 600 000 CZK
Publication	1 x month
Price per issue	CZK 18, subscriptions CZK 13.60
Print run	4800 / issue; total 52800
Total expenses	3 120 003 CZK
Share of grant in project	83.3%
Receipts from sales	378 650 CZK
Receipts from advertising	139 400 CZK
Unsold copies	79 648 CZK
Average monthly wage of editing staff	14 500 CZK net wage
Copies sold, measured by receipts	39.84%

The settlement statement was not complete and the presented documents do not correspond to the purpose of the grant. After all the documents had been supplied, it was discovered that some of the funding was used in contravention of the grant purpose. The project was passed on to Praha 5 Revenue Office for investigation.

the funding was used in contravention of the grant purpose. The project was passed on to Praha 5 Revenue Office for investigation.

o *Listy 2005*

The publisher of this monthly periodical was the *Club of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic*. The original grant for this project was CZK 2,350,000. As all the grants awarded to this project since 2002 had been inspected by the revenue office, the Ministry of Culture suspended the payment of the 2005 grant until the investigation had been completed. The investigation was not closed until the end of August. The association reviewed its needs and only sought the payment of CZK 1,150,000;

Listy 2005	2005
Grant	1 150 000 CZK,
Publication	6 x year
Price per issue	20 CZK
Print run	issues 1-2 – 3500; from issue 3 - 3000, total 15 500
Total expenses	1 645 132 CZK
Share of grant in project	69%
Receipts from sales	(to be added) x
Receipts from advertising	x
Unsold copies	2 295, 45 900 CZK
Average monthly wage of editing staff	14 200 CZK
Copies sold, measured by receipts	x

five issues of the periodical were published, one of which was a double issue. The periodical is an integral part of the publications issued by the Slovak national minority; it is well received and has a stable number of subscribers (approximately 2,300).

o *Slovenské dotyky*

This monthly periodical was published by the *Slovak-Czech Club in the Czech Republic*. The periodical focuses not only on members of the Slovak minority in the Czech Republic, but also on the Czech public. The grant was higher than in 2004, but even so only 11 issues were published. The publisher followed tradition by labelling the final issue of the year a double issue (12/2005 and 1/2006) in order to bridge the gap in the implementation of the project in the next year. Thanks to the high number of subscribers the project has a balanced budget. Besides the funds from the Ministry of Culture, this project (and others) were supported with grants from the Slovak Republic (the Office of the Government and the Ministry of Culture) totalling CZK 340,164. CZK 102,223 was used for this project.

Slovenské dotyky	2005
Grant	2 850 000 CZK
Publication	1 x month
Price per issue	18 CZK, subscriptions 10 CZK
Print run	7000 / issue total 77000
Total expenses	4 124 456 CZK
Share of grant in project	69.1%
Receipts from sales	1 012 233 CZK
Receipts from advertising	160 000 CZK
Unsold copies	5250 94 500 CZK
Average monthly wage of editing staff	
Copies sold, measured by receipts	60.12%

o *Zrkadlenie - Zrcadlení*

Four issues were published within the scope of this project in 2005; the implementer is the *Slovak Literary Club in the Czech Republic*. It was a literary revue. The publisher works in close cooperation with the *Slovak-Czech Club*, which also supported the project financially with a contribution of CZK 60,000 and purchased 250 copies of each issue. In addition to this financial aid, the project was supported by the *Slovak Literary Information Centre, Bratislava*, with a donation of CZK 15,094.

Zrkadlenie - Zrcadlení	2005
Grant	400 000 CZK
Publication	4 x year
Price per issue	40 CZK, subscriptions 30 CZK
Print run	1000 / issue total 4000
Total expenses	602 959.50 CZK
Share of grant in project	66.34%
Receipts from sales	127 440 CZK
Receipts from advertising	
Unsold copies	190, 9 120 CZK
Average monthly wage of editing staff	16 900 CZK
Copies sold, measured by receipts	50.5%

In the settlement of the grant, irregularities came to light which were ultimately explained and the necessary information was added. The grant was duly settled.

○ *Slovak Internet Radio – český a slovenský svet [Czech and Slovak World]*

This project received support in the second round of the grant proceedings for 2005; its implementer was the civic association *Slovak-Czech Club*. Grant funds were channelled into the production of programmes. The radio station began broadcasting in December, offering a four-hour block every week, and the response was good. The project was co-financed with sponsorship from Metrostav, a.s. amounting to CZK 150,000.

Slovak Internet Radio	2005
Grant	220 000 CZK
Publication	
Price per issue	
Print run	
Total expenses	370 004 CZK
Share of grant in project	69.1%
Receipts from sales	
Receipts from advertising	
Unsold copies	
Average monthly wage of editing staff	
Copies sold, measured by receipts	

The project ended at the end of 2005; in 2006, broadcasting was included in the programming of the radio station DC Rádio/Rádio exil (according to information on the website of Slovak Internet Radio).²²⁾

SERBIAN MINORITY

○ *Srpska reč*

The publisher of this periodical was the civic association *Serbian Association of St Sava*. The project received assistance from the Ministry of Culture for the first time and was implemented in the second half of the year. The periodical is still trying to win permanent subscribers. One whole issue was handed out free and another two issues had half their print run distributed free for promotional purposes. The periodical is not published in an electronic version.

Srpska reč	2005
Grant	300 000 CZK
Publication	3 x during second half-year (bimonthly)
Price per issue	0
Print run	800 / issue; total 2400
Total expenses	529 761 CZK
Share of grant in project	56.5%
Receipts from sales	13 800 CZK
Receipts from advertising	
Unsold copies	600, 18 000 CZK
Average monthly wage of editing staff	8 000 CZK
Copies sold, measured by receipts	

UKRAINIAN MINORITY

○ *Porohy*

The publisher of this periodical was the civic association *Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic*. Number of pages: 32 with supplements. The periodical also focused on Ukrainian citizens with permanent residence or permission to stay long term in the Czech Republic. The editing staff is remunerated in the form of royalties.

The periodical is published in an electronic version

(<http://www.ukrajinci.cz/index.php?l=cz&ids=3&idsub=1&.0.45957100%201>)

Porohy	2005
Grant	850 000 CZK
Publication	6 x year
Price per issue	20 CZK
Print run	1500 per issue total 9000
Total expenses	1 316 000 CZK
Share of grant in project	64,58%
Receipts from sales	100 150 CZK
Receipts from advertising	not specified
Unsold copies	10%, i.e. 18 000 CZK
Average monthly wage of editing staff	only royalties
Copies sold, measured by receipts	26.7%

²²⁾ http://www.slovakiradio.com/sir/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=1

[141396898](#)) with archived copies from 2002. The original settlement of the grant did not comply with the grant decision. Additional documents were delivered and additions were to the settlement statement, but everything was handed over to the Praha 1 Revenue Office, which is handling the case.

o *Ukrajinský žurnál*

This project was supported in the grant scheme for the first time. It is a monthly periodical published by the civic association *Ruta*. The grant was released for the publication of four issues. The association published five issues, including a supplement. The periodical was distributed free of charge as a promotional move. Besides the grant, the project is funded from advertising totalling CZK 644,439. The grant was used to cover only the production costs.

The periodical is published in an electronic version (www.uz.harazd.net).

Ukrajinský žurnál	2005
Grant	204 000 CZK
Publication	4 issues published with support of Ministry of Culture, two double issues
Price per issue	25 CZK, double issue 25 CZK
Print run	6000, 2000 supplement
Total expenses	845 661.15 CZK
Share of grant in project	R 27.57% actual 24.12%
Receipts from sales	0
Receipts from advertising	
Unsold copies	0
Average monthly wage of editing staff	royalties
Copies sold, measured by receipts	

JEWISH COMMUNITY

o *Maskil*

The publisher of this magazine was the civic association *Bejt Simcha*. It is a cultural monthly periodical of 16 pages; the print run of the first four issues was 600 copies, the print run of the remainder of the 12 issues was increased to 800 copies due to increased interest. The periodical was distributed free of charge to all Jewish communities and other organizations in the Czech Republic; a few copies are distributed in Slovakia. For the reasons mentioned above, it is not possible to assess receipts from sales and the copies sold as a percentage of income; the association stated that returns amounted to 400 copies.

Income from other sources comprises CZK 50,000 from the *Holocaust Victim Endowment Fund*, CZK 100,000 from *Federation of Jewish Communities*, CZK 6,000 from minor donors and CZK 111,072 as the applicant's own contribution.

Maskil	2005
Grant	300 000 CZK
Publication	1 x month
Price per issue	free
Print run	600 - 4 issues, 800 - 8 issues, total 8800
Total expenses	567 072 CZK
Share of grant in project	R 55.92% actual 52.9%
Receipts from sales	Free distribution
Receipts from advertising	0
Unsold copies	400
Average monthly wage of editing staff	4 500 CZK
Copies sold, measured by receipts	0

TELEVISION BROADCASTING FOR MINORITIES AND ABOUT MINORITIES

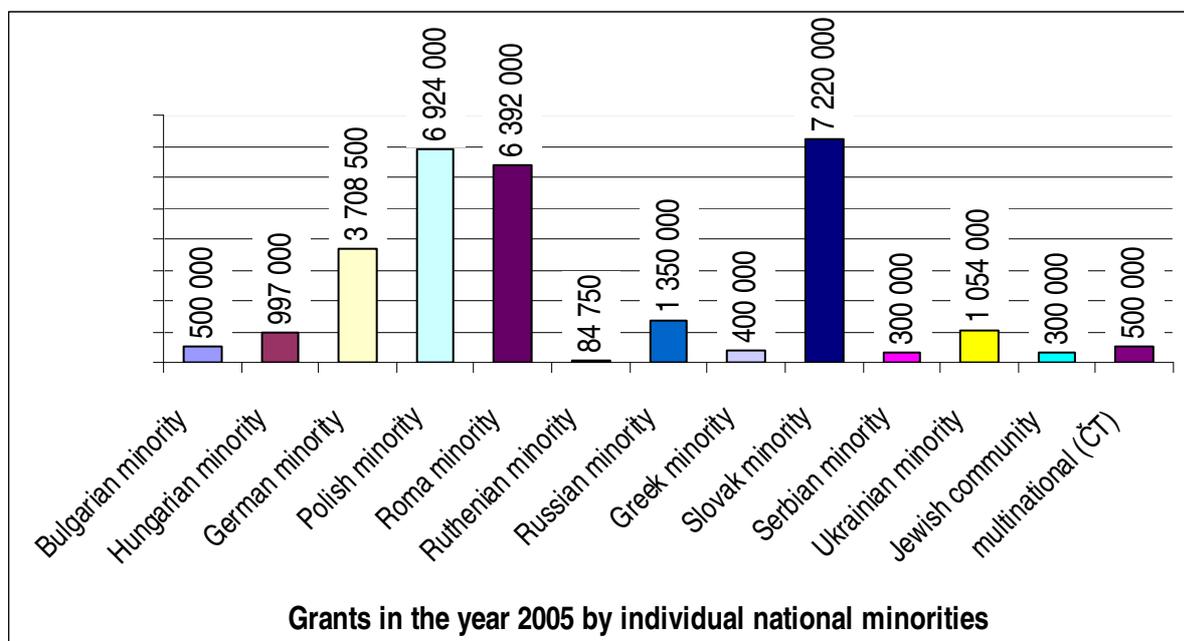
o Babylon

This project was implemented by the *Czech Television [ČT] Ostrava Studio. Babylon*, a weekly broadcast with a running time of eighteen minutes, is a unique format in television transmission in the Czech Republic devoted systematically and conceptually to the life and issues of national minorities, migrants and compatriots. It provides viewers not only with a view of the heterogeneity of our society, but also offers the opportunity of hearing the languages of individual national minorities. It therefore promotes the idea that each nation or ethnic group is entitled to its own identity. It helps

minimize xenophobic tendencies and reinforces the significance of mutual tolerance. The grant was used to cover royalties. The project budget was lower than expected; therefore some funding was returned to the deposit account of the Ministry of Culture.

BABYLON	2005
Grant	500 000 CZK
Publication	Weekly running time 18 minutes, produced: 42 programmes
Price per issue	
Print run	
Total expenses	3 7360 964 CZK
Share of grant in project	11.69%
Refunded to deposit account	63 149 CZK
Receipts from sales	
Receipts from advertising	
Unsold copies	
Average monthly wage of editing staff	royalties
Copies sold, measured by receipts	

4.2.2. Summary



Overview of projects supported from the national budget in 2005 in the scope of the programme for the acceptance and dissemination of information about national minorities

<i>applicant</i>	<i>project</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Bulgarian minority		
Bulgarian Cultural and Education Organization	Roden glas	200 000
Vazraždane c.a.	Balgari	300 000
	TOTAL	500 000
Hungarian minority		
Union of Hungarians Living in the Czech Republic	Prágai Tükör	997 000
German minority		
Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia	Landes-Zeitung	1 778 500
Cultural Association of Citizens of German Ethnicity	Prager Volkszeitung	1 900 000
German Language and Cultural Association, Brno	Kleiner Brünner Gassenbote	30 000
	TOTAL	3 708 500
Polish minority		
Congress of Poles	Głos Ludu	4 850 000
Harcerstwo polskie v RC c.a.	Nasza Gazetka	974 000
Polish Cultural and Educational Union	Zwrot	1 100 000
Kurier Praski	Pražský Kurýr	0
	TOTAL	6 924 000
Roma minority		
Association Dženo c.a.	Amaro Gendalos	35 000
Democratic Alliance of Roma	Kereka	1 850 000
Association Dženo c.a.	Rota Roma Internet Radio	1 250 000
Romea c.a.	Romano vodi	1 736 000
Association of Roma in Moravia p.b.o.	Romano hangos 14	1 300 000
Romano Džaniben c.a.	Romano džaniben	221 000
	TOTAL	6 392 000
Ruthenian minority		
Society of Ruthenians and Friends of Ruthenia	Podkarpatská Rus	84 750
Russian minority		
Association of Compatriots and Friends of Russian Tradition	Russkoye slovo	1 350 000
Greek minority		
Greek Community of Prague	Kalimera	400 000
Slovak minority		
Community of Slovaks	Korene	2 600 000
Slovak-Czech Club	Slovenské dotyky	2 850 000
	Slovak Internet Radio	220 000
Club of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic	Listy Slovákov a Čechov	1 150 000
Slovak Literary Club	Zrkadlenie	400 000
	TOTAL	7 220 000
Serbian minority		
Serbian Association of St Sava	Srpska reč	300 000
Ukrainian minority		
Ukrainian Initiative	Porohy	850 000
Ruta c.a.	Ukrajinský žurnál	204 000
	TOTAL	1 054 000

Jewish community		
Bejt Simcha c.a.	Maskil	300 000
Television broadcasting for minorities and about minorities		
ČT Ostrava studio	Babylon	500 000

Total 29 730 250

Of the budgeted amount of CZK 30,000,000, CZK 29,730,250 was drawn down. The difference of CZK 269,750 was transferred to 2006 via the reserve fund of the Ministry of Culture within the scope of the same grant scheme.

4.3. Support of multiethnic cultural activities

One of the most significant multiethnic events implemented in the scope of the Ministry of Culture grant scheme for the support of the cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic in 2005 was the 36th *Silesian Days*, held in Dolní Lomná and organized by the *League for the Advancement of Silesia*. The organizer of the 7th *International Children's Festival Jacks for the Children* in this region, which was again held in Jablunkov in 2005, was the *Association of Members and Friends of the Folk Ensemble Jacks for the Children*. The civic association *Národy Podyjí [Nations Along the Dyje River]* organized the *Sixth Festival of Nations Along the Dyje*.

As part of the 60th International Folk Festival in Strážnice in 2005, a programme of national minorities living in the Czech Republic was made called DOMOVINA. The project Scenic Presentation of the Folk Culture of National Minorities Living in the Czech Republic, was presented by the Slovak Club in Brno.

In connection with multiethnic events, it is worth mentioning the festival *Prague Heart of Nations 2005*, organized by the *Limborá Slovak Folk Association*.

The Literature and Libraries Unit, in accordance with the cultural policy, declares a grant award procedure called *21st Century Library*, intended for libraries registered in accordance with the Libraries Act. One area of activity here is the support of work with national minorities and the integration of foreigners.

4.4. Support for the integration of members of the Roma community

The Czech Republic has commitments related to the social integration of members of Roma communities by virtue of its deeper incorporation into the community of European Union Member States. At the recommendation of the competent organs of the EU, the Czech Government started creating a system for the monitoring of Roma communities in the Czech Republic. The EU was particularly critical of the lack of transparency in the statements on the use of funds released in support of the inclusion of socially excluded Roma communities and the integration of Roma communities in general. The monitoring will be launched in the next few years and will then take place on an annual basis. At present, the baseline situation for the concept of monitoring is being monitored.

4.4.1. Ministry of Culture

A competition for the support of the integration of members of the Roma community attracted 50 applicants with 62 projects. Most applicants were civic associations; other entrants were Church organizations, charities, limited liability companies, and organizations partly financed from the public purse that had been set up by the Ministry of Culture. In all, 27 projects from

23 applicants received support; CZK 1,972,118 was distributed. Projects benefiting from assistance in the programme for the Integration of the Roma Community include the festival *Romská píseň 2005* (Roma Song 2005), the eleventh year of which was held at the Outdoor Museum of Moravian Wallachia in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm under the aegis of the Minister for Culture and was organized by the *Democratic Alliance of Roma of the Czech Republic*, the *Karviná Roma Festival* organized by the *Association of Roma of North Moravia*, the international Roma festival *Gypsy Celebration 2005*, implemented by the civic association *Miret* with cooperation from Ida Kellarová, and the project *Roma Music Festival 2005*, organized by the *Civic Association for the Support and Development of Roma Young People* from Jablonec nad Nisou.

4.4.2. Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports produced and presented to the Government, for discussion, its *Concept (Project) for the Timely Care of Socio-Culturally Disadvantaged Children*, which the Government adopted under Resolution No 564 of 11 May 2005. One of the expected impacts of all the measures applied in the support of the education of pupils from a socio-culturally disadvantaged background is an increase in the number of these pupils in the educational mainstream and an improvement in their achievements at school. The probability that these pupils will continue their education, complete secondary school, university or vocational training successfully and achieve success on the labour market will rise. The successful integration of these pupils will also ultimately result in the lower cost of their education. At present several programmes are being run to support Roma pupils and students at various levels of education.

Statistics on the number of preparatory classes for the 2005/2006 school year and the number of children in these classes are valid as at 30 September 2005. There were 123 preparatory classes in this school year. Of these, 79 classes were opened at ordinary primary schools, 41 at practical schools, two at primary schools for the disabled, and one at a special-needs primary school. In all, 1,441 children received schooling in these preparatory classes. Compared to the last school year, there was a moderate reduction in both the number of preparatory classes and the number of children. There were 126 preparatory classes with 1,779 children in 2004/2005.

Currently, there are 306 assistant teachers at schools. Most assistants can be found in the Moravskoslezsko Region (72), followed by the Ústecko Region (48), Jihomoravsko Region (33) and Olomoucko Region (33). The fewest assistant teachers are in the Plzeňsko Region (3), Vysočina (7) and the Zlínsko Region (8). There are 16 assistant teachers at nursery schools. Currently, there are 206 assistant teachers at primary schools. In comparison, the number of assistant teachers at former special needs schools is much lower (39). At special schools, the number of assistant teachers is comparable to the number of assistants at special needs schools (37). At other types of schools, a total of four other assistant teachers were employed.

For 2005, CZK 10,000,000 was transferred from the Public Treasury Administration budget heading to budget heading 333 (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports) for the implementation of the programme *Support for Roma pupils at secondary schools*. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports provided indirect support to Roma university students in its *Programme to promote the integration of the Roma community*. An overview of the projects in this grant scheme can be found in Annex No 7.

4.4.3. Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

As part of its grant award procedure in the field of support for the provision of social services, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs runs a sub-programme focusing on support for the provision of special social services in socially excluded Roma communities. This sub-programme is intended for projects aimed at supporting the integration of members of the Roma community and supporting social work in Roma communities.

From the aspect of the forms (types) of social services, field programmes are promoted for persons living in socially excluded communities, low-threshold facilities for children and young people, and social guidance.

A 'special social service in socially excluded Roma communities' means activities geared towards supporting the integration of members of the Roma community in accordance with Section 21 of Governmental Order No 98/2002. In 2005, CZK 37.9 million was paid out in non-capital grants under this sub-programme.

In 2005, the Ministry also contributed to the payment of non-capital grants under the programme *Preventing social exclusion in Roma communities and eliminating the consequences thereof 2005*, which was announced by the Office of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

In the monitored indicator of the *Integration of members of the Roma community*, in 2005 CZK 65,685,800 was paid out in non-capital grants, which is approximately 7% more than in 2004. In all, 84 projects from 55 organizations were supported; of these, 32 projects were drawn up by churches, 5 projects by charities and 47 projects by civic associations. The same number of projects were supported as in 2004 (see Annex No 8).

Of the total volume the greatest share of this indicator in 2005 was disbursed to field programme services (CZK 32.9 million – 50% of the indicator volume), the services of low-threshold facilities for children and young people (CZK 10 million – 15%) and 'other' services (CZK 10.8 million – 17%).

As in 2004, the largest donation was awarded to the charity *People in Need*, totalling CZK 13,095,200 (20%), followed by the civic association *Co-existence* (CZK 8,188,600 – 12%) and the civic association *Association of Roma in Moravia* (CZK 5,357,700 – 8%).

o Funding from the *EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND*

The Ministry plays the role of Managing Authority in the programmes *HRD OP*, *SPD 3* and *Equal CIP*. One of the target groups benefiting from these programmes is ethnic minorities (Roma, Vietnamese, etc.). These projects can therefore be used to promote the activities of national minorities, especially those aimed at social inclusion leading to a return to the labour market. In 2005, members of Roma communities appeared as a target group in the presented projects. Other national minorities in the Czech Republic did not emerge as a specific target group in the supported projects.

However, there are projects for socially excluded persons, e.g. those from a socio-culturally disadvantaged background. Ethnic minorities can be included in such projects without being explicitly named.

In 2005, projects coordinated by the Ministry and geared towards Roma communities were also supported. In the *Equal CIP* programme, six of the projects receiving assistance were directly focused on Roma communities (one of which was not ultimately implemented); in the *HRD OP* programme, 24 projects were supported that were directly aimed at the integration of Roma communities. The monitoring of projects aimed at the support of Roma communities

is conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs primarily via its *Working Party for Roma community affairs within the scope of the ESF*.

In addition, further support activities are carried out in this field, such as the *Analysis of socially excluded Roma localities and communities and the absorption capacity of organizations* operating in this field. In 2005 (27 September 2005), the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs also held an international conference on the theme of the possibilities of using the ESF to improve the situation of Roma communities in the Czech Republic, in order to increase the awareness of entities presenting projects in this area. The Ministry is aware of the need to tackle the situation faced by Roma communities in the Czech Republic, especially in connection with the worsening social exclusion. The European Social Fund will soon introduce the main financial instrument to handle this situation and the Ministry will therefore continue the activities it has already begun.

○ Employment

With a view to deepening and expanding the current activities of the Commission of the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs for action to support the employment of persons hard to place on the labour market, with consideration for the Roma population, in the application of principles and measures of the European Union to increase the employment and employability of members of Roma communities in the Czech Republic through the implementation of the European Employment Strategy in the *Human Resources Development Operational Programme*, the *Joint Regional Operational Programme* and the adopted *Decade of Roma Integration 2005 – 2015*, in December 2005, changes were approved in the composition and activities of the Commission of the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs for action to support the employment of persons hard to place on the labour market, with consideration for members of the Roma community, including the new Statutes of this Commission.

○ Family policy

Under Government Resolution No 1305 of 12 October 2005, the *National Family Policy Concept* was approved; this Concept deals with national minority issues, especially in connection with:

- the situation of families and children,
- immigrants.

In the field of adoption and foster care, together with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, talks were held on the issue of Ukrainian children born in the Czech Republic who are suitable for adoption or foster care but are prevented by legislation in force from being adopted in the Czech Republic. Cooperation was also expanded with nongovernmental organizations in searches for suitable applicants for ethnically different children who are suitable for adoption.

The Ministry continues to make an active contribution to the handling of issues related to the crimes of unaccompanied foreign minors (or foreign minors placed in the care of a natural person in the Czech Republic on the basis of an invalid power of attorney). Interdepartmental cooperation was established and a meeting was held in Ostrava where the procedure for tackling this problem within the region was set. The Ministry was also delegated to establish cooperation with the Slovak Republic.

- Other activities of the Ministry

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs commissioned an *Analysis of socially excluded Roma localities (communities) and the absorption capacity of entities operating in this field*, which has been conducted since 1 November 2005. The overview of projects to date shows that the impact of the ESF on aid to Roma communities is inadequate. Therefore, it is necessary to apply all means possible to ensure efficient drawing on the *ESF* for Roma communities in the next programming period. The principal objective of the analysis is to obtain basic information about the situation of socially excluded Roma localities and communities through the blanket mapping of the situation in individual localities, and to gain an insight into the processes which affect the living conditions in various types of localities, so that the funding system in the 2007-2013 programming period can be set correctly. At the same time, it is necessary to determine the possibilities and absorption capacity of entities operating and providing services in this area (i.e. primarily nongovernmental organizations, organizations set up and funded by municipalities and regions, municipalities, regions, employment offices, business entities, natural persons).

PEER REVIEW is one of the instruments of the Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion – a Community programme of the European Commission. On the Czech Republic's accession to the EU, the country also became involved in this Community programme.

It is a tool that assesses examples of good practice referred to in Member States' *National Action Plans of Social Inclusion*. An example of good practice is not in itself assessed. Its positive impact on the social inclusion policy in the country in which it is applied is automatically assumed simply by the fact that it is classified among examples of good practice. The transferability of an example of good practice among EU Member States and EU candidate countries is assessed in particular.

In the past, the Czech Republic has taken part in two *PEER REVIEWS* (immigrants, 2004, Paris and the homeless, 2005, Copenhagen), both times as an evaluating country. In May 2005, the Czech Republic hosted a *PEER REVIEW* for the first time; the example of good practice assessed was the programme 'field social work in excluded Roma communities' run by *People in Need*, which also prepared it in cooperation with the Ministry and the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs.

The *PEER REVIEW* took place over two days – 19-20 May 2005. On the first day, participants were welcomed and the example of good practice was presented. The half-day introductory block was followed by study visits to the example of good practice. The study visits took place in three selected localities where the assessed programme is implemented. These localities were in Ústí nad Labem, Kladno and Prague. On the second day, the programme continued with an intensive evaluation of the example of good practice and a discussion on the course of the individual visits.

4.5. Support of education in the languages of national minorities

This primarily takes place through a specific grant scheme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for the support of education in the languages of national minorities. The programme budget for 2005 was CZK 19,635,000. In 2005, CZK 14,244,410 was distributed. Of this, CZK 1,936,000 was transferred by means of a budgetary measure to the budget heading of the Ministry of Culture for the implementer of the project *Seminar for teachers concerning the teaching of the Holocaust*, the Terezín Monument.

Four selection rounds were held in this programme, in which CZK 28,265,000 was sought for 114 projects; CZK 14,244,410 was granted to 54 projects. This means that 50.4% of the sought funding was granted to 47.4% of all projects presented for consideration. An overview of the projects supported in this scheme can be found in Annex No 6.

o Polish minority education

In 2005, all educational facilities where Polish is the language of instruction, in the Moravskoslezsko Region were located in the districts of Frýdek Místek and Karviná, where there is the highest concentration of inhabitants of Polish nationality. In schools with Polish as the language of instruction, approximately 3,700 pupils are enrolled (in 32 nursery schools, 25 primary schools and five secondary schools). All the educational facilities with Polish as the language of instruction are part of the network of schools run by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Their task is to provide education to citizens of the Czech Republic of Polish nationality in accordance with Czech curricula issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, but in their mother tongue, with certain additional specific subjects. The dwindling numbers of pupils in primary and nursery schools has prompted the merger of schools, and schools with Polish as the language of instruction are no exception.

Teaching in Polish took place in the following secondary schools in 2005:

<i>name of school</i>	<i>address</i>	<i>code / field</i>
Business Academy	Sokola Tůmy 12, 737 01 Český Těšín	63-41-M/004 Business academy with Polish as the language of instruction
Secondary Nursing School	K.H. Borovského 2315, 733 01 Karviná - Mizerov	53-41-M/007 Nursing assistant in Polish
Secondary Technical Schools	Žižkova 1818, Karviná - Hranice	23-41-M/001 Engineering in Polish
Grammar School with Polish as the Language of Instruction	Havlíčková 13, 737 01 Český Těšín	79-41-K/401 Grammar school – general
Grammar School with Polish as the Language of Instruction	Havlíčková 13, 737 01 Český Těšín	79-41-K/601 Grammar school – general
Grammar School with Polish as the Language of Instruction	Havlíčková 13, 737 01 Český Těšín	79-41-K/404 Grammar school – natural-science subjects in Polish

A significant role in the education of the Polish national minority is played by the *Teaching Centre for Polish Minority Education*, which is based in Český Těšín; its promoter is the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The Centre is responsible for ensuring the continual development of further teacher training and for producing and distributing methodological and teaching materials and aids. In 2005, the Centre received a total contribution of CZK 5,203,000 to cover its operations.

4.6. Support of multicultural education

Important elements of education in the educational area discussed are the prevention of racist, xenophobic, and extremist attitudes, educating pupils towards tolerance and respect for human rights, and educating pupils to respect their natural and cultural environment. The educational field of ‘Humankind and Society’ includes history and civil studies, and is reflected in other fields of study and the whole life of a school. In its educational content, it follows up directly

on 'Humans and Their World', which tells pupils from the first level of primary school more about the 'world of society'.

Cross-sectional themes in the FEPPE cover up-to-date areas of problems related to the contemporary and future world, and are becoming an important and integral part of primary education. They are an important formative element of primary education and help to develop the personality of the pupil, especially as regards attitudes and values.

The following cross-sectional themes are set apart in primary education:

- personality and social studies,
- democratic citizen studies,
- ideas in European and global contexts,
- multicultural education,
- environmental studies,
- media studies.

The *Multicultural Studies* cross-sectional theme in primary education enables pupils to learn about the diversity of various nationalities and cultures, their traditions and values. Based on this diversity, pupils will then have a better awareness of their own culture, traditions and values.

In the drafts of the framework education programmes for secondary education ('FEPSE'), which are currently being drawn up for individual fields and levels of education at secondary schools, further to the set objectives of education the competences of graduates are formulated, defining the target requirements concerning their general and specialist knowledge, skills, habits and other necessary qualities. The way general competences are developed in the individual framework educational programmes into content-based groups in the field of social-science education makes it possible to incorporate into secondary school curricula content on the subject of extremism. In the general part for all fields of study within the FEPSE, there is a compulsory cross-sectional theme of 'Citizens in a democratic society', which significantly reinforces the study of human rights, democracy and thus multicultural co-existence throughout the curriculum, which helps to eliminate extremism. This theme also envisages the use of project-based teaching.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports financially supported the preparation and publication of the following information materials for schools:

- Copyright Protection (the text is available from www.msmt.cz)
- Extremism (the text and a video cassette are presented at seminars for teachers)
- Proceedings of the summer school for Civil Studies teachers (the text was sent to all participants of *Teaching Teachers about the Holocaust, Anti-Semitism, Racism*).

The Ministry also accredited the *Terežín Monument* and the *Resource and Cultural Centre of the Jewish Museum in Prague*, which are unique educational establishments with exclusive authorization to organize seminars for the teachers of primary and secondary schools. The education ministry finances the '*How to Teach about the Holocaust*' seminars and makes financial contributions to the organization of international conferences. As at 30 December 2005, approximately 1,500 teachers had received training – after attending the seminar they are recognized as trained methodologists for teaching about the Holocaust at primary and secondary schools in the Czech Republic.

In August 2005, the *Summer School for Teachers of Civil Studies and Social Sciences* was prepared by the Teacher Training Faculty of Palacký University, Olomouc. The programme covered terrorism, violence and bullying, multicultural education (the theme of Islam, foreigners, and us – the Vietnamese, Ukrainians), the theme of the presidential election in the USA, the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a multicultural society.

The *Educational and Psychological Counselling Institute* organized a series of lectures on the theme of the Roma ethnic group and seminars on extremism.²³⁾ A list of all training activities is published on the Institute's website at www.ippp.cz.

4.7. Summary

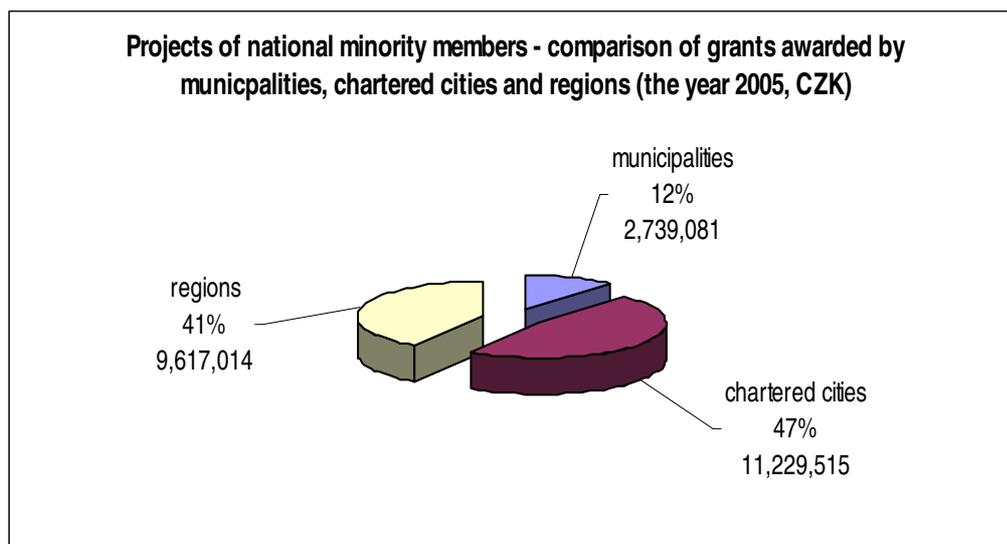
Support for the activities of members of national minorities is one of the main areas of the government grant policy in relation to nongovernmental organizations. National budget grant programmes are thematically split into four programmes:

- a) assistance to maintain, develop and present the cultures of national minorities,
- b) assistance to disseminate and accept information in the languages of national minorities,
- c) support of education in the languages of national minorities and multicultural upbringing,
- d) assistance for projects aimed at the integration of members of the Roma community.

An overview of assistance for the projects of members of national minorities or projects to their benefit from the national budget is given above in this section and in the relevant annexes. The specific support of minority projects from public finances in the competence of self-government bodies is presented in Annex No 9. Information about grants is also provided in Section 6, which sums up the observations of the representatives of national minorities. The fact that information from documentation for both sections often seems incompatible can be explained primarily by the lack of awareness of members of individual minority communities. As a rule, the grants of municipalities, chartered cities and regions include crime prevention projects and social service programmes, which need not be considered support of a national-minority nature. Therefore we view the stated amounts with a degree of caution.

If we compare the share of regional budgets in the funding of the projects of members of national minorities (including the Roma community) in the past few years,²³⁾ a steady rise can be observed among regions which have incorporated this issue into the grant headings of their budgets, even though they do not declare this issue separately. In 2002, three regions mentioned a support programme in their budgets to fund the projects of members of national minorities (including the Roma community), i.e. Karlovarsko, Královéhradecko, and the City of Prague; in 2003, the number of these regions had risen to nine (City of Prague, Jihomoravsko, Karlovarsko, Královéhradecko, Liberecko, Moravskoslezsko, Pardubicko, Ústecko, and Zlínsko); in 2004 information is missing only for the Středočesko Region, while Ústecko and Zlínsko describe grant schemes in general without specifying the amount spent on the support of projects drawn up by national-minority organizations. In 2005, information was also provided by Vysočina, Ústecko and Zlínsko. The total amount of grants is gradually rising.

²³⁾ See the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic for 2003 and 2004.



A comparison of grants awarded by regions, chartered cities and municipalities reveals that regions and chartered cities make similar contributions to grants; the share of regions, chartered cities and municipalities in grants is rising every year. As has already been mentioned, this can be explained by the fact that the grant projects often include activities which are more social than national-minority in nature. However, as regards Roma communities, they cannot be removed from the overviews as they generally involve a set of activities closely connected with national-minority issues.

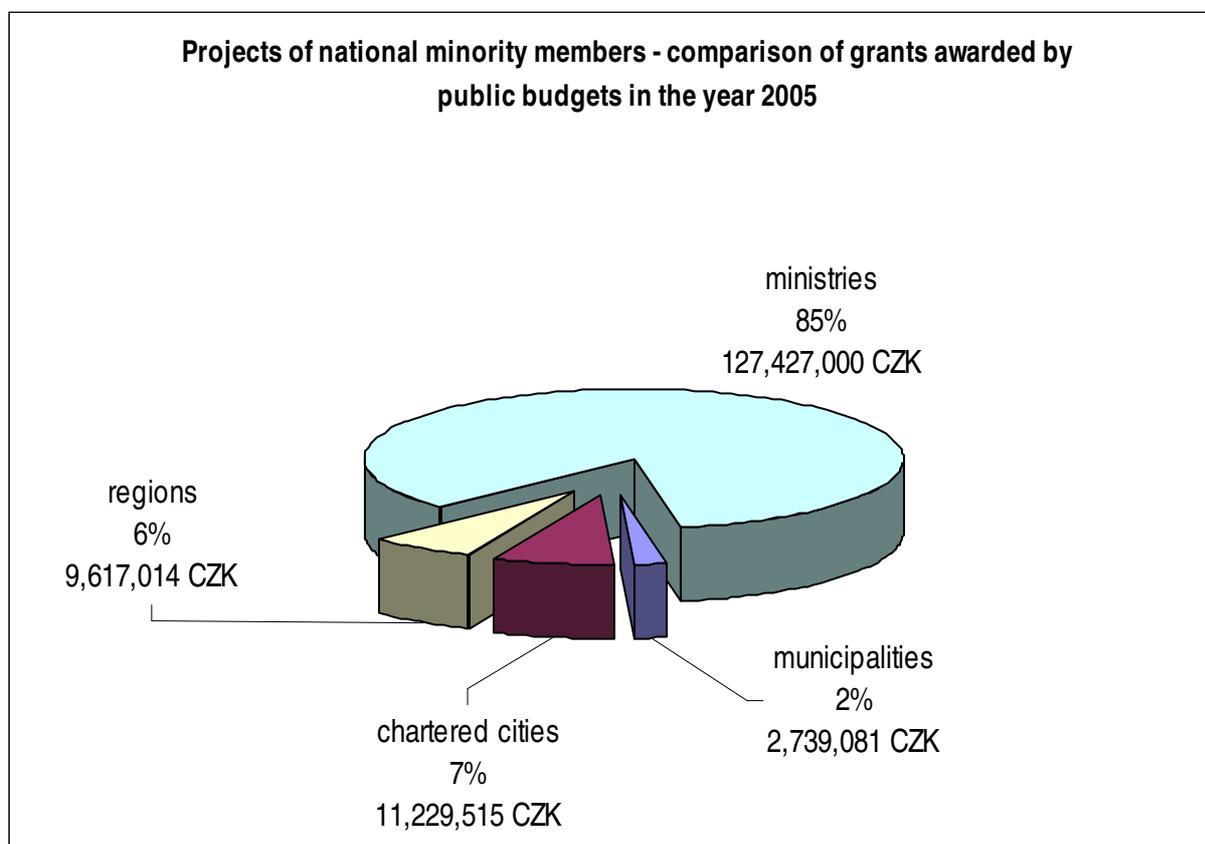
However, the assistance of projects for the activities of national minorities depends primarily on grants from the national budget. The following table provides an overview of them, which documents government expenditure on the activities of national minorities in 2005:

<i>area</i>	<i>specification</i>	<i>grantor (type of grant)</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
a)	Cultural activities of members of national minorities	Ministry of Culture (grant programme)	8 035 000,-
	Khamoro Prague world Roma festival	Ministry of Finance Public Treasury Administration heading (Government Resolution No 347/2003)	1 600 000,-
	Drama, music, literature, art, film (State Fund of the Czech Republic for the Support and Development of Czech Film), protection of movable cultural heritage, museums and galleries, State Cultural Fund, audiovisual resources and mass media	Ministry of Culture, Art and Libraries Department (grant programme)	8 158 000,-
	21 st Century Library grant	Ministry of Culture (grant programme)	130 000,-
b)	Publication of the periodicals of national minorities	Ministry of Culture (grant programme)	30 000 000,-
c)	Education in the languages of national minorities and multicultural upbringing	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (grant programme)	14 244 000,-
d)	Integration of members of the Roma community	Ministry of Culture (grant programme)	1 580 000,-
	ESF: Improvements in education at schools and educational establishments and development of ancillary systems in education	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	3 797 536,-
	Integration of members of the Roma community	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (grant programme)	9 993 050,-
	Integration of members of the Roma community – assistance for Roma students at secondary schools		1 239 100,-
	Programme for the financing of assistant teachers	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	1 877 202,-
	Campaign against Racism (tolerance project)	Office of the Government of the Czech Republic	4 000 000,-
	Programme preventing social exclusion in Roma communities		30 000 000,-
	Coordinators of Roma advisers at regional authorities		5 000 000,-
	Integration of members of the Roma community		10 000 000,-
Integration of members of the Roma community	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	65 685 800,-	

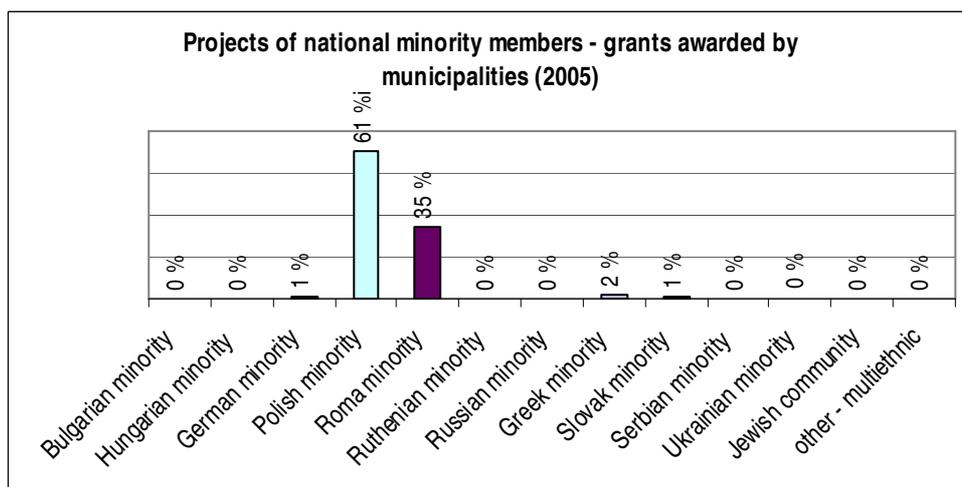
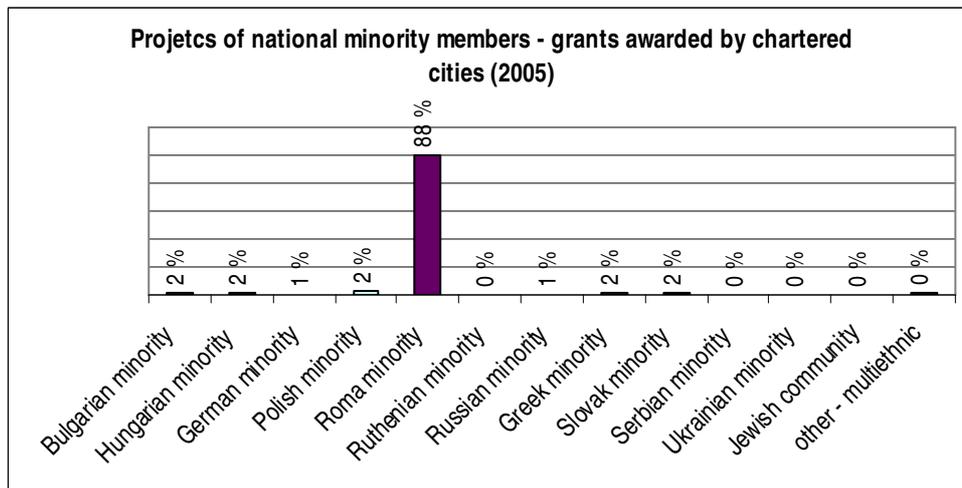
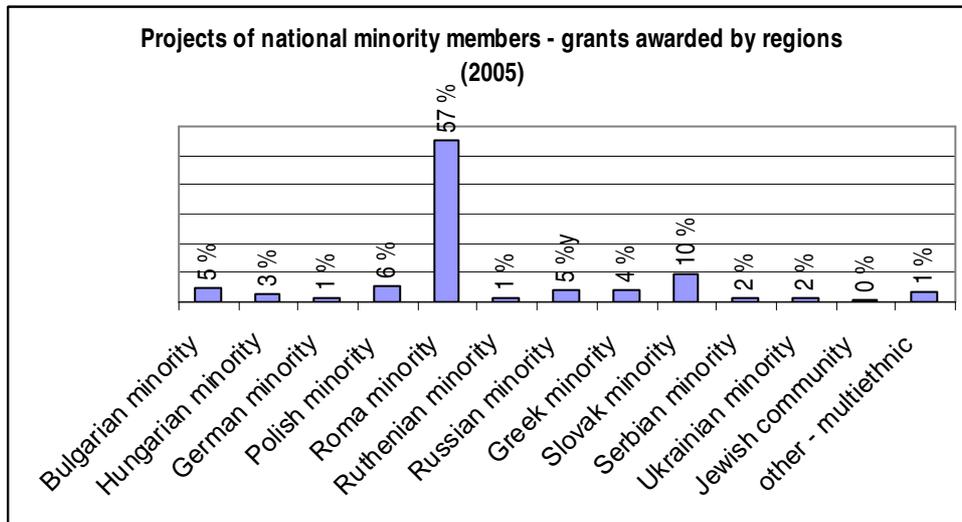
Ad hoc projects	Reconstruction of the Henryk Sienkiewicz Primary School with Polish as the language of instruction	Ministry of Finance Public Treasury Administration heading (Government Resolution No 663/2004)	65 000 000,-
	Greek Memorial in Krnov	Ministry of Culture (transferred from the Government's contingency)	260 000,-

Total 260 599 688,-

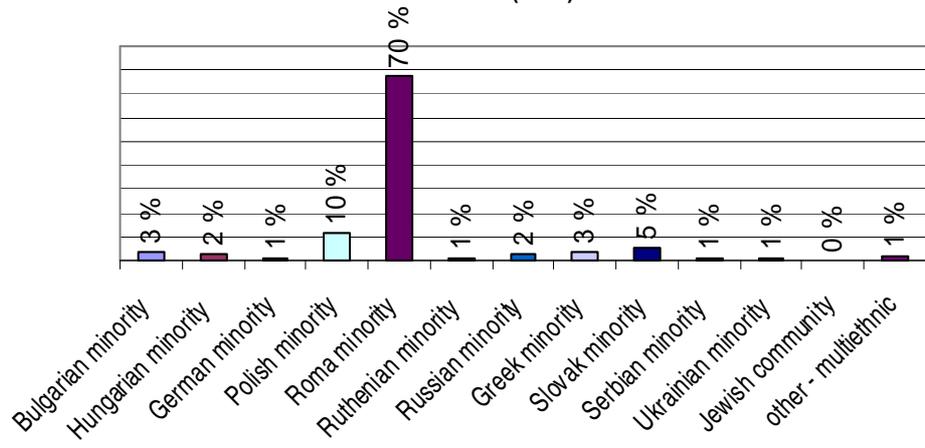
A comparison of the figures detailing expenditure on the projects of members of national minorities from the national budget and the budgets of municipalities and regions confirms the ongoing trend shifting from central to local resources; it should be borne in mind that the overview does not include programmes for the support of the integration of members of the Roma community (stated in the table under d). The budget of the ministries has also been significantly increased by the item concerning the project to reconstruct the primary school with Polish as the language of instruction in Jablunkov, amounting to CZK 65,000,000.



For the sake of interest, we attach an overview of how grants are distributed among individual national minorities in regions and municipalities:



Projects of national minority mebers - grants awarded by self-governing bodies in total (2005)



5. Activities of self-governing bodies

5.1. Municipal assemblies

As in previous years, the Council Secretariat asked the statutory representatives of municipalities to answer questions focusing on the situation of the relevant national minorities in the municipality. Municipalities were approached where the percentage of members of national minorities is more than 10%; claims to belong to the Moravian and Silesian minority were discounted. Municipalities which did not respond to the questions are specified in the footnote,²⁴⁾ among the others, the replies have been only formally and stylistically edited on a minor scale. The situation is rounded off by Annex No 10, which records the financial contribution made by municipalities to the projects of organizations of members of national minorities.

- 1. Was a Committee for National Minorities (council / other body / coordinator) set up in your competence? What agenda was it in charge of in 2005? Are competences accumulated within the scope of minority agendas in general (does the same body administrate the affairs of national minorities, the integration of Roma communities, the integration of foreigners, the drug policy, etc.)?***

ALBRECHTICE

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly; in 2005 it met three times)	http://www.obecalbrechtice.cz/	Obecní 186 735 43 Albrechtice phone: 596 428 448, e-mail: podatelna@obecalbrechtice.cz

At its meetings, the committee mainly discussed the following issues: a discussion of the municipality's draft budget, the plan of the work of the Albrechtice Municipal Council and the Albrechtice Municipal Assembly, issues of national-minority education, cultural activities within the organization PZKO (*Polish Cultural and Educational Union*), the proposed signposting in Albrechtice – bilingual names and the approval of the report on the situation of national minorities in Albrechtice for 2004.

Where necessary, the chairperson of the local PZKO chapter and the head teacher of the primary school and the nursery school with Polish as the language of instruction attended

²⁴⁾ Abertamy, Aš, Bělá pod Pradědem, Bílá, Bílá Voda, Bílý Potok, Blatno, Blažim, Bohumín, Bochov, Boží Dar, Božičany, Březské, Bukovec, Cetechovice, Černava, Čichalov, Děpoltovice, Desná v Jizerských horách, Dolní Dvořiště, Dolní Pěna, Dolní Poustevna, Dolní Rychnov, Domašín, Habartov, Hazlov, Heřmanovice, Hlavenec, Holovice, Hora sv. Šebestiána, Horní Blatná, Horní Maršov, Hoštka, Hrabošice, Hrabětice, vojenský újezd Hradiště, Hranice, Hroznětín, Hrušov, Chlum sv. Maří, Chodov, Janov, Javorník, Jenišov, Jevišovka, Jindřichovice pod Smrkem, Jiřetín pod Jedlovou, Jívka, Josefov, Josefův Důl, Kaceřov, Katusice, Kovářská, Královské Poříčí, Kraslice, Krásná Lípa, Krásný Les, Kryštofovo Údolí, Křimov, Křišťanov, Lampertice, Lenora, Libá, Libořice, Lipová, Loučovice, Luby, Malá Morava, Malá Štáhle, Malá Úpa, Malesice, Malonty, Malšín, Měděnec, Merklín, Mikulášovice, Mikulov, Mikulovice, Milhostov, Milovice, Mirkovice, Mírová, Mladé Buky, Moldava, Nejdek, Nová Pec, Nová Ves, Nové Hamry, Nové Město pod Smrkem, Nové Sedlo, Nový Kostel, Obora, Oborná, Oloví, Ovesné Kladruhy, Pesvice, Petrovice, Písek, Podbořanský Rohozec, Polevsko, Poustka, Přední Výtoň, Přehýšov, Přepychy, Radnice, Rokytovec, Rozvadov, Rožmberk nad Vltavou, Sedloňov, Skorošice, Sokolov, Spomyšl, Stanovice, Stará, Červená Voda, Staré Město, Staré Sedlo, Stárvok, Stránka, Stráž nad Ohří, Strážný, Stružná, Stříbrná, Svatava, Světlík, Šemnice, Tatrovce, Těšovice, Tisová, Třebom, Vápenná, Varnsdorf, Veliká Ves, Velká Kraš, Velký Luh, Vestec, Vidnava, Vikantice, Vrbice, Všestudy, Vysoká, Vysoká Pec, Vyšší Brod, Zběšičky, Zbytiny, Zlaté Hory, Žernov.

Committee meetings. The Committee's cooperation with the municipal council and the municipal assembly is very good.

The only national minority living in the municipality is the Polish national minority. The Polish national minority is the only organized minority; it organizes a wide range of social and cultural activities and applies an educational system with instruction in its own language. There is a primary school and a nursery school with Polish as the language of instruction (at Školní 11, Albrechtice, Karviná district), an organization partly financed from the public purse which has been an autonomous legal entity sponsored by the municipality of Albrechtice since 1 January 2003. In the 2005-2006 school year, 10 children attend the nursery school and 24 pupils attend the primary school (grades 1-5). Pupils are taught in two classes - grades 1, 2 and 4 (11 pupils) and grades 3 and 5 (13). Pupils complete their compulsory school attendance in adjacent municipalities, especially Horní Suchá and Český Těšín. The school runs after-school care centre from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

During last year, Albrechtice repaired the school's façade and fencing. The playground was also modified. The total investment came to CZK 440,000.

BEČOV (district: Most)

Not set up. The municipality has submitted an application for a grant in support of a field worker. The municipality has 2,050 inhabitants, of whom almost 500 are of Roma nationality. However, only 29 of them claimed this nationality in the census.

BOCANOVICE

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members, set up in 2002	http://www.bocanovice.cz/	Bocanovice 21 73 991 Jablunkov phone: 558362167, fax 558341570, e-mail: ou.bocanovice@quick.cz

BRNO – KOHOUTOVICE

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members	http://www.kohoutovice.cz/	Úřad MČ Brno-Kohoutovice Bašného 36

BRNO – ŘECKOVICE AND MOKRÁ HORA

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (of which two members of the municipal assembly, three external members; contact: Koláčný - chairman), set up in 2002	http://www.reckovice.cz/	UMČ Brno-Řečkovice a Mokrá Hora, Palackého nám. 11 621 00 Brno, tel. 541 421 711 fax 541 226 124, e-mail: sekr@reckovice.brno.cz

The committee manages affairs related to national minorities, focusing on cultural and social activities, the problems of the integration of Roma and foreign communities does not need to be covered within this municipal ward. In the case of foreign communities, there has been a spontaneous merger with majority society without any conflict; there are no Roma communities here. The committee's activities are financially supported in the form of royalty payments to lecturers, the reimbursement of the cost of technical equipment and the free loaning of premises to host the events of national minorities.

BYSTRICE

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
four members	http://www.bystrice.cz/	739 95 Bystřice 334 tel. 558 340 311 fax 558 340 32 e-mail: obec@bystrice.cz

ČESKÝ TĚŠÍN

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
eleven members (representatives of the Polish, Roma and Slovak minority; the contact person is R. Moliński, a member of the municipal assembly)	http://www.tesin.cz/	Náměstí ČSA 1/1 737 01 Český Těšín tel. 558 713 100, fax 558711509 e-mail: epodatelna@tesin.cz

The committee discusses topical issues concerning national minorities, especially minority education, the provision of cultural grants, legislation in the field of the rights of minority members.

Within the Social Department of the Municipal Authority, the national-minority agenda, including Roma and foreign community affairs, is included within the social care agenda; it is not maintained separately or autonomously. If these persons meet the set conditions for the provision of social welfare benefits, they receive them to the same extent as members of majority society.

Every year, the municipality announces the deadlines for the submission of grant applications for the first and second half of the year under the *Principles for the provision of grants from the municipal budget in support of cultural and artistic activities and in support of sports and other activities*. There are no separate grant schemes in support of national minorities.

DOLNÍ LOMNÁ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>Contact</i>
three members (one is from the municipal assembly), set up in 2002	http://www.dlomna.trz.cz/	739 91 Dolní Lomná čp. 164 tel. 558 358 720; fax 558 357 411 e-mail: OU.DolniLomna@trz.cz

HNOJNÍK

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (of which two are from the municipal assembly; meetings in 2005 were irregular)	http://www.hnojnik.cz/ridici_organy/	739 53 Hnojník č. 222 tel.558 694 255; fax 558 694 257

In 2005, the committee met irregularly, mainly in relation to the organization of various events held by Hnojník and local schools and organizations.

The competences of the committee are not accumulated within the scope of other agendas.

HODOV

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
the chairwoman is a member of the municipal assembly	http://www.horacko.cz/hodov	Obec Hodov, 675 04 Hodov 54 e-mail: ou.hodov@horacko.cz

HORA SVATÉ KATEŘINY

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (all are from the municipal assembly)	http://www.horasvatekateriny.cz/ou.html	Dlouhá 261 435 46 Hora Svaté Kateřiny, tel./fax 476 113 173 e-mail: obecni.urad@horasvatekateriny.cz

HORNÍ LOMNÁ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
the sole member is a member of the municipal assembly	http://www.hlomna.trz.cz/	Horní Lomná 44 739 91 pošta Jablunkov tel./fax 558 366 111 e-mail: ouhlomna@quick.cz

Besides the Polish minority in the municipality there are no members of national minorities. The committee does not carry out any activities.

HORNÍ SUCHÁ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (one is a member of the municipal assembly, representatives of the Hungarian, Polish, Roma and Slovak national minorities)	http://www.hornisucha.cz/whs02.aspx?ir=288&id=916	Sportovní 3/2 735 35 Horní Suchá tel. 596 425 645, e-mail: hornisucha@hornisucha.cz

The committee cooperated with organizations representing national minorities and with the Misdemeanours Commission and the District Unit of the Czech Police Force (it checked where the co-existence of national minorities had been disrupted, either among the minorities themselves or in relation to the majority population); it monitored the municipality's grants for the activities of organizations and clubs drawing together national minorities, provided information about legislation in the field of bilingualism, the use of the language of national minorities in civil life, the preparation of the ratification of the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the possibilities of obtaining dual citizenship, etc. In the reporting period there was no accumulation of the competences of the committee with other public administration authorities or self-government.

HRADEC – NOVÁ VES

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly)	http://www.hradec-novaves.cz/index.php?nid=455&lid=CZ&oid=1824	Hradec-Nová Ves 12 790 84 pošta Mikulovice tel. 584 423 086 fax 584 452 812, e-mail: obec@hradec-novaves.cz

HRÁDEK

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (the chairwoman is a member of the municipal assembly)	http://www.obechradek.cz/	čp. 352 739 97 Hrádek tel. 558 369 053 fax 558 369 053 e-mail: obehradek@volny.cz

HRUŠOVANY

Not set up, no one delegated representatives of national minorities to the committee. Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000 requires that more than 50% of the committee be composed of the representatives of national minorities. Unfortunately they were not delegated to the committee and therefore the municipality could not set up the committee. The municipality informed the regional authority in Ústí nad Labem of this last year, without response. It is seeking information of methodology on how to proceed in setting up the committee without conflict in a situation where the municipality has no details on specific citizens claiming to be members of national minorities. If no methodology is published by next year, the municipality (municipal chairman) will not respond to any calls to document the situation because this will be considered a waste of time.

CHEB

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
nine-member Roma Affairs Commission (2 representatives of the employment office, an educational adviser, the Czech Police Force, the municipal police force, 3 representatives of NGOs, representative of the public)	http://www.mestocheb.cz/vismo/o_utvar.asp?d=12&u=5091&id_org=5091&id_u=25357&p1=3421&p2=&p3=	Úřad práce v Chebu ul. 26. dubna 4 350 20 Cheb tel. 354 440 231

Competences within the scope of minority agendas are not accumulated. At the Social Affairs and Health Department of the Municipal Authority in Cheb, Roma affairs are exclusively covered by the Roma adviser, Jaroslava Rymešová, who has also been appointed as the secretary of the above-mentioned commission. The Roma adviser directly manages two Roma field workers, who are classified within the Social Affairs and Health Department based on a pilot project of the Ministry of the Interior with the use of a grant from the Office of the Government (Inter-Ministerial Commission for Roma Community Affairs) in February 2004. As of January 2006, both were recruited as full-time employees; under Resolution No 535/18/05 the Cheb Municipal Council decided that they would be employed irrespective of whether a grant is awarded for their pay by the Office of the Government.

CHOMUTOV

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
nine members (five are members of the municipal assembly, representatives of the German, Roma and Ukrainian minorities)	http://www.chomutov-mesto.cz/	kancelář místostarosty Zborovská 4602 430 28 Chomutov tel. 474 637 220, e-mail: kozak-mistostar@chomutov-mesto.cz

Since the beginning of the year intensive negotiations have been under way with the Municipal Asset Management Department and the municipal leadership on the acquisition of non-residential premises to set up a building for national minorities. Committee members attend roundtable meetings aimed at tackling the issues of the Roma minority – in the office of the municipal chairwoman on 2 March 2005. In March, an event was held by the District Museum in Chomutov called *Shining Past*, where the chairperson of the committee briefly described the committee's activities. To mark the *Roma Day*, on 8 April 2005 a weeping willow was planted in the Podkrušnohoří Zoo Park and an exhibition preview of photographs on the life and history of Roma in the Czech Republic was held, which was attended by a representative of the Office of the Government. The committee approved a refreshment contribution of CZK 2,000. On 23 April 2005, a five-a-side football tournament was held (*Trophy of the Chairperson of the Committee for National Minorities*) at the playground of

Primary School Three Na Příkopech. This was the first year the competition was held under the aegis of the committee. Five teams from Chomutov and Most took part in the tournament. At its regular meeting on 26 April 2005, the committee welcomed representatives of the conciliation council and *Partners Czech*, who had approached the committee with a request for the establishment of a conciliation council in Chomutov. The chairwoman of the conciliation commission was asked to provide information to members of the municipal assembly. There was Acknowledgement of the representatives of the German minority for the presentation of flowers by the chairman of the committee on Mothers Day, 10 May 2005. Committee members, who are representatives of national minorities and also work in various associations, provide regular information about their activities.

The municipality does not have a grant policy in relation to national minorities. All the civic associations can apply for a contribution for their activities under the *Principles for the provision of grants from the Chomutov municipal budget* approved by the Chomutov Municipal Assembly in 2004.

CHOTĚBUZ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
eight members (two members are members of the municipal assembly)	http://www.chotebuz.cz/urad.asp	Chotěbuzská 250 735 61 Chotěbuz tel. 558 733 131-2 fax 558 733 132 e-mail: chotebuz@volny.cz

There is no accumulation of agendas. The municipal authority provides grants to non-profit organizations. It should be stressed that it provides a grant to the local chapter of the Polish Cultural and Educational Union, which is a non-profit organization. The grant is used for cultural events held by the PZKO chapter.

The municipality asks the Government Secretariat for National Minorities to ensure that municipal authorities are kept informed by the foreign police of the stay of citizens who reside in the municipality on a consular passport.

JABLUNKOV

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
eleven members (eight members are members of the municipal assembly, six representatives of the Polish and one of the Slovak minority, the chairman is a member of the assembly council)	http://www.jablunkov.cz/informace/clenove.html	Městský úřad Jablunkov Dukelská 144, 739 91 Jablunkov e-mail: posta@jablunkov.cz

Within the competence of the municipality's self-government, there is no organized national minority other than the Polish national minority. The committee only administrates the affairs of this national minority. In 2005, it had the following agenda:

- the updating of information for the introduction of bilingualism without the need for a petition,
- information on the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in the Czech Republic,
- monitoring of the co-existence of the Polish minority and the majority population within the municipality based on the findings of the misdemeanours commission and the inspection committee to check for any misdemeanours.

JIŘÍKOV

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (the contact person is the chairman, Vladislav Michalík)	http://jirikov.obec.cz/	Jiříkov 85 pošta Břidličná PŠČ 793 51; tel. 554 295 119 fax 554 295 189 e-mail: ou.jirikov@tiscali.cz

The committee does not carry out any activities.

KOBYLÁ NAD VIDNAVKOU

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (two members are members of the municipal assembly)	http://kobyła.rychleby.cz/	Kobylá nad Vidnavkou 53 790 65 Žulová 1 tel. 584 437 604 fax 584 545 085, e-mail: ou- kobyłanadvidnavkou@seznam.cz

In the municipality, besides the majority population of citizens of Czech nationality, there are also citizens claiming German, Romanian, Greek, Slovak and Roma nationality. However, they do not all claim membership of minorities in the census documentation. Nevertheless, they claim this membership in relations with the municipal authority. The total number of such citizens is about 70; given the frequency of movement in the municipality, these numbers can range by 20 persons above or below the stated number. As a percentage, this is 14-17% of the total population of 504. Most are persons claiming to belong to the Roma minority.

A committee has been set up under the municipal assembly which is chaired by Edita Randusová (members are Michal Goga, Jiří Sloup, Tařána Bořková and Jan Beňák). Usually, joint committee meetings are attended by several members; not all of them are present in all cases. Minutes are taken from the meetings; these minutes are then discussed by the municipal assembly. Over the year, the committee met four times; citizens of the stated minorities were invited. Besides committee members, meetings are always attended by the municipal chairman and, in most cases, by the deputy chairwoman of the municipality.

Others invited and present include representatives of the *Association of Roma in Moravia*, the head teacher of the nursery school and primary school, the teaching assistant for Roma from the primary school, representatives of the Office for the Representation of the State in Property Matters in Jeseník in cases where an item on the agenda is the reconstruction of the building with land registry reference number 75, which is where most Roma live; the building is property of the state (i.e. of the said Office).

All meetings, including agreements on repairs, are held at the municipal authority and the municipal chairman is delegated by the municipal assembly to tackle any problems arising. One meeting was convened with the participation of a representative of the employment office in Jeseník, and workers were selected for the municipality in the scope of community service. Of the five workers, two Roma are recruited at the municipality every year.

In cooperation with the Jeseník employment office and the Olomoucko Regional Authority, the municipality prepares employment for a larger number of persons; it envisages twenty citizens within the scope of the prepared employment plan; the work will include the use of persons to train in health problems of children and others; this will be provided by medical staff from the municipality's Rest Home. Citizens will also be acquainted with simple administrative actions – filling in forms, writing envelopes, the form of conduct with the authorities; all this will be provided by the municipal authority.

Talks will be held with the Czech Police Force, a lawyer, and a psychologist, and training will be given in occupational safety. All this is provided free of charge. The project will last for 24 consecutive months and will mainly be used for the acquisition of work habits and the related enrolment of more children at the nursery school, thus making children more prepared for primary school. The municipality expects a lot of this programme; again, it is solely a municipal commitment with no risk of wasting money and no result.

KOMORNÍ LHOTKA

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
four members (the chairman of the committee is the deputy chairman of the municipality, three meetings held in 2005)	http://stonavka.cz/komorni_lhotka/	Komorní Lhotka 27 739 53 Hnojník tel. 558 696 826 e-mail: oukomornilhotka@iol.cz

KOŠAŘSKA

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly)	http://www.kosariska.cz/zastupitelstvo.html	Košařska 58 739 81 Milíkov u Jablunkova tel. 724 096 120

The committee had no agenda in 2005; there was no accumulation of competences.

KRAVAŘE

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
a three-member committee was set up in 2005	http://www.kravare.cz/mu-text.html	Náměstí 43 747 21 Kravaře tel. 553 777 911 fax 553 777 922 e-mail: posta@kravare.cz

The committee had no agenda in 2005.

KRÁSNO

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly)	http://www.obec-krasno.cz/obec.htm#zastupitelstvo	Hlavní 123, Krásno 357 47

Competences within the scope of minority agendas are not accumulated.

MĚROVICE NAD HANOU

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (representatives of the Slovak and Ukrainian nationality); set up on 26 May 2005	http://merovice.strednihana.cz/index.pl?menu=62	Měrovice nad Hanou 131 752 01 Kojetín tel. 581 767 502 e-mail: obec.merovice@iol.cz

MILÍKOV

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly)	http://www.obecmilikov.cz/text/vybory.htm	739 81 Milíkov č. 200 tel. 558 362 121 fax 558 362 131, e-mail: ou.milikov@worldonline.cz

MOSTY U JABLUNKOVA

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (all are from the municipal assembly); contact: E. Turek – chairman	http://www.mostyujablunkova.cz/	č.p. 800 739 98 Mosty u Jablunkova

In 2005, the committee was involved in the activities of the Polish national minority in the municipality; the committee chairman is a member of the Council for National Minorities at the Congress of Poles, based in Český Těšín, where he attends meetings and regularly passes on information to committee members.

NÁVSI

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (the chairwoman is a member of the municipal assembly)	http://www.navsi.cz/	739 92 Návsí 327 tel. 558 357 890 fax 558 358 950 gsm 603 429 488 e-mail: ou.navsi@worldonline.cz

In 2005, the committee discussed bilingual street signs and signs on public buildings.

NÝDEK

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (all are members of the municipal assembly), set up in 2002	http://www.nydek.cz/	739 96 Nýdek čp. 281 tel/fax 558 356 216 e-mail: nydek@volny.cz

The committee only covered the Polish minority; the only written agenda in 2005 was to process information for the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic for 2004.

ORLOVÁ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
the five-member committee was set up in September 2005 (representatives of the Polish, Roma and Slovak minority, the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly; the committee met once)	http://www.mesto-orlova.cz/spravamesta/index.php?kompenzuj=1&volba=komise&komiseid=41	Osvobození 796 735 14 Orlová – Lutyně tel. 596 581 111 e-mail: urad@muor.cz

PETROVICE U KARVINÉ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
set up in 2002, three members (two are members of the municipal assembly)	http://www.petroviceuk.cz/	Č.p. 251 735 72 Petrovice u Karviné tel. 596 361 052 fax 596 361027, e-mail: ou.petroviceuk@centrum.cz

PÍSEČNÁ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (two members are members of the municipal assembly)	http://www.pisečna.unas.cz/pisečna.htm	Písečná čp. 42; 739 91 Jablunkov tel. 558 359 825 fax 558 359 825 e-mail: oupisečna@quick.cz

Last year, the committee did not discuss any problems concerning the status of national minorities in our municipality. No other requests were made to the municipal assembly or the chairman of the municipality by members of national minorities. Every year, the Polish national minority formed into a PZKO chapter holds a ball; the ball was also organized last year and was attended by several members of the municipal assembly, headed by the chairman. The co-existence of national minorities with citizens of Czech nationality is good in the municipality and the different nationalities work together constructively.

PRAHA 5 MUNICIPAL WARD

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
nine-member ethnic commission (the chairwoman is a member of the municipal assembly, two others are members of the municipal assembly, three Roma representatives, two experts, two representatives of nongovernmental organizations, one official)	http://www.praha5.cz/	nám. 14. října 4 150 22 Praha 5 tel. 257 000 543 fax 257 325 132, e-mail: katerina.miartusova@p5.mepnet.cz; eva.kalhousova@p5.mepnet.cz

At its meetings held regularly once a month, the ‘Ethnic Commission’ discusses all topical problems of the Roma community and other national minorities in Praha 5 (e.g. the provision and quality of housing, unemployment, crime, and truancy) and formulates opinions on conceptual issues and on how to handle specific individual problems. The commission also supports social, cultural, and sports events intended for members of national minorities. Besides commission members, commission meetings are regularly attended by representatives of schools, the Czech Police Force, Roma field workers from Praha 5 Municipal Authority and field workers from the charity *People in Need*. The commission’s remit includes the affairs of national minorities and problems related to the integration of the Roma community and the integration of foreigners. The inclusion of these matters in the competence of the Ethnic Commission does not give rise to any complications. Of national minority organizations, the commission’s meetings are regularly attended by Božena Virágová, the chairwoman of the civic association *Romano dives*.

ROPICE

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly)	http://stonavka.cz/ropice/	Ropice čp.110; 739 56 Ropice tel./fax 558 735 165 e-mail: ropice@ropice.cz

ROUDNO

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
formally set up, the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly	the municipality does not have a website	Roudno 56; 792 01 Roudno tel. 554 776 006 e-mail: roudno@tiscali.cz

RUDNÁ POD PRADĚDEM

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly)	http://www.rudnapodpradedem.cz/	Stará Rudná 89 793 35 Rudná pod Pradědem tel. 554 737 041 fax 554 737 040 e-mail: obecrudna@seznam.cz

ŘEKA

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members	http://www.stonavka.cz/reka/zastupitelstvo.php?obec=5	Obec Řeka p. Smilovice 739 55, tel. 558 694 652 e-mail: obecreka@cbox.cz

The committee was established in 2002. As the municipality only has a Polish national minority, the agenda focuses on this minority.

SMILOVICE

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
	http://www.smilovice.cz/	č.p. 13 73955 Smilovice tel. 558 694 522 e-mail obec.smilovice@netron.cz

STONAVA

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (the chairman is the deputy chairman of the municipality)	http://www.stonava.cz/	Obecní úřad Stonava 735 34 Stonava č.p. 730 tel. 602 530 140

The committee tackles with national minority issues. Competences within the scope of minority agendas are not accumulated here. Therefore, besides national-minority affairs, the committee does not have Roma, drug or other matters in its competence.

STRÍTEŽ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
a three-member committee has existed since 2002 (the chairwoman is a member of the municipal assembly, representative of the Polish minority)	http://www.stonavka.cz/stritez/index.php?node=151&lang=0&subjekt_id=9	Střítež čp. 118 739 59 Střítež u Českého Tešína tel./fax 558 694 322 e-mail: ou-stritez@telecom.cz

TĚRLICKO

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
seven members (the chair is a member of the municipal assembly; others are representatives of minority organizations and the head teacher)	http://www.terlicko.cz/	Horní Těrlicko 474 735 42 Těrlicko tel. 596 416 852 fax 596 423 087 e-mail: ou@terlicko.cz

The committee only administrated the affairs of national minorities. It was set up in the municipality in 2000. In this term of office it has seven members. The chairperson is the head teacher of the primary school and nursery school with Polish as the language of instruction; she is a member of the municipal assembly – the only member of the fifteen-member municipal assembly to be of Polish nationality. Other members are the chairpersons of special-interest organizations, the chairpersons of PZKO, teachers, and youth representatives. The Committee meets regularly, six times a year, and more frequently if required. Specific activities of the Committee: the coordination of the work of local special-interest organizations (three PZKO clubs, Macierz szkolna, Youth Club, Koło pań, and Harcerstwo polskie v RC), the preparation of projects for the acquisition of grants to cover the activities of special-interest organizations, issues related to national minority education, assistance in the municipality's cooperation with a municipality in Poland – Chybie.

In other respects the atmosphere in the municipality as regards national minorities is good. The municipality respects rights of the Polish minority to develop their own culture, to receive

and disseminate information in their mother tongue, to be members of national-minority associations, the right to education in Polish and the right to participate in the handling of matters which concern them. Some names of buildings housing state authorities are also in the language of the minority.

TŘANOVICE

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
set up in 2002	http://stonavka.cz/	Třanovice č.p. 250 739 53 Hnojník tel./fax 558 696 161 e-mail: tranovice@iol.cz

TŘINEC

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
seven members, set up in 2002 (the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly, representatives of the Polish, Greek, and Slovak minorities)	http://www.trinecko.cz/meu/komise/vybory.php?co=r	Jablunkovská 160 739 61 Třinec tel. 558 306 111 fax 558 306 143, e-mail: epodatelna@trinecko.cz

The chairpersons of the Roma associations *Láčo Láv* and the *Association of Roma of East Silesia* are invited to joint meetings of the Committee for National Minorities.

The committee administrates the affairs of national minorities and cooperates with the Department of Education and Culture of the Municipal Authority in educational matters. There are several schools with Polish as the language of instruction in the administrative district of the municipality. The agenda of the Roma communities is managed by the social affairs and health department (specifically the unit for the social protection of children) at the municipal authority. A Roma adviser works at the municipal authority to cope with Roma issues in the municipality. As the Roma community in Třinec is small and is not concentrated in any one area, the Roma adviser deals with specific, isolated cases. The Roma adviser is in contact with regional Roma advisers and cooperates on the project *Support of Roma pupils at secondary schools*.

VEJPRTY

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
nine members (the chairwoman is a member of the municipal assembly, two others are members of the municipal assembly, plus representatives of the German, Roma and Slovak minorities)	http://www.vejprty.cz/	Tylova 870/6; 431 91 Vejprty tel. 474 386 116 fax 474 341 143 e-mail: tajemnik@vejprty.cz

The committee cooperates with field social workers, the competent departments of the Municipal Authority, and tries to organize and cooperate in activities related to national-minority issues (culture, social affairs, education, etc.). It supports mutual dialogue between the majority and minorities. It was the initiator of the establishment of the civic association *Amaro Suno*; it cooperated with the nongovernmental organization *Partners Czech*, initiated the illumination of the Christmas tree, and organized cultural programmes for children.

VĚLOPOLÍ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
three members (the chairwoman is a member of the municipal assembly)	http://velopoli.cz/	Vělopolí 48 739 59 Střítež u Českého Těšína, tel. 558 694 359 e-mail: obec_velopoli@iol.cz

The committee only managed national minority issues; competences were not accumulated.

VENDRYNĚ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (two members of the municipal assembly; three representatives of the Polish and one of the Slovak minority); set up in December 2002	http://www.vendryne.cz/	739 94 Vendryně 500 tel./fax 558 350 348 e-mail: obec@vendryne.cz

The contact person is Bohuslav Raszka, the committee chairman. The committee's main task is to cooperate with the nationally mixed population. The largest, and practically the only, minority is the Polish minority, which accounts for 35.5% of the total number of all inhabitants. The committee is the sole body responsible for coordinating and mapping out the activities of the life of the minority, especially minority clubs and organizations which are very active in the socio-cultural happenings of the municipality. Naturally, it works in cooperation with the municipal assembly and the municipal authority. As regards the Roma community, the integration of foreigners, the drug policy, etc., this are not matters for the committee as they are not topical issues in the municipality.

VILÉMOV

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
not set up, but the municipal assembly has decided to establish a committee	http://obecni-urad.net/source/index.php?ID=5	obec Vilémov čp. 172 tel. 412 397 426 e-mail: ouvilemov@volny.cz

A committee has not been set up in the municipality, but the municipal assembly has decided to establish this body. This is the responsibility of the deputy chairman of the municipality, Jaroslav Chmelař, who is also the contact person for the time being.

According to the 2001 Population and Housing Census, members of five national minorities live in the municipality. However, in all cases the number of members is below the statutory minimum threshold of 10%. In the census, 92 citizens (8.9%) claimed German nationality, 14 (1.4%) Slovak nationality, 11 (1%) Polish nationality, 3 (0.3%) Moravian nationality and three (0.3%) Vietnamese nationality. Apparently all the national minority are to be simply added together to give a total sum of members higher than 10% of the total number of inhabitants, and a committee will be set up for them. The chairman of the municipality is not entirely sure of this approach; see Section 2(1) and Section 3 of Act No 273/2001 on the rights of members of national minorities and amending certain laws. In particular, he is not sure who claimed membership of a national minority and which national minority they claimed membership of, so that the municipality can address them, and what a Committee for National Minorities should actually do in a village with less than a thousand inhabitants.

The municipality did not have a special agenda for national minorities, the integration of Roma, foreigners, etc.

VINTÍŘOV

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (the chairman is a member of the municipal assembly, representatives of the German, Polish, Roma and Slovak national minorities)	http://www.vintirov.cz/	Vintířov 62; 357 44 Vintířov tel./fax 352 665 416 e-mail: vintirov@vintirov.cz

As this is a small municipality, competences are accumulated in the various agendas, but this does not cause a problem. In the municipality, the committee is generally responsible for cultural events. There are no special committees of individual minorities here because the individual minorities have not come up with an initiative to establish them, and evidently there is no need. The municipality supports the activities and proposals of the committee. The largest project in 2005, which was actually the first event to which the committee contributed, was the cross border cooperation in the commemorative event at the cemetery of the erstwhile municipality of Lipnice, which is in the cadastral district of our municipality. The event was attended by approximately 150 people, of whom at least half were former citizens of that municipality who now live in Germany.

Another relatively large section of the statutory representatives of municipalities responded negatively to the issue of setting up a Committee for National Minorities; some described the situation of national minorities in their municipality in more detail. These are: Benešov nad Černou, Bernartice, Bílence, Bohdalovice,²⁵⁾ Dochov, Branná, Broumov, Březová, Bublava, Dalešice, Dasnice, Dívčí hrad, Dolní Nivy, Doubrava,²⁶⁾ Dubenec, Dubí, Frymburk, Horní Slavkov, Horní Tošanovice,²⁷⁾ Hory, Hřava, Hřensko, Huzová, Chbany,²⁸⁾ Chvaleč, Jáchymov, Jindřichov, Jindřichovice, Kadlín, Kámen, Kočov, Kolová, Korozluky, Krajková, Královec, Krásná, Krásný Dvůr,²⁹⁾ Kružberk, Křišťanovice, Kvilda, Kynšperk

²⁵⁾ Not set up because of the impossibility of finding committee members from the ranks of the national minorities.

²⁶⁾ Not set up despite calls from the municipal assembly to do so (the local PZKO chapter does not think this committee is necessary).

²⁷⁾ Not set up. Considering the proximity of the Polish and Slovak borders, cooperation exists within euroregions and a partnership cooperation agreement has been concluded on both the Polish and Slovak sides. All the partners are highly active in this cooperation.

²⁸⁾ Not set up. The municipality (including eight local parts) has 611 permanent inhabitants; Chbany itself has 381 permanent inhabitants. Most of these inhabitants live in a housing development built between the 1960s and 1980s and the owner of most of these apartment buildings is the municipality of Chbany.

The Roma community accounts for a large section of the municipality, but the municipality does not keep records of Roma citizens. Based on long-term knowledge of local conditions, or making an estimate based on surnames such as Kováč, Žolták, and Řehák, these citizens account for 62 permanent residents. It is interesting that only three citizens claimed Roma nationality in the Population and Housing Census as at 1 March 2001. There are no socially excluded Roma communities in Chbany. This is evidenced by the fact that these citizens live with the majority population in individual apartment buildings without any problems; Roma are assigned new apartments, there are many mixed marriages and partnerships here. Naturally, among the Roma – as among the other groups of the population – there is high unemployment (currently running at around 30%); nevertheless, within the scope of various grant schemes the municipality employs 20 unskilled citizens, more than half of whom are Roma. The Roma community (e.g. in terms of rent arrears, misdemeanours and other aspects of work with citizens) is not a highly problematic sub-population (naturally, there are exceptions). As in every community, there are pluses, certain downsides, problems and specific matters, but in the opinion of the chairman of the municipality there is not a ‘Roma problem’ in Chbany. We can deduce from this that no special body is responsible for dealing with problems of socially excluded Roma localities.

²⁹⁾ Not set up due to a lack of interest among the members of other nationalities.

nad Ohří, Kyselka, Kytlice, Labská Stráň, Lesná, Libavské údolí, Lipno nad Vltavou,³⁰⁾ Loket, Lomnice, Milotice nad Opavou, Nebanice, Nepomyšl, Nová Ves v Horách, Nové Město pod Smrkem,³¹⁾ Okrouhlá, Ostrov, Ostružná, Otovice, Pernink, Pětipsy, Pila, Plesná, Podhradí, Potůčky, Přimda, Rotava,³²⁾ Rovná, Rožmitál na Šumavě,³³⁾ Rybník, Skalná, Slezské Pavlovice, Stará Voda, Staré Křečany, Šabina, Šluknov, Tanvald, Velká Štáhle,³⁴⁾ Velké Kuněnice, Velký Karlov, Velký Šenov, Vlčice, Vojtanov, Vrbno pod Pradědem, Vřesová, Zdechovice, Žacléř, Železná Ruda.³⁵⁾

2. What is the cooperation like between the Committee for National Minorities (council / other body) and organizations of members of national minorities?³⁶⁾

ALBRECHTICE

The cooperation of the municipality, and especially the committee, with members of national minorities is rated very highly. The committee regularly visits the primary school and nursery school with Polish as the language of instruction and strives to work with the school's management to find solutions to its problems. The committee chairman is a member of the PZKO committee.

Last year, the municipality put up signs in the municipality in two languages (Czech and Polish signs). The total investment came to CZK 72,000. The bilingual signs figure on most of the significant buildings in the municipality; these include the municipal authority, the health centre, and the shopping centre. The municipality is not aware of problems concerning the use of the native language of a national minority in public.

There is a very active group of parents and friends of the school operating under the name of *School Foundation (Macierz Szkolna)*. This group organizes a wide range of activities for both children and parents – a school ball for adults, a masked-ball for children, a school festival, joint trips to the mountains, etc.

The largest social organization in the village is the *Polish Cultural and Educational Union (PZKO)*; as at 31 December 2005 the local PZKO chapter had 450 members. Many groups exist within PZKO: the mixed choir (approximately 25 members) enjoys a long-standing tradition, and the *Dropsik* and *Drops* drama groups are very active. Last year, the local PZKO chapter celebrated the 85th anniversary of the organized choir and the 10th anniversary of the opening of the PZKO building. It marked the occasion by publishing an almanac, to which the municipality made a financial contribution of CZK 10,000.

³⁰⁾ Not set up due to a lack of interest.

³¹⁾ Not set up. According to the chairman of the municipality, based on the last census there are 3 Roma in the municipality (the author notes that according to the census for 2001 the municipality has 112 persons of Slovak nationality, 75 of German, 39 of Polish and 21 of Ukrainian nationality).

³²⁾ Not set up (members of national minorities did not express the slightest interest in establishing a committee). There are no associations of members of national minorities in the municipality. In the past there was a short-lived Roma association called *Amaro dživipen*, but disagreements within the management led to its discontinuance soon after.

³³⁾ Not set up. The municipality keeps a 'live' list of members of national minorities, which indicates that compared to the census (385 inhabitants, of which 52 members of national minorities) their number fell to 31 in 2005 and 29 this year (respectively 8.05% and 7.6% of the population belongs to national minorities) due to moves and deaths. According to the chairwoman of the municipality, those claiming Slovak nationality are actually of Roma origin; they live outside the municipality in České Velenice, which refuses to register them as permanent residents.

³⁴⁾ Not set up, no citizens expressed an interest in establishing a committee.

³⁵⁾ Not set up due to a lack of interest among the national minorities.

³⁶⁾ Contact addresses of national-minority organizations can be found in summary in Annex No 10.

On 17 September 2005, the local PZKO chapter organized a garden party called *Babski Festyn* for citizens throughout Těšínské Slezsko.

The local PZKO chapter is not engaged in any business activities. It generates funding for the operation and maintenance of the PZKO building (approximately CZK 130,000 per year) through member subscriptions and the hire of its own premises for the organization of various family celebrations, business conferences, etc. The local PZKO chapter is involved in systematic activities and thanks to the committee and the chairwoman Ivonka Guňková the development of further activities in the future is assured.

BEČOV (district: Most)

Although no Committee for National Minorities has been set up in the municipality, the municipality actively contributed to the establishment of the civic association *Lačo Drom*, and did its best to accommodate the needs of this organization (inter alia letting officers and technical equipment free of charge, only seeking payment to cover heating). The civic association carried out activities with the support of the employment office. The association's activities ceased in 2003 in connection with the conclusion of contracts for future years, as it was discovered that the association had debts with the revenue office (wage contributions). On 24 July 2003, another association, *Association of Roma – Bečov*, was registered with the Ministry of the Interior; to date it remains registered only, i.e. it carries out no activities.

BOCANOVICE

Cooperation with the Polish minority is constant; two members of the municipal assembly belong to this minority; a local PZKO chapter also operates here. There are no other minorities in the municipality.

BRNO – ŘEČKOVICE AND MOKRÁ HORA

The committee cooperates with organizations based in Brno; so far contact has been established with the Muslim community, the large minority of Moravians,³⁷⁾ communities of Slovaks, Hungarians, Greeks, and Yugoslavs, and representatives of Romanians and Ruthenians living and working in Brno. These communities are offered the chance to present their history and culture at public talks, and are offered assistance to help tackle their problems.

ČESKÝ TĚŠÍN

The committee's cooperation with organizations of members of national minorities is good as its chairman R. Moliňský offers a direct link to the Main Committee of the PZKO and the Council of the Congress of Poles; the committee member M. Rakowska represents the *Polish Teaching Centre*, B. Walicki is a member of the *Association for the Preservation of Minority Languages in the Czech Republic*.

DOLNÍ LOMNÁ

The committee initiates activities of the municipality aimed at supporting the activities of the national-minority associations operating here. The main organization is the PZKO, which looks after culture and preservation of traditions. Its chairman cooperates with the committee.

³⁷⁾ The Moravian (and similarly the Silesian) nationality is not taken into account in the Czech Republic's approach to national minorities. The identity of Moravians is associated not with national-minority membership, but with historical territorial identity.

HNOJNÍK

The municipality of Hnojník is the promoter of two primary schools, the Masaryk Primary School and the nursery school, as well as the *Primary School and Nursery School with Polish as the language of instruction*. Cooperation between these two entities and the management of the municipality is good but not without problems. Hnojník celebrated its 700th anniversary in 2005 and held cultural events connected with this. Mainly at issue here are:

- the preparation of a joint 'academy' of pupils of the Czech and Polish primary school
- cooperation in the implementation of an exhibition celebrating 700 years of Hnojník
- cooperation in the preparations for the third annual *Hnojník country afternoon*.

Citizens of the Polish nationality raised certain objections to the content of the almanac published by the Hnojník municipal authority to mark the 700 years of the municipality's existence. This matter was discussed by the committee on 28 June 2005 (the whole matter was also covered in the pages of the regional press).

The committee member Mr Pieter is also the chairperson of the local PZKO chapter; as the representative of the Polish minority he is in direct contact with the municipality's management and Hnojník is in direct contact with a representative of the citizens of this national minority. Hnojník supports (as far as it is able) the Polish national minority primarily in the field of minority schooling, with events held by the primary school with Polish as the language of instruction, and with the participation of pupils from both schools in events held by municipalities in Poland and Slovakia.

HORA SVATÉ KATEŘINY

There is no cooperation.

HORNÍ SUCHÁ

The committee has established long-term, very close cooperation with organizations drawing together citizens of national minorities. However, neither the Hungarian nor the Slovak national minority have organizations or associations in the municipality.

The Roma community has a local chapter of the *Democratic Alliance of Roma*, the chairman of which is also a committee member. This organization has 20-25 members and supporters and focuses primarily on sports and, in part, cultural activities for young people.

The largest national-minority organization is the PZKO (Polish Cultural and Educational Union), which is an association primarily for citizens of Polish nationality; it has a firm membership base of 575 members. Social, cultural and sports activities take place in five special-interest clubs. The PZKO is the most active organization in the municipality and the results of its work represent the municipality not only in the region, but also abroad. Cooperation with the committee is very good.

General and specific requirements of Polish national-minority schooling are handled flexibly and the municipal chairman or his delegated worker and the committee chairman regularly hold consultations with the head teacher of the primary school with Polish as the language of instruction in Horní Suchá.

CHEB

In Cheb there are officially (registered with the Ministry of the Interior) six Roma civic associations – *Roma Civic Association*, *Roma Sports Club*, *Roma Working Society*, *Association of Hungarian Roma in Cheb Ungro* and *Laco jilo*. Since April 2005, an umbrella organization for the above-mentioned associations has been registered – the *Council of Roma Organizations*.

Of the above-mentioned organizations, only two are active (*Laco jilo* and the new *Council of Roma Organizations*); two representatives of the latter organization have been appointed as members of the Commission for Roma Affairs (Tibor Petík and Václav Červeňák). Both organizations cooperate closely with a Roma adviser – the organization of social, cultural and sports events.

CHOMUTOV

Cooperation with organizations of members of national minorities is very good. Individual representatives of civic associations approach the committee, and the committee co-organizes various events for national minorities in Chomutov. For example, the Roma civic association *Novum* (Štefan Řáha), the civic association *Bells of Hope* (Valerij Kulacký), the civic association *Objective* (Milan Adam), *People in Need*, *Partners Czech*.

CHOTĚBUZ

The committee works with groups of national minorities (only Slovak and Polish). According to the survey, the committee has no significant problems.

JABLUNKOV

Cooperation between the committee and the PZKO is very good. It is characterized inter alia by the immediate transfer of information and flexible solutions to the problems of the Polish national minority within the municipal council and the PZKO. This bilaterally beneficial cooperation is made possible in particular by the composition of the parties. Six PZKO members are committee members, of which one is the chairman and simultaneously a councillor. Another PZKO member is the deputy chairman of the municipality of Jablunkov, and the chairman of the PZKO is empowered to cooperate with local authorities.

JIŘÍKOV

There are no organizations of members of national minorities in the municipality.

KOBYLÁ NAD VIDNAVKOU

Along with the school and the voluntary fire brigade, children's clubs are held several times a week. There is also a children's 'junior fire brigade made up entirely of Roma; the leader of this club is also of Roma nationality. Work with the children is very difficult, but successful.

The municipality and the school hold a Children's Day and excursions for children, stays for children in an improvised camp to mark the start of the holidays – competitions in various sports disciplines outside and in the gym. There has been great success in involving the children in movement and music clubs, where the municipality demonstrates the children's abilities before inhabitants at various performances and gatherings in the municipality. In this way, the school gives children the feeling that they are needed and increases their self-confidence. The number of children's events over the year was approximately ten. This is the basis for the answer to the question about the municipality's grant policy. All events are organized in cooperation with the primary school, the fire brigade and the municipality. However, the municipality always prepares the event administratively, for children there must always be a reward in the form of sweets; drinks and small gifts as prizes are also provided. Contributions to these events are fully approved by all members of the municipal assembly. The chairman of the municipality has his own style of action: Plan nothing, roll up your sleeves and get stuck in. Instead of conducting searches, filling in evaluation forms and coordinating with others, he prefers to devote his time directly to the work in question; this is

more effective than any projects. The only option taken up by the municipality has been the establishment of a Roma assistant in the school, a move which has worked out very well.

To stress that he is not avoiding problems, he states that he attends many conferences and seminars on the theme of national minorities, where explanations are made in a down-to-earth way without paperwork, and this activity is reflected in his work. In the surrounding area he is known as a municipal chairman who finds solutions with the Roma minority; he has made some sound achievements, which he is proud of.

KOŠAŘISKA

Cooperation is good, committee members are also members of organizations of members of national minorities in the municipality.

KOMORNÍ LHOTKA

The Polish national minority is organized in the local PZKO chapter; it is represented in the municipal assembly; it contributes to cultural and sports events. The municipality did not provide any funding out of its budget for the support of activities carried out by the Polish national minority. Other minority groups are not involved in organized activities in the municipality.

KRAVAŘE

The committee cooperated with the *Society of Friends of Germany*.

KRÁSNO

In the municipality there are no organizations of members of national minorities; some citizens are organized in Horní Slavkov, where there is an organization for the German-speaking minority, including the possibility of borrowing books written in German. Committee members are actively involved in the preparations for meetings of citizens, former sons and daughters of the municipality now living in Germany, and citizens of a partner municipality, and act as interpreters. They work with the pastor on joint services.

MOSTY U JABLUNKOVA

There are two active organizations in the municipality which draw together the Polish national minority – the PZKO and *Macierz Szkolna*; there is also a folk ensemble, *Górole*, and a choir, *Przelecz*.

NÁVSÍ

A member of the municipal assembly is also the chairman of the local PZKO chapter, and another three committee members are PZKO members; therefore cooperation with this organization is very good.

NÝDEK

Committee members are also active in the local PZKO chapter committee. Thanks to the constructive approach of the municipal authority, there is direct communication and cooperation between representatives of minority organizations and the municipal council and assembly (with no intermediaries wielding vague powers).

ORLOVÁ

Cooperation is anticipated with local PZKO chapters, the Roma civic association Step by Step, schools and other organizations active in the municipality.

ŘEKA

Citizens of the Polish national minority are old settlers; they are involved in the work of the municipal assembly, cooperation is good.

STONAVA

The committee's cooperation with the municipal authority and social organizations is very good; in particular, there is close contact between PZKO committee members in Těšínsko. Committee members are also PZKO members. Henryka Žabiňská is currently the chairperson of the local PZKO chapter and also works in the committee.

STRÍTEŽ

Only members of the Polish minority live in the municipality; they are organized in the PZKO. Cooperation with them is poor, so the municipal chairman makes up for this activity. In 2005, the municipality celebrated its 700th anniversary; members of the Polish minority were involved in the celebrations. The municipality has a constructive approach to them, e.g. it hires out the cultural centre for the organization of events.

TĚRLICKO

The cooperation of the municipality, and especially the committee, with members of national minorities is rated very highly by the committee. The representatives and organizations of the national minority are active in the fields of awareness, culture, the municipal press, and the social life of the municipality.

TŘANOVICE

A negligible Roma minority lives in the municipality. Only the Polish minority, organized in the PZKO, is active. The committee was set up in the municipality in 2002, but its members have not held a single meeting. The representative of the Polish minority handles all comments and suggestions directly with the municipal chairman, which brings good results.

TŘINEC

In the scope of the *Třinec Music Spring*, every year a *Festival of National Minorities* is held in Třinec, where individual national minorities demonstrate their and customs to the public. Music groups and dance companies perform at this event. Individual national minorities also offer traditional dishes and drinks, as well as handmade products representing the culture and history of the minorities.

The national minorities also hold their own cultural events. Every year, the Polish minority holds a myriad of events, including the *Festival of the Polish National Minority*, while the *Community of Slovaks* holds its *Fašiangas Fun Day* and *Burying the Bass*, the Roma community holds a carnival for children, and the Greek community prepares an annual meeting to mark the Greek state holiday.

VEJPRTY

The committee worked closely with the civic association *Amaro Suno*, which was set up in the municipality last year. With the considerable support of *Partners Czech*, p.b.o. and *Partners for Democratic Change*, this nongovernmental civic association received a grant of CZK 400,000 to build a community centre in Vejprty. The primary school, practical school, and Vejprty municipal authority are contributing to the implementation of the project. The municipality is providing co-financing of CZK 150,000 for structural adjustments to the community centre. The aim of the project is to establish social contact, improve the approach to education and the efficient use of children's free time, consulting activities, etc. One street worker is currently active in the project.

VENDRYNĚ

Two local PZKO chapters are active in the municipality. The larger has more than 600 members (based at the *Czytelnia* Cultural Centre) and the smaller, in the Vendryně-Záolší locality (*Zaolzie*), has about 140 members and owns the *PZKO* House. They both promote the activities of associations and serve the general public in the municipality and beyond. Other active minority groups are *Macierz Szkolna* and the rambling organization *Beskid Śląski*. Within the local PZKO chapter (*Czytelnia*) there is a highly active gymnastic club, *Gimnaści*, which is highly specific in its purpose and attractive in its activities. In 2005 it celebrated its 100th anniversary. Another 'century-old' group is the amateur dramatics club, which prepares the premiere of at least one full play every year. Last year was exceptional; it culminated in the August celebrations of the municipality's seventy-year history, with the active participation of all local minority groups and primary schools – including the school with Polish as the language of instruction, which, like the *Gimnaści*, was celebrating its 100th anniversary. Dozens of social, cultural and sports events were associated with this jubilee, a specific list of which would be very long. Part of this programme included investment projects, of which the most important for the national minority was easily the general overhaul of the Polish primary school. The partnership cooperation successfully continued with the Polish municipality of *Goleszów* in the fields of culture and sport (the Carnival, *Piknik Sportowy*, football, hiking, chess, drama and contacts at the level of the primary schools). *Beskid Śląski*, in cooperation with the *Goleszów* hiking organization *Ślimoki*, repaired a monument to fallen partisans in *Goleszów* to mark the 60th anniversary of the Second World War, and organized a joint ceremony of remembrance.

National minorities are represented in practically all other organizations in the municipality (TJ, Fun and Sports Club, Gardeners, Women's Club, Dog Lovers, etc.). A feature specific to the municipality is the mixed Czech-Polish nursery school *Vendryně-Záolší* (*Zaolzie*); communicating in Czech or Polish (or a dialect) is not a problem for teachers and children.

VĚLOPOLÍ

National minorities in the municipality do not have their own organization. Cooperation with representatives of the minorities takes place in the scope of the normal handling of the affairs of individual inhabitants at the municipal authority. An example of good cooperation from the view of the municipality, the municipal assembly and the committee is the long-term excellent cooperation of the members of national minorities in the scope of the activities of the *Czech Horticultural Union*, the only voluntary organization currently operating in the municipality.

VILÉMOV

The municipality does not cooperate with any organizations drawing together members of a national minority. There is the potential for cooperation with the *Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia*, or with a group affiliated to this organization.

3. In your opinion, what effect will the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages have on public life in your administrative district?

ALBRECHTICE

The Committee has previously discussed and sent its comments regarding this document. The ratification should be completed promptly.

BOCANOVICE

The Charter will influence the national minority; it will have a positive impact on public life.

BRNO – ŘEČKOVICE AND MOKRÁ HORA

Considering that most members of national minorities, after two or more generations, are now an integral part of the population of this municipal ward, there are no current language or other problems that need to be resolved.

ČESKÝ TĚŠÍN

No disruptive or negative impact is expected; there might be a financial impact (the cost of translation and interpreting).

DOLNÍ LOMNÁ

The Committee has previously discussed its comments on the Charter.

HNOJNÍK

The impact of the adoption of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages on public life in the municipality (in the scope of the microregion of municipalities in the Stonávka river basin) is hard to predict.

HORA SVATÉ KATEŘINY

Cannot say.

HORNÍ SUCHÁ

The prepared ratification is accepted with keen interest, especially by the Polish national minority. It is expected that this legal act will also resolve the issue of bilingualism in certain regions, without the need for controversial petitions, an obligation currently imposed under Section 29(2) of Act No 128/2000 – the Municipal Order. The municipality believes that this problem will be resolved by the ratification of the Charter, which would also fulfil the task under Government Resolution No 742 , III, point 2, of 15 June 2005,³⁸⁾ enjoining the Minister of the Interior, in

³⁸⁾ For more information, see section 3.2.1.

cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Justice, to propose the cancellation of the petition requirement in the process of the bilingual signing of municipalities, their parts, public areas and buildings of central government and local government authorities.

CHEB

It could mainly affect the Vietnamese community, although this is not a national minority. The Roma population living in Cheb masters the official language, with the old exception (older people from the group of Hungarian Roma). In most cases, young families now only speak Czech to their children; for the most part, the younger generation only masters Romani passively.

CHOMUTOV

Central and local government will, of course, take the necessary measures so that the obligations stemming from the entry into force of the Charter in the Czech Republic are met in full.

CHOTĚBUZ

The signing of this Charter is important for national minorities. In many cases, it will facilitate negotiations at authorities.

JABLUNKOV

It is not clear whether the ratification of the Charter will resolve the possibility of introducing bilingualism into the municipality without the need for petitions. The tasks concerning the handling of this condition were included in Government Resolution No 742 of 15 June 2005. A discussion on the discontinuance of the petition requirement in relation to bilingualism and approval by the Czech parliament should follow (see above).

JIŘÍKOV

The ratification will not have any effect in the administrative district of the municipality.

KOBYLÁ NAD VIDNAVKOU

The municipality has not discussed this; it has no problems in this field.

KOMORNÍ LHOTKA

Komorní Lhotka is the promoter of the T. G. Masaryk Primary School and the nursery school *Przedszkole*, where grades 1-5 are taught. The *Przedszkole* Nursery School is attended by children of Czech and Polish nationality. A primary school with Polish as the language of instruction is located in the neighbouring municipality of Hnojník, where grades 1-9 are taught.

Employees from the municipal authority, members of the municipal assembly, and members of the committee make active contributions to the coordination of the lives of all citizens in the municipality, irrespective of their nationality. Employees of the municipal authority are capable of providing information and advise in Polish to citizens of the Polish national minority. The building of the municipal authority is labelled in two languages.

KOŠAŘISKA

The municipality is the promoter of an organization partly financed from the public purse – the primary school and nursery school *Szkoła podstawowa, Przedszkole* Košařiska. This is

a school for grades 1-5, i.e. the first level of primary school and nursery school, where children of Polish nationality are also taught. So far the school with Polish as the language of instruction has been one part of the organization partly financed from the public purse. However, Act No 561/2004 no longer permits this, and in the committee's opinion it will not be possible to comply with selected commitments in relation to the Polish minority as regards education in the municipality.

This fact will have a very bad impact on the sound relations and co-existence that currently exist between citizens of Czech and Polish nationality in the municipality. The question of the existence and preservation of the school with Polish as the language of instruction has been discussed by the region and by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, unfortunately, without success. The article published on the Charter in the periodical *Veřejná správa [Public Administration]*, Issue No 46/2005, is accommodating to the Polish minority but is only an article; the reality is rather different for us. The most important and basic obligation in relation to the Polish minority is the possibility of education in their native language. If the municipality is unable to comply with this commitment for legislative reasons, then other obligations under the Charter at municipal level are hardly significant and baseless for the future.

KRAVAŘE

In the opinion of the municipality's statutory representative, the ratification will not have any physical impact on public life in the municipality's administrative district.

KRÁSNÁ

Information about the Charter has not been sufficiently presented in the media, therefore any preferential treatment of a national minority will have a negative impact on public opinion.

KRÁSNO

German is routinely taught in schools, the problem remains finding quality teachers. The establishment of good-quality language classrooms in schools would make a significant contribution to the development of the language in the future.

Krásno enjoys very good relations with a partner municipality in Germany; several times a year exchanges take place, especially during cultural and sports events, which always generate keen interest. Procedures at authorities in citizens' mother tongues would be advisable, as very old people cannot speak Czech and therefore contact with authorities is very difficult for them.

In the municipality, the main minority is the German-speaking national minority; there is also one large Roma family, which has integrated into society without major problems. There is a negligible percentage of citizens claiming Slovak or Polish nationality. The mutual relations of individual national minorities are very good.

KYNŠPERK

The ratification will not have much effect in the administrative district of the municipality.

MOSTY U JABLUNKOVA

We expect that the prepared ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages will not have a negative impact on public life in the municipality.

NÁVSÍ

The Charter will benefit national minorities and will support their existence.

NÝDEK

The possibility of mutual communication in the dialect of the Polish minority exists at the municipal authority generally without any problems. With regard to mutual respect and its constructive approach, the committee is not afraid to make written communications in Polish in the scope of municipal competences.

ORLOVÁ

The issue of the use of minority languages is not a problem, there is currently a school with Polish as the language of instruction in the municipality. No minority is large enough to warrant the possibility of any changes.

PETROVICE U KARVINÉ

The municipality is on the Czech-Polish border and the Polish minority here accounts for 16.2% of the population. The municipal chairman and a member of the Moravskoslezsko Regional Assembly sits on the Committee of the Moravskoslezsko Regional Assembly for National Minorities. He states that the municipality enjoys very good cooperation with the Polish national minority and he feels no need to introduce forms in public administration for contact with citizens in the language of the national minority, although he understands that in some places this will be necessary. Time will tell. He is concerned that contact in Polish could be seen in a negative light by the general public. He agrees with the other proposals and has no reservations.

PRAHA 5 MUNICIPAL WARD

In relation to the requirements contained in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, it should be noted that the Praha 5 Municipal Authority arranges for communication with clients in the Roma language where necessary. This complies with the requirements of Section 16 of the new Rules of Administrative Procedure (Act No 500/2004). However, experience to date indicates that in official relations Roma clients use Czech or Slovak and do not communicate in Romani. Observations collected through field work in the Roma community in Praha 5 suggest that there are no clients here who are unable to communicate in Czech or Slovak.

Work with Roma children in preschool and school facilities focuses primarily on ensuring that they have a good understanding of Czech. No major interest in Romani lessons for children has been registered among the Roma community.

ŘEKA

The ratification will not have a negative effect on public life in the administrative district of the municipality.

SKALNÁ

From the point of view of the municipal chairman, it will not have a visible effect in the municipality's administrative district.

STONAVA

The committee discussed the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages at its meeting. It was noted that 22.4% of the population claimed Polish nationality.

STRÍTEŽ

It is unknown what the impact on the municipality will be. The municipality is currently living in unity, there are concerns that it might stir up minority passions.

TŘANOVICE

The municipality views the prepared ratification positively.

TŘINEC

At present there are several primary schools and nursery schools with Polish as the language of instruction in the municipality's administrative district:

- *Jubilee Masaryk primary school and nursery school, Třinec*
- Nursery School, *przedszkole* Kanská 419
- Primary School and Nursery School with Polish as the language of instruction, Třinec Nádražní 10
- Nursery School, *przedszkole* Dolní Líštná 172
- Nursery School, *przedszkole* Oldřichovice 210
- Nursery School, *przedszkole* Nebory 126
- Primary School and Nursery School with Polish as the language of instruction, Třinec Koperníkova 696
- Nursery School, *przedszkole* Štefánkova 772
- Nursery School, *przedszkole* SNP 447

The municipality supports the use of, and teaching and cultural activity in, the regional or minority language.

VENDRYNĚ

The ratification of the Charter will only serve to underline those activities which already take place naturally in the municipality.

VĚLOPOLÍ

In the municipality's administrative district, the ratification of the European Charter for Minority or Regional Languages will not have any particular impact as most citizens have always used their regional language, i.e. a Silesian dialect, in normal conversation and in handling affairs at the municipal authority. Most of the municipality's citizens have a very positive relationship to ratification.

VILÉMOV

They stated that while Slovak and Polish should receive support in the scope of parts II and III of the Charter, for German and Romani support would only be in the scope of the guiding principles laid down in Part II.

Roma do not live in the municipality, therefore the municipality is not considering Romani. German is taught at the primary school. However, only grades 1-5 exist here, so it really only covers the rudiments of the language. There is also cross border cooperation between children

from the school and German children associated with the Conservation Centre (*Naturschutzzentrum*) in nearby Neukirch (Saxony, district of Pirna).

It is not clear what the municipality means by ‘support for these languages in public and private life, in an oral and written form.’ If this refers to official oral communication and written contact of the municipal authority with Germans in German, there would be a problem because the employees of the municipal authority do not master German. However, the problem is without foundation because citizens claiming German nationality but living in a Czech environment as the third generation speak Czech perfectly well.

VINTÍŘOV

As regards the impact of the ratification of the Charter, the municipality believes that there will be no effect on public life in the municipality, because they do not have time to handle these details. Most members of the municipal assembly and citizens share the view that they participate in the public life of the municipality, that they have always ensured sound co-existence of all national minorities in the field of culture, sport, education and everyday life. They have never needed a Commission for National Minorities for this.

VLČICE

The Charter will not have little or no effect on public life in the administrative district of the municipality.

VRBNO POD PRADĚDEM

It seems that the Charter will not have any effect in the administrative district of the municipality. The German minority is dwindling rapidly as the generation which remained here after 1945 grows old and leaves. The incoming minorities (Slovaks, Greeks, Poles) are not that large. Only the Greeks have their own organization – *Greek Community*. There is also a small Roma minority here which speaks its own language.

VŘESOVÁ

Probably none.

5.1.1. Summary

- ***Handling the minority agenda***

Municipalities can be split into two basic camps based on the proportion of members of national minorities in their population:

- a) A group of municipalities in the Moravskoslezsko Region, in the districts of Frýdek Místek and Karviná, i.e. in Těšínsko, where the Polish population is by far the largest minority. Long before the establishment of committees for national minorities, these municipalities were forced to address minority issues. It is usually not a problem to set up a committee if this obligation arises based on the results of the census. These committees followed up seamlessly on the cooperation already established with the Polish minority. In several cases, however, there is a risk of the stereotypical perception of the Roma problem solely as a social issue, considering the monopolization of the minority agenda by the broadly organizationally well developed Polish community.
- b) A network of municipalities in a wide band of border areas in the country, where the main minorities are Roma, Slovaks and Germans; the order of these communities in terms of

proportion of the population differs from place to place. The integration of foreigners (especially Vietnamese) also tends to be a topical issue in this group of municipalities. In some of them, minority issues have only been addressed with the onset of the statutory obligation to establish a committee for national minorities; the Roma problem is often managed by social affairs departments.

All three minorities report a weak organizational structure in the group b) of municipalities. Furthermore, the share of the Roma population in municipalities is highly underrated by the results of the census. The German minority is paralyzed mainly by the age and non-concentrated settlement of its members. Members of municipal assemblies are sometimes unaware that this minority exists. The Slovak minority manifests a lesser need for community activity and recognition from the municipality, even though it sometimes accounts for a high percentage of the population.

This situation causes municipalities complications. The result is sometimes only the formal establishment of inactive committees. Even where they are willing, members of municipal assemblies do not know how to establish cooperation with minorities because they have no previous models to serve as examples.

As a rule, the minority agenda is not accumulated with other areas in both sets of municipalities. However, some committees cooperate with employment offices and have an active effect on social areas focusing on Roma (even independently of agreements with Roma organizations). In some small municipalities (e.g. Vintřívov), the committee even supplies an additional agenda (culture in general) because of its sparse workload.

- ***Basic activities of committees for national minorities***

In municipalities, committees usually discuss proposals presented to the municipal assembly; they discuss national-minority schooling and the bilingual labelling of municipalities (in municipalities in the Těšínsko area); they support the activities of minority organizations (e.g. culture and sport); they coordinate the activities of these organizations; they arrange the material background for the activities of minority organizations; they monitor relations between the minority and majority (where appropriate in cooperation with the police); they mediate information (e.g. in the form of publication in the municipal press) to members of minorities (language rights in official contact, the possibilities of dual citizenship, etc.).

In some municipalities, however, the committees carry out few or no activities.

- ***Cooperation with organizations of members of national minorities***

The standard of communication between committees and representatives of minorities differs considerably depending on the previous impact a minority has had in a municipality. In the Těšínsko area, this communication is highly complex: it covers national-minority schooling, club and cultural activities, etc. The committees often have interlocking management with minority organizations (e.g. the PZKO).³⁹⁾

In municipalities in the second group, the interconnection between the committee and minority communities is less obvious, which sometimes has an adverse effect on the committee's efficiency (it reflects the poor levels of organization among minorities, especially the Roma). In other places, the committee or the municipal authority is innovative and efficient even if there

³⁹⁾ Třinec could be used as a model of cooperation for municipalities with a dominant Polish minority and numerous smaller communities; here the representatives of the Roma community are invited to committee meetings and their cultural activities are supported, and in other matters Roma issues are in the competence of social affairs departments.

are no minority organizations in the municipality at all. The cooperation of minorities with majority society, and cooperation of minorities with each other, can also be successful even at levels away from the competence of the Government's national minority policy, i.e. at the level of ordinary institutions (schools, fire brigades, horticultural clubs, etc.).

Unfortunately, cooperation between committees and minorities is also blocked by disagreements within the leadership of minority communities, or by the only formal competence of minority organizations which offer themselves for cooperation but are inactive (especially in Roma communities). The several municipalities which devote attention to the German minority deserve particular praise. Despite a certain political risk, the constructive gesture made by members of municipal assemblies to Germans who were permitted to stay in Bohemia is very expedient. In the context of the history of a given municipality, it can send out a positive signal abroad (with potential practical effect for the municipality) without directly intervening in the issue of the expulsion of Sudeten Germans.

The situation of underrating or overrating the proportion of minorities in a municipality also merits special attention. In the first case is mainly caused by the fact that Roma do not claim Roma nationality, but Roma communities may be organized and express themselves as a minority. On the other hand, the high fluctuation of inhabitants in some municipalities can result in a higher minority population at the time of the census than the actual situation at present. In both cases, a realistic evaluation of the situation is required and a decision on whether or not to set up a committee should depend on the actual requirements of inhabitants from national minorities.

A separate issue is the approach to foreign nationals; it would be desirable to take them into consideration, but they are not in the direct competence of the committee for national minorities.

- ***Grant policy***

Municipalities do not have special grant schemes reserved directly for minorities. Compared to 2004 and previous years, there has been a significant rise (expressed as a percentage) in grants for Roma communities and a fall in grants for the Polish minority, which had previously been well ahead of all the other minorities in this respect.

- ***Approach to the Charter***

Municipalities see no major breakthrough in the ratification of the Charter. Some seem to be concerned about a backlash in the majority population, as individual minorities will suddenly become much more visible. This is because inhabitants are often uninformed about the Charter. Municipal assemblies are particularly interested in how interpreters and the publication of foreign-language materials will be financed.

The use of a mother tongue in official relations, which mainly applies to the Těšínsko area, is not generally a problem. Officials, especially if they are long-standing locals, are usually linguistically competent. Local inhabitants, irrespective of nationality, often also communicate in the Těšín dialect at authorities.

5.2. Assemblies of chartered cities

In the approach of the chartered cities towards the national minority policy, themes are gradually being crystallized, as documented below and by Annex Nos 9 and 10, which

contain contact details for organizations of members of national minorities and the financial contributions granted to their projects by chartered cities. Only Mladá Boleslav and Teplice failed to answer the questions.

1. Was a Committee for National Minorities (council / other body / coordinator) set up in your competence? What agenda was it in charge of in 2005? Are competences accumulated within the scope of minority agendas in general (does the same body administrate the affairs of national minorities, the integration of Roma communities, the integration of foreigners, the drug policy, etc.)?

BRNO

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
five members (the chairman is a member of the assembly, representatives of the Roma, Greek, and Slovak national minorities)	http://www.brno.cz/index.php?nav01=34&nav02=198	Husova 12, 602 00 Brno tel. 542 171 111 e-mail: horova.jarmila@brno.cz

At its meetings, the committee discussed matters such as the applications of national minority organizations and organizations cooperating with minorities for non-capital grants in 2005; at the end of last year, it discussed grant applications for 2006. It discussed the preparation of two meetings with the chairpersons of minority organizations (May and November) and discussed a number of documents related to the problems of minorities and Roma communities.

The committee was also interested in the activities of organizations cooperating with the Roma, such as *Drom – Roma Centre*, *IQ Roma Servis*, *Odel hin Drom*, *Section of Roma Advisers of the Czech Republic*.

In Brno, competences are not accumulated within the scope of minority agenda, e.g. for the integration of foreigners an *Advisory Body for the Management of the Integration of Foreigners* was set up in 2001. The chairman is the First Deputy Mayor, Jan Holík. Experts from nongovernmental organizations and employees of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs are regularly invited to meetings of the advisory body.

ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

The Committee has not been set up. The documentation received only contained a list of supported projects.

HAVÍŘOV

The Committee has not been set up. Since 1 January 2004 the position of adviser for national minorities has existed at Havířov City Hall; the task of this adviser is to handle the agenda of the rights of the members of national minorities, monitor national minorities, cooperate with schools attended by the children of national minorities, provide information on the handling of official affairs at administrative authorities, etc. This adviser cooperates closely with the Regional Authority of the Moravskoslezsko Region, i.e. with the adviser for national minorities (Roma adviser).

In 2005, the city did not take part in grant award procedures within the scope of projects geared towards the activities of national minorities which receive grants from the Government Council for National Minorities.⁴⁰⁾ However, every year, the city makes a financial contribution to the projects of civic and non-profit organizations which are involved in Roma

⁴⁰⁾ Note by the submitter of the report: it is not clear what the contributor means.

issues (e.g. *the Salvation Army, Dona Bosca Association of Lay Persons, SP+D Kontakt, the Silesian Diacony*). These organizations are also active in other areas.

HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

Committee	website	contact
Working Party for Foreigners, National and Ethnic Minorities	http://www.hradeckralove.org/redirector.html?hid=6026	Československé armády 408 502 00 Hradec Králové Hanušová Michaela (coordinator for ethnic and national minority issues) tel. 495 707 327, e-mail: michaela.hanusova@mmhk.cz

The Working Party for Foreigners, National and Ethnic Minorities⁴¹⁾ has become an integral part of the community planning of social services, in which we concentrate on reinforcing the stability and cohesion of the population by promoting community cooperation; structures are set up which ensure the functionality of social services, especially in the field of their planning, so that the system complies with the city's needs, so that rules are set for the provision of services, so that the efficient management of funding is ensured, along with the defining of roles, responsibilities and competences, the guarantee of service quality via registration and accreditation of service providers. At present, conditions for the involvement of other entities that operate in the social sphere and process are being modified, and the procedure for planning and decision-making on the future priorities of service development and funding possibilities, including the monitoring of projects for external financial sources, is being clarified.

In 2005, Hradec Králové advertised an award procedure for the allocation of financial contributions in support of activities in the field of crime prevention.

The contact person covering the field of foreigners, national and ethnic minorities within the working party for community planning, is Michaela Hanušová, who was elected in a public vote; she has worked as the coordinator for ethnic and national-minority affairs at Hradec Králové City Hall's Social Affairs and Health Department for four years.

The job description of the coordinator for ethnic and national-minority issues includes the organization and coordination of the affairs of national minorities, the integration of Roma communities and the integration of foreigners. Considering the range of cooperation required with institutions, nongovernmental organizations and within the departments of the City Hall, and given the demographic position of Hradec Králové, this agenda is very demanding.

JIHLAVA

The Committee has not been set up. The Jihlava City Council, by means of a resolution, appointed a representative of the Roma community to the Commission for Non-Profit and Social Affairs, the Commission for Sport and Physical Education and the Cultural Commission. Along with other members of these commissions, they make decisions on whether or not to recommend grants for nongovernmental organizations and for private individuals.

KARLOVY VARY

The city has no committee. The agenda connected with national minorities is mainly part of the activities of the Health and Social Affairs Department of Karlovy Vary City Hall. Crime prevention and the drug policy are in the competence of the city police force.

⁴¹⁾ In the 2004 report, the body is still called the Commission for the Integration of National Minorities; in the same report the position of coordinator for ethnic and national-minority issues is given as the adviser for national minorities.

KARVINÁ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
six members (two members from the municipal assembly; representatives of the Polish, Roma, Greek and Slovak minority); set up in 2000	http://www.karvina.org/	Fryštátská 72/1 733 23 Karviná tel. 596 387 370 fax 596 387 264 e-mail: legerova@karvina.org

The committee cooperates with the competent departments of Karviná City Hall which are responsible for affairs related to national minorities, e.g. the integration of the Roma community, the integration of foreigners, the drug policy, etc. Therefore, competences within the scope of minority agendas are not accumulated.

Grant schemes in support of national minorities, run as part of the municipal grant policy, are not clearly separated, but are supported within the scope of individual funds of the chartered city of Karviná.

In 2005, the City Hall also had a social worker for Roma issues, whose activities helped members of the Roma community to exercise their rights and furthered the integration of members of the Roma community into society. We managed to establish good cooperation with representatives of Roma civic associations that offer cultural and educational activities targeted at young people and crime prevention. They also focus on free time activities for children from socio-culturally disadvantaged backgrounds.

Based on the grant scheme of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs and with financial participation from the city, four Roma field social workers were employed at the municipality. Their main task was to guide and encourage the activities of families and individuals towards using their own initiative in coping with their social situation. They made a significant contribution to enhancements in the quality of free time enjoyed by children from Roma families.

The Department for the Social-Law Protection of Children at Karviná City Hall obtained a grant from the Crime Prevention Programme and organized a summer camp for more than 20 children from a socially deprived background. This project took place in cooperation with the Czech Police Force.

KLADNO

The Committee has not been set up. The committee has not been set up in the administrative district of this chartered city because the conditions required to establish the committee have not been met. The chartered city of Kladno does not keep any records of national minorities. We would consider this to be a gross intervention in the rights of the city's inhabitants and a denial of equal opportunities in all areas of Kladno's life. The only relevant and used source is the results of the census.⁴²⁾

⁴²⁾ The municipality justifies the absence of the committee by referring to the fact that it does not want to keep records of national minorities as it considers this to be immoral and unlawful. It only has information from the census (the obligation to set up the committee is not tied to these results). However, no one is requesting records of national minorities from the municipality. The only determinants are: 1) the census, which need not be grasped solely as a directive for the establishment of the committee, but also as a factor bringing attention to the existence of a national minority, motivating the municipality to be constructive in activities related to national minorities; 2) the real needs of the national minority, which the assembly may be aware of without information from the census.

LIBEREC

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Commission for National Minorities (nine members, in existence since 1999)	http://www.liberec.cz/pages/obcan/obcan.htm	Committee Secretary: tř. Dr. M. Horákové 49 Liberec 6 tel. 485 134 817, 603 352 701 e-mail: kotlar.miroslav@magistrat.liberec.cz

The City Council set up a Commission for National Minorities and appointed new members under Resolution No 346/03. The Commission had operated in its old structure since 1999. At present, the Commission has nine members; the coordinator for the *Roma Community Centre* and Roma adviser was appointed its secretary. The Commission's meetings are attended by many guests of other nationalities.

The municipality has five funds, offering financial grants to applicants for the implementation of their activities. These funds are: the cultural fund, the sports fund, the education support and development fund, the environmental fund, and the health and social fund. Entities active in the field of national minorities rarely submit applications to these funds; the most frequent applicant is the *Liberec Roma Association*.

In 1999, with the assistance of a special-purpose government grant, the Chartered City of Liberec set up the *Liberec Roma Community Centre* (hereinafter referred to as 'RCC') within the comprehensive Cooperation Programme of Local Crime Prevention. This centre is not an autonomous legal entity; it is an organization classified under the unit of prevention and social affairs of the social welfare department at Liberec City Hall. The centre employs two municipal workers – the RCC coordinator and the RCC assistant. The RCC coordinator plays the role of a Roma adviser. Most activities carried out for the Roma community and other national minorities are concentrated in this centre; they are fully covered out of the city budget (approximately CZK 840,000) and by means of grants (Assistance for field social work – approximately CZK 413,000).

The Commission for National Minorities of Liberec City Council meets roughly once a month; it carries out activities in the scope of a framework plan approved for the relevant calendar year. In cooperation with the unit for prevention and social affairs, it holds a cultural afternoon of national minorities every year, called *We Live Here*. The sixth year of this event was held in 2005. The activities of national minorities are presented in the Liberec City Hall Newsletter in a section with the same title.

The Liberec City Council has set up several commissions. In the autonomous activities of the authority, most of its agendas are guaranteed by the prevention and social affairs unit of the social welfare department, part of which is the *Roma Community Centre*. The unit currently has seven members of staff.

MOST

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Commission for National Minority Affairs of the City Council (since 2003, eleven members, eight Roma representatives)	http://www.mumost.cz/mesto/index.htm	Radniční 1 434 69 Most tel. 476 448 111 gsm 602 232 994 e-mail: Jiri.Bures@mumost.cz

The Commission's contact person is its secretary – Jiří Bureš, the head of the department of child welfare, social prevention and health.

The Most City Council, at its meeting in December 2004, decided to set up a *National Minorities Club*, which was opened in October 2005 following the reconstruction of premises.

Matters discussed in 2005 concerned preparations for the implementation of programmes at the *National Minorities Club*, activities of Roma associations and support of projects and programmes for Roma integration and the prevention of social exclusion. The Commission discussed applications concerning the programme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports called *Support of Roma pupils at secondary schools*, and the fulfilment of the Action Plan in Chánov. The Commission distributed funds amounting to CZK 100,000 from the city budget in support of the activities of Roma associations and other organizations in accordance with the rules approved for 2005.

The Commission was kept informed of the agendas of the coordinator of national minorities and was acquainted with the requirements of national minorities in respect of which an opinion was delivered for the City Council. Members of national minorities were invited to Commission meetings and asked to cooperate. The coordinator of national minorities managed the agenda and administration related to the affairs of national minorities, including asylum, the integration of foreigners the integration of Roma communities, the coordination of the work of field social workers and crime prevention in cooperation with the Municipal Police Force and the Czech Police Force.

The drug policy was a marginal task of the Commission and was guided by the coordinator of national minorities and field social workers towards the specialist low-threshold facility [*K – centre*].

OLOMOUC

With regard to the results of the 2001 census, a Committee was not set up. This agenda is handled by the social services and healthcare department via the national minorities adviser, Pavla Nachtmannová (tel. 585 510 118, e-mail: pavla.nachtmannova@mmol.cz, gsm: 602 121 438).

This member of staff was responsible for the agendas of national minorities, the integration of foreigners, the integration of Roma communities, and performs state administration in health care and manages the unit of social curators, part of the social services and health department (i.e. this is a position with accumulated competences).

Every year, civic associations of national minorities can apply for assistance for their planned activities in specific areas (culture, sport, education, social activities, etc.) from advertised grant schemes. During the year they are also able to apply for lump-sum assistance of up to CZK 5,000 for specific projects. There are no separate grant schemes in support of national minorities.

OPAVA

No committee was set up in Opava. The municipality holds negotiations with the representatives of Roma and pro-Roma organizations and passes on information on an ongoing basis.

Agendas connected with Roma affairs are handled by the Roma adviser of Opava City Hall, Martin Koky (tel. 553 756 736, e-mail: martin.koky@opava-city.cz), which cooperates closely with representatives of Roma organizations and contributes to the handling of topical problems.

OSTRAVA

The Committee for National Minorities has not been set up. Competences within the scope of minority agendas are not accumulated at the city hall. The problems of national minorities, specifically cooperation with bodies representing national minorities (except the Roma minority) are in the competence of the Internal Affairs Department, which, under the

government integration programme aimed at assistance for asylum-seekers, also cooperates with the regional authority in securing permanent housing for asylum-seekers. The integration of Roma communities and the drug policy are the responsibility of the social affairs and health department.

PARDUBICE

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Commission for Minority Affairs (since the beginning of the 1990s; currently seven members, four from the assembly; appointments based on nominations from political parties represented in the assembly)	http://www.mmp.cz/spravamesta/organy mesta/rada/rada_komise/romove020909.html	Pernštýnské náměstí 1 530 21 Pardubice tajemnice Komise: tel. 466 859 616, e-mail: alena.koskova@mmp.cz

Based on the results of the Population and Housing Census in 2001, the chartered city of Pardubice is not among those municipalities which, pursuant to Section 117 of Act No 128/2000, are required to set up a committee for national minorities. However, in addition to its other commissions, since the early 1990s the Pardubice City Council has regularly (in each term of office) set up an initiative and advisory body specially focused solely on Roma communities initially, and then (as of 2002) on other minorities and foreigners in accordance with Section 122(1) of the same act.

The chartered city of Pardubice does not have a fund specifically for the support of national minorities. The aim of the city's grant policy is to ensure the openness of its funds, regardless of whether applicants represent or are seeking funding for national minorities. In 2005, only Roma civic associations submitted applications for grants from the relevant funds of the chartered city of Pardubice. The overview of grants contains only Roma organizations; there are no pro-Roma organizations.

The Commission for Minority Affairs has seven members, five of whom are appointed by Pardubice City Council based on nominations from political parties represented in the city assembly; the sixth member has long been a local expert, and the seventh is appointed based on the recommendation of Roma civic associations. A permanent guest of Commission meetings is the Roma adviser from the city hall's social affairs department. The contact persons include the President of the Commission, Slavěna Broulíková, and the Commission secretary, Alena Kosková, from the social affairs department.

In response to the changing ethnic face of Pardubice, in 2002 the City Council decided to discontinue the *Commission for Roma Affairs*, which was geared solely to the issues of Roma communities. The City Council then set up the Commission for Minority Affairs, with the aim of having an initiative and advisory body specializing in an active approach by the city towards the integration of minorities (including Roma) and foreigners. Communication with the Roma community has been in place for many years; contact with other minorities and foreigners is only just being established.

In 2005, the Commission mainly discussed the fulfilment of the city's strategic development plan, the procedure for the creation of the city's policy for the integration of Roma the integration of minorities and foreigners, the procedure for the creation of a system to monitor the situation in Roma communities and minorities and foreigners, guidelines for the letting of apartments owned by the municipality, the establishment of a conciliatory and facilitation council, an Active Housing programme, field social work in Roma communities, the accommodation rules of the Češkova hostel, the membership of Roma in selected commissions of the city council, contact with the Vietnamese community, the operation of an *Advice Centre for Foreigners operating in Pardubice*, the possibilities for the training and retraining of Roma in one of the Pardubice training centres, etc.

The agenda of the Commission for Minority Affairs focuses on the Roma community, other minorities and foreigners. In the discussion of cross-sectional themes (crime prevention, housing policy, etc.), the Commission works with those city bodies which have the given field in their competence. We consider this solution to be sustainable and fully in line with the local situation.

PLZEŇ

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
fourteen-member Commission for the Integration of Ethnic Minorities of Plzeň City Council	http://info.plzen-city.cz/article.asp?sec=429	Alena Hynková, Secretary tel. 378 033 311, e-mail: hynkova@mmp.plzen-city.cz

The Commission for the Integration of Ethnic Minorities of Plzeň City Council is composed of the representatives of institutions, the representatives of ethnic minorities and relevant experts. Commission members may be experts from the relevant institutions, who participate in an advisory capacity. Plzeň City Council appoints and removes Commission members. The Commission is set up based on a cooperation agreement and demands that Commission members fulfil tasks in their competence and conduct checks of the fulfilment of tasks.

The Commission works autonomously; there is no accumulation of competences as, within the scope of the City Council, a number of special-focus commissions are in operation – including the Commission for the Integration of Foreigners, the Commission for Drug Policy and Crime Prevention, and the Commission for Social Affairs. The Commission for the Integration of Ethnic Minorities is responsible for preventive measures culminating in an improvement in co-existence between majority society and ethnic minorities in Plzeň. The Commission carries out the following tasks in particular:

- a) it prepares documentation for the implementation of a uniform Plzeň city concept in the handling of issues focusing on other ethnic minorities,
- b) it gathers and assesses information available on the development of the mutual co-existence of the majority and all minorities in the city; it gathers and assesses information on developments in the situation, coordinates the submission of this information to the units involved, and presents the Plzeň City Council with proposals aimed at eliminating any deficiencies that are discovered,
- c) it cooperates with the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs, the Government Council for Human Rights and the Council for National Minorities, and works with decisions of ministers and valid Government Resolutions.

The Commission has not yet awarded any grants or gifts – funds were first earmarked for 2006, with consideration for the set priorities – only then will be Commission for the Integration of Ethnic Minorities of Pardubice City Council discuss grant applications in 2006: Priorities: projects for the integration of ethnic minorities and projects for socially excluded groups.

ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM

<i>Committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
assistant to the mayor for minority issues	http://www.usti-nl.cz/showdoc.do?docid=840	Velká Hradební 8 401 00 Ústí nad Labem tel. 475 241 111 fax 475 211 503, e-mail: podatelna.magistrat@mag-ul.cz

No Committee has been set up in Ústí nad Labem as set forth in Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (the Municipal Order) because according to the latest census fewer than 10% of citizens living in the city's territory claim nationality other than Czech;

therefore, with regard to the legislative conditions and possibilities, as well as the number of inhabitants officially claiming membership of a given nationality, the establishment of a committee for national minorities cannot be legally demanded. Since 1998, the city has had an advisory body responsible for the welfare of seniors, ethnic minorities, mentally handicapped persons, the mentally ill, children and young people, citizens in a temporary social crisis and socially maladjusted citizens.

This agenda, with regard to the rights of national minorities, and in particular matters connected with the Roma community, is in the competence of the assistant to the mayor for minority affairs. This position was set up on 3 March 2003. The assistant is classified as a member of staff in the Mayor's Office and is directly reportable to the Manager of the Mayor's Office. The assistant carries out tasks set by the office manager or mayor. In the performance of tasks in 2005, the assistant cooperated with deputy mayors, the managers of the competent departments and units of Ústí nad Labem City Hall, the municipal ward authorities, other members of staff from the city and state executive and non-profit institutions. The priority activities of the assistant are geared towards dismantling social barriers and inequality. The assistant responds to crises and acute situations and to day-to-day personal and social problems. In 2005, the assistant to the mayor for minority affairs carried out the following activities in particular:

- he handled the mayor's correspondence entrusted to him; he handled 632 enquiries, complaints and requests from the representatives of non-profit organizations, self-governing bodies, private individuals and legal persons,
- he attended the mayor's meetings to which he was invited and represented the mayor in talks in cases where he had been so delegated,
- he gathered information available about projects being implemented or prepared in a given area,
- he attended 12 conferences and seminars concerning housing issues, human rights in the public and private sector, inequality on the labour market and the socio-economic exclusion of members of national minorities,
- he is a member, consultant and cross-cultural mediator for the working party *OF UJEP Cross-Cultural Training Centre*.

The second Ústí nad Labem Community Welfare Plan drawn up for the 2004-2006 period ('Plan') is the city's second document summing up the policy requirements stemming from the city's coalition agreement, expert views and requirements of the service providers, opinions and feedback of the service users, and data from the information system of Ústí nad Labem social services. Over the next three years, the Plan will develop the network of social services so that they are better suited to the city's inhabitants and respond more sensitively to their needs. The Plan follows up on the First Community Plan, implemented in the preceding three years, which gave rise to 41 new services in Ústí nad Labem and provided services/contacts to roughly 68,000 clients every year. The plan is linked to a number of conceptual documents of the City of Ústí nad Labem, especially the programme called *Ústí nad Labem – a Healthy City*.

One of the target groups of community planning is ethnic communities. Members of the coordination group for social assistance and the welfare of ethnic communities are representatives of the service users (i.e. members of ethnic communities), service providers, participating institutions and organizations, and other entities involved.

In the scope of community planning, Ústí nad Labem has drawn up a system for the allocation of funding for the provision of social services. Applications for funding must 1) comply with the approved Ústí nad Labem Community Welfare Plan, 2) be submitted by the notified deadline, and must be drawn up in accordance with the required and approved rules. The applications (projects) are then assessed in the structure of management and coordination of

social services and recommended (or not recommended) for financing by the city or other participation in a given project plan.

As regards the chartered city's grant policy in relation to national minorities: Grants in support of national minorities are conceived for a particular target group, in other words, they do not overlap with, for example, the integration of foreigners, crime prevention, etc.

ZLÍN

Not set up.

2. What is the cooperation like between the Committee for National Minorities (council / other body) and organizations of members of national minorities? ⁴³⁾

BRNO

In Brno, there is traditionally good cooperation between the committee and the city on the one hand, and on the other individual organizations of members of national minorities (Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Russian, Ruthenian, Roma and Slovak). The representatives of the city and the committee are invited to various cultural events, festivals, and film festivals held to mark the various anniversaries and public holidays of these minorities. Particularly successful is the traditional December programme *Living in the Same City*, organized by the folk association *Půčik*, where individual minority organizations present their own programmes – demonstrations of dance, song, recitals and drama.

HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

A problem affecting our field work is the dearth of Roma associations, organizations or persons with whom we can cooperate and who are prepared to help cement the very fragmented community of Hradec Králové Roma.

JIHLAVA

It cooperates with associations in Jihlava: *Vysočina Roma Union* (contact persons: Ladislav Dreveňák and Olga Líbalová) and *Roma Initiative* (Ladislav Vašek).

KARLOVY VARY

Cooperation has been established primarily with the Roma community via the *Karlovy Vary Roma Civic Association* and *Roma Cultural and Information Centre*, with regional competence. In 2003, a civil advice centre was also set up here.

KARVINÁ

Cooperation between the committee and organizations of members of national minorities continues to be very good. Proof of this cooperation is the preparations for the multicultural festival called *The Blending of Cultures or Don't We Know Each Other?*

LIBEREC

There has been increased cooperation with the *Regional Academic Library* in Liberec, which runs a series called the *Blending of Cultures* and other activities (exhibitions, discussions); the

⁴³⁾ Contact information for the statutory representatives of national minority organizations can be found in Annex No 10.

city continues to work with the *Liberec Roma Association* in field social work, a preparatory club for preschool children and a summer camp for children. We still feel a palpable lack of non-profit organizations operating in the sphere of activities of and for national minorities. In 2005, cooperation was established on personal lines between commission members and representatives of the Ukrainian minority, who have initiated the establishment of the *Integration Centre for Foreigners* in Liberec.

MOST

Citizens of national minorities have not registered any associations in the administrative district of the city, with the exception of members of the Roma community. According to the last census, as at 1 March 2001 sixteen minorities claimed a nationality other than Czech in Most's administrative district. The largest minorities are the Slovaks (2 090), Germans (736), Vietnamese (335), Hungarians (225), Roma (207), Ukrainians (176) and Polish (110). Others did not have more than 100 members.

A significant reason for the *National Minorities Club* is the possibility for Most to support the fulfilment of programmes tied to projects backed by the European Union, the Government and relevant ministries, the Ústecko Region and the city of Most, for the development of other activities concerning the promotion of the activities of minorities. In this respect, Most acknowledged that the integration of national minorities and their successful inclusion in society is not a matter of indifference.

The offer of cooperation drew interest from several minorities which are represented in the Ústecko Region committee and with whom contact was established after the opening of the *National Minorities Club* in Most (German, Vietnamese, Bulgarian and Armenian).⁴⁴⁾

In the city's administrative district, the *Dživas* c.a. Roma association is active, and there is good collaboration with associations that work with the *National Minorities Club – Association of Roma of the City of Most* and the *Chanov Community Centre*. Since 2004, the association *Róma Most, EU Integration*, association has been registered, but is not openly active. Organizations that work with the Roma are: *House of Roma Culture, Most District Charity* and *Viktor* s.r.o.

OLOMOUC

The adviser proposes and organizes meetings of the representatives of individual national minorities in the city. She participates in the events of specific civic associations, and she also helps to raise the funding required for the implementation of activities.

Every year, the adviser convenes meetings of the representatives of nongovernmental organizations to discuss topical problems in the subsequent period; she initiates organizational meetings to ensure proper organization of the next year's multicultural festival of national minorities and physically disabled, traditionally held in Olomouc, called *We Can Communicate*.

The representatives of civic associations have been actively involved in work on the Olomouc Community Plan of Social Services since 2005, and take part in other ways in the public life of Olomouc (e.g. *Days of Bulgarian Culture*, sports activities, *Olomouc Cultural Summer*, etc.).

OSTRAVA

Four national minorities – Hungarian, Greek, Ukrainian and Bulgarian – actively declare an interest in social and civil life in the city. In 2005, no requests for cooperation were registered from these national minorities.

⁴⁴⁾ Note by the submitter of the report: In practice, the city's organs do not differentiate the exercise of national minority policy and the procedure for the integration of foreigners.

PARDUBICE

Of the national minorities in the chartered city of Pardubice, only the Roma and Russian minorities are organized. Of the communities, the Vietnamese community is informally organized.

Active Roma civic associations include *Babášek, Darjav, Municipal Roma Council, Regirom, Association of Pardubice Roma, Association for the Protection of Rights and Freedoms*. The Commission meets these associations occasionally, once a year; cooperation between the Commission and these associations takes place via the Roma representative in the Commission and the Roma adviser. The Social Affairs Department, mainly through the Roma adviser and the minorities and equality adviser, promotes the inclusion of these associations in projects under way in the city (they currently include the *Roma Integration Programme, Social and Health Assistants, Probation and Mediation Service mentors*), helps them prepare and present their own projects, exchanges the necessary information, cooperates in field work and research into the situation and needs of the Roma communities in Pardubice, and helps associations tackle problems in a manner that will enable them to develop their activities.

Cooperation between the city and Roma civic associations can be characterized as dynamic, sometimes even stormy, but also developed, sustainable and beneficial for the city.

The Russian national minority is represented by the civic association *Russian Institute*. The Commission cooperates with this association primarily in the organization of meetings with representatives of minorities; there are plans for cooperation in the creation of a system that will permit monitoring of the status of minorities and foreigners and other tasks set out in the strategic plan. Further cooperation takes place via the minorities and equality adviser. In our view, the cooperation is stilted but reliable.

The Vietnamese community is relatively well organized, albeit informally, with no institutional background. The Commission cooperates with it primarily in the organization of meetings with representatives of minorities; there are plans for cooperation in the creation of a system that will permit monitoring of the status of minorities and foreigners and other tasks set out in the strategic plan. Contact, mainly via the minorities and equality adviser, is more frequent than with the Russian minority. Cooperation is occasional, but captivating and reliable.

PLZEŇ

Cooperation between the Commission for the Integration of Ethnic Minorities of Plzeň City Council and organizations of members of national minorities in Plzeň is very good, which is proven by the fact that the representatives of these organizations are members of that commission or of the Commission for the Integration of Foreigners of Plzeň City Council, or are in contact with these commissions.

ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM

The city is the coordinator of the process of community planning via the unit for the support of nongovernmental social services, part of the city's OPO department.

3. In your opinion, what effect will the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages have on public life in your administrative district?

BRNO

In our opinion, the prepared Charter will not have a negative impact on life in Brno or on Brno City Hall. The languages proposed in the European Charter for the territory of the Czech Republic, i.e. Slovak, Polish, German and Romanian, are languages which hundreds of people

in Brno master. At the city hall, there are also members of staff who, except Polish, can speak these languages and use them in negotiations with clients.

HAVÍŘOV

In our administrative district, Article 8 – Education and Training – of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is already implemented. Four primary schools operate here (with 203 children) along with four nursery schools (with 70 children) with Polish as the language of instruction.

In the 2003/2004 school year, a catch-up class was opened, which is mainly attended by the children of asylum-seekers in the Czech Republic. Two preparatory classes have also been set up for children who are socially disadvantaged.

At present, the guiding principles laid down in Part II of the Charter are respected in our administrative district. Examples include grants awarded in this field to organizations and schools, cooperation between border towns and city halls, the publication of the regional press, radio and television broadcasting, support for the projects of the Polish national minority, etc.

HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

The City Hall contributes to the support of the cultural activities of members of national minorities and to the support of education in the languages of national minorities and multicultural upbringing. The impact of the European Charter for Minority and Regional Languages on public life in our city and region is expected to be minimal.

JHLAVA

No opinion was delivered.

KARLOVY VARY

No opinion was delivered.

KARVINÁ

As the city is highly nationally diverse (Slovaks, Poles, Germans, Ukrainians, Hungarians, Roma and citizens of other nationalities), it is necessary for legislation to define precisely the term ‘living traditionally and long term on the territory of the Czech Republic.’ This would resolve the disparate interpretations. In the past, there was no disruption in the relations between individual nationalities, and we assume this will remain the same in the future.

Further to the material featured in the periodical *Veřejná správa* No 46/2005, it states that in part II of the Charter, Article 8 - Education and Training, the adoption of Act No 561/2004 on preschool, primary, secondary, further vocational, and other education (the Schools Act) means that the provision of training in the languages of national minorities is enshrined in the law.

As regards Article 10 - Public administration authorities and public services, it states that the possibility of using a minority language in official contact is regulated by legal provisions concerning individual regional minority languages such as Polish and Slovak in Parts II and III of the Charter. Primarily at issue is the procedures laid down in Act No 500/2004, the Rules of Administrative Procedure, Act No 337/1992 on the administration of taxes and charges, Act No 455/1991, the Trade Licensing Act, and especially Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (the Municipal Order).

KLADNO

Kladno and its administrative district do not figure among those areas that will be highly affected by the prepared ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The latest Population and Housing Census as at 1 March 2001 revealed that the number of inhabitants claiming to be members of national minorities, where it can be assumed that they also speak minority languages, is very low in Kladno and the municipalities in its administrative district.

The self-governing bodies of the chartered city of Kladno are prepared, via the City Hall, to adopt the measures under Part III, Articles 8, 10 and 13 of the Charter geared towards education, public administration authorities and public services, and economic and social life. However, no comments and suggestions have been raised yet, so in the meantime, for organizational and technical reasons, the city does not consider their application necessary. In the future, however, steps to facilitate communication in minority languages proposed by the Charter for the whole of the Czech Republic, especially after the ratification thereof, are possible.

LIBEREC

The city believes that, considering the low level of activity among members of national minorities, this ratification will not have a great impact on its administrative district. The *Roma Community Centre* carries out activities to protect the Roma language, offers courses of Romani, holds talks at schools on the theme of the Roma, their history, language and culture, and many other sub-projects.

MOST

As no large national minorities are registered in the Mostecko area that seek the support of language requirements, the city does not expect to adopt large-scale measures in this respect.

OLMOUC

The Charter will have an interesting effect in the city's administrative district (after ratification by the Czech Republic) for the Roma, Bulgarian and Slovak minority.

At present, it is difficult to gauge the situation, but considering the low number of members of national minorities living in the city's administrative district, the fulfilment of the obligations in the set areas of public life (see Part III of the Charter) is not expected.

OPAVA

The day-to-day lives of the Roma will not be affected much by the ratification of the European Charter; it will probably act as a means of support for Roma culture and the Roma language.

OSTRAVA

The Charter's requirements in relation to public services provided by city organs will be secured under the approved legislation. At present, the procedure applied in this field is mainly that laid down in Act No 500/2004, the Rules of Administrative Procedure, Act No 337/1992 on the administration of taxes and charges, as amended, Act No 455/1991, the Trade Licensing Act, as amended, and Act No 301/2000 on registers and names, as amended. Bilingual names and signs are not used in the city within the meaning of Act No 128/2000 on municipalities (the Municipal Order), as amended.

PARDUBICE

The city, based on Government Resolution No 1574 of 7 December 2005, and on the representation of national minorities in the chartered city of Pardubice, assumes that it will be affected by the application of Part II of the Charter to Slovak and Roma and, in the case of the Government-selected provisions of Part II of the Charter, to Slovak. Given the short time since the adoption of the Government Resolution on the ratification of the Charter, it would be irresponsible to attempt to provide a detailed picture of the impact that the fulfilment of the obligations under the Charter will have on each section of public life in the administrative district; nevertheless the city believes, on the basis of past experience that the impact will hardly be dramatic.

PLZEŇ

The city anticipates that the ratification of the Charter will not have a fundamental effect on public life in its district as regards the sector of social affairs and health care it manages.

ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM

The use of regional or minority languages in various spheres of public life is an expression of the cultural wealth of a country, and by extension the cultural wealth of the Member States of the Council of Europe. Of the list of measures laid down in Part III, there are evident attempts to incorporate these languages as full-value languages integrated into the education system, judicial practices, public services, and other forms of social organization, while the implementation of the Charter should not impair the autonomy of the official language of a given state. The acknowledgement of the existence of these languages and the legitimacy of their use must therefore not be confused with the recognition of a language as the official language.

In connection with the objectives of the Charter, it is possible to apply arguments, stemming from history, where an emphasis has not been placed on the sense of preserving or using a language in the spheres of (for example) education or judicial procedure. In the current situation, where an emphasis is placed on what is often only the verbal form of integration of minorities, the European Charter for Minority or Regional Languages will occupy only a role of certain formality in the actual lives of members of national minorities.

ZLÍN

No major impact is expected.

5.2.1. Summary

- ***Handling the minority agenda***

Bodies focusing on national minority issues have existed for only a short time in a number of cases. The cities have started looking for new ways of handling minority issues in response to the increased interest in this field on the part of state administration and national legislation. The need for the cities to have their own approach to national minorities arose after the district authorities were discontinued. Therefore the competences of newly established bodies are not always clear. In certain places, the theme of national minorities has brought a higher profile to the establishment and naturalization of foreigners. The established functions therefore often overlap with the agenda for the integration of foreigners and asylum seekers.

Brno and Karviná set up committees in 2001 and 2001 respectively. Special commissions exist in another four cities. In Ústí nad Labem and Hradec Králové, only working and coordination groups are in operation within the scope of a range of special-focus institutions. In several cities, besides specialized bodies, a special position has been set up (coordinator, adviser, assistant) with a similar agenda. In Opava, Ostrava, Karlovy Vary and Kladno, special bodies have not been set up at all; Kladno argues that the law does not require it to set up a committee. However, this obligation does not apply in any chartered city except Karviná. The establishment of such a function is therefore evidently not even required by the true needs of national minorities.⁴⁵⁾

Bodies specializing in national minority issues – considering the former care of cities these issues almost exclusively relate to Roma problems in the social context – often directly fall under or work in close cooperation with social affairs and health departments, or internal affairs and police departments. In order to prevent the accumulation of agendas, in several cities (e.g. Plzeň) national minorities are generally covered by a department other than that responsible for Roma issues. The agenda for Roma integration can then remain in the social sphere (e.g. Ostrava).⁴⁶⁾ However, in most cities the Roma problem is closely connected with the national minority agenda. There is also close vertical cooperation (region – city), especially if cities structure their organs in accordance with the model at regional level (Most, Liberec).

- ***Bodies geared towards national minorities and their basic activities***

Committee for National Minorities

<i>city</i>	<i>description</i>
Brno	established in 2001; discusses grant applications; meets national minority organizations; discusses thematic documents; foreigner agenda handled separately by an Advisory Body
Karviná	established in 2002; cooperates with departments where the individual agendas are national minorities, Roma communities, the integration of foreigners and drug policy.

Commission for National Minorities

<i>city</i>	<i>description</i>
Liberec	established in 1999; now reorganized; the secretary is the coordinator for the Roma Community Centre and the Roma adviser; meetings are attended by guests of other nationalities; cooperates closely with the prevention and social affairs unit of the social welfare department (under which the Roma Community Centre is classified).
Most	initiated the establishment of a National Minorities Club; preparations for the implementation and support of Roma integration projects and programmes.
Pardubice	an advisory and initiative body; monitors the situation of the Roma community, its housing situation; helps in the preparation and presentation of the projects of national minorities; devotes attention to the Advice Centre for Foreigners; since 2002 has focused not only on Roma communities but also on other minorities and foreigners; however, cooperation in the field of grants is till only with Roma; currently at the stage of establishing contact with other minorities (Vietnamese); the Roma adviser is a permanent guest at meetings
Plzeň	Commission for the Integration of Ethnic Minorities; established in 2001; composed of representatives of institutions, minorities and experts, functions separately from other agendas, which have their own commissions; gathers and assesses information on the co-existence of the majority and minorities; presents proposals to the City Council.

⁴⁵⁾ However, in the case of Kladno the decision not to establish the relevant body is disputable because a number of Roma and pro-Roma organizations operate in the territory of the city.

⁴⁶⁾ In these cases, it is necessary to ensure that Roma communities are not forgotten in the field of culture due to their connection with the social sphere, and that the same approach is applied to the Roma community as to national minorities in general.

Coordination Group

<i>city</i>	<i>description</i>
Ústí nad Labem	2 of the 7 coordination groups (mainly with a social bent) within the City's Advisory Body manage the field of social assistance and the welfare of ethnic minorities; both are managed by the same person.

Working Party for Foreigners, National and Ethnic Minorities

<i>city</i>	<i>description</i>
Hradec Králové	operates within the social affairs and health department; focuses on the community planning of social services

Coordinator

<i>city</i>	<i>description</i>
Hradec Králové	Coordinator for Ethnic and National Minority Issues; manages agendas concerning national minorities, the integration of the Roma community and foreigners; demanding accumulation of competences; also operates as a contact person for these agendas.
Most	manages the agendas of national minorities, asylum-seekers, the integration of foreigners and Roma communities, the coordination of field social workers and crime prevention; cooperates with the Municipal Police Force and the Czech Police Force

Adviser for National Minorities

<i>city</i>	<i>description</i>
Haviřov	position set up in 2004
Olomouc	position set up in 2003; part of the social services and health department; manages the agenda of national minorities, the integration of foreigners and the Roma community.
Pardubice	Minorities and Equality Adviser; within the framework of the social affairs department, supports the inclusion, in particular, of Roma associations in projects in the city

Assistant to the Mayor for Minority Issues

<i>city</i>	<i>description</i>
Ústí nad Labem	position set up in 2003; assesses projects, participates in the city strategy in relation to national minorities

Other

<i>city</i>	<i>description</i>
Opava	certain cooperation with national minorities exists, but is not institutionalized
Ostrava	agenda of national minorities together with the integration of asylum seekers is managed by the internal affairs department; the integration of Roma communities together with the drug policy is the responsibility of the social affairs and health department
Karlovy Vary	the agenda is managed by the social affairs and health department

- ***Cooperation with organizations of members of national minorities***

As in the regions, a great deal of attention is paid to Roma communities, but in some cities there are also high concentrations of other minorities, to whom the policy of the city assembly is adapted. Unlike the regions, these minorities take up a greater share of the population, and unlike municipalities they have a larger representation in absolute terms, which indicates that, a stronger organizational structure and higher demands on cooperation.

In certain cities, the spectrum of cooperating organizations is highly varies (Brno). In cases where the focus is on Roma communities, cooperation may be complicated if Roma do not offer enough partner organizations and/or these organizations are inactive (Hradec Králové,

Liberec). In Most, several minority organizations were motivated to cooperate by the provision of material facilities in the form of a National Minorities Club. In Liberec, the Roma Community Centre is used for the activities of all national minorities. Cooperation is sometimes good and active with minorities (including foreign communities) despite the poor organizational structure, provided that there is interest (Vietnamese). Cooperation is usually intensified in cases where members of the competent bodies are also members of minority organizations.

The grant policy does not differ that much from the approach adopted by the regions – a specific programme for national minorities is run by the cities of Plzeň and Ústí nad Labem (for more details, see Annex No 9).

- *Approach to the Charter*

In most cases the cities do not place special significance in the implementation of the Charter. They understand that the rights and obligations under the Charter are already enshrined in current legislation. Some cities can report success in the practical application of these legal provisions (e.g. Havířov in relation to Polish-speaking citizens). Other cities states that the language requirements raised by non-Czech speakers have been poor so far and that there is a generally low interest among minorities in this issue; therefore the cities are not concerned that there might be a sudden surge of interest. In exceptional cases, they grasp the scope of measures under the Charter to be broader than that intended, e.g. Brno (the use of German and Roma speaking officials at the City Hall) and Olomouc (the impact of the Charter on the Bulgarian minority). However, not even these cities are worried about the implementation of the Charter.

Nevertheless, possible unexpected claims that could be raised by language minorities after the ratification of the Charter should be pointed out. Some cities are evidently not aware of the fact that there is not always a direct connection between a language and national minority (especially in the case of Slovaks). The weak organizational structure of national minorities and their unformulated requirements, as well as a low number of members, need not correspond to the language requirements of the speakers of languages other than Czech in a given locality.

In some cases, there have been incorrect interpretations or disinformation.⁴⁷⁾

5.3. Regional Assemblies

The chapter on regional self-government, as in the last few years, is based on a set of questions out to the governors of all the regions. The structure of this section is different from the past in that, in addition to the text illustrating the situation in the individual regions, there is also a summary. Compared to previous years, the situation in the regions is so institutionally stable that the situation can be compared and generalized to a certain degree. The text, prepared in the overwhelming majority of cases by persons responsible for the agenda of national minorities, has been slightly edited stylistically, formally harmonized, and ordered according to the three basic questions. There is a summary at the end of the section. In addition, the procedures of the regions are rounded off by an annex on the funding of projects (Annex No 9) and an annex containing contacts for organizations of members of national minorities in 2005 (Annex No 10).

⁴⁷⁾ For example, Karviná's requirement that legislation should precisely define the term of a minority living traditionally and long term in the Czech Republic. A list of the representatives of these minorities is provided in the Council Statutes, although this has nothing to do with the Charter.

1. Was a Committee for National Minorities (council / other body / coordinator) set up in your competence? What agenda was it in charge of in 2005? Are competences accumulated within the scope of minority agendas in general (does the same body administrate the affairs of national minorities, the integration of Roma communities, the integration of foreigners, the drug policy, etc.)?

Jihočesko [South Bohemia] Region

No committee for national minorities or any other body (within the meaning of Act No 129/2000 on regions) was set up at regional level. There are no plans to establish a committee because the condition for its establishment under Section 78(2) of the Regions Act has not been met.

A committee has not been set up at the level of lower self-governing units in the region either. As part of an audit of the sub-committee for national minorities of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic concerning the establishment of committees for national minorities within the meaning of Section 117(3) of Act No 128/2000, the regional authority cooperated in the examination of the current situation at lower self-governing units of the region, specifically in 19 municipalities in the Českokrumlovsko and Prachaticko areas, whose assemblies reviewed this matter. The report on the investigation of 24 February 2005 was submitted to the Public Administration Supervision and Control Department of the Ministry of the Interior.

Pursuant to Act No 273/2001 (and Government Resolution No 599 of 14 July 2000, under which the Government approved the Concept of Government Policy in relation to members of the Roma community), the regional authority set up the position of Roma coordinator for Roma community affairs, which has been in place since 1 June 2002. This member of staff is responsible for implementing the relevant agenda autonomously, i.e. there is no overlapping with other agendas, and is employed full time. Activities related to national minorities: the relevant agenda is the responsibility of a delegated worker together with the agenda for the integration of foreigners and asylum-seekers. The drug agenda is the responsibility of the regional anti-drug coordinator, who works solely in this field without encroaching on other agendas. All these agendas are administrated by the social affairs and health department (unit of social prevention and humanitarian activity).

Jihomoravsko [South-Moravia] Region

<i>committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Council for National Minorities Coordinator for Roma Affairs	http://www.kr-jihomoravsky.cz/menu242.htm	Žerotínovo nám. 3/5 601 82 Brno Council President: tel. 541 246 701 e-mail m.markova@mybox.cz Coordinator for Roma Affairs: tel. 541658312, e-mail: daniel.jiri@kr- jihomoravsky.cz Officer for National Minority Education: tel. 541 658 303, e-mail: koupilova.vera@kr-jihomoravsky.cz

Under a resolution of the Jihomoravsko Regional Assembly, the Council for National Minorities of the Jihomoravsko Region was set up for advisory and initiative activities in the field of national minorities and their members living in the Jihomoravsko Region. The Council has seven members, of which three are members of the regional assembly appointed by agreement of the political clubs within the assembly.

Contact person: Marie Marková (President of the Council for National Minorities) – tel. 541 246 701, 737 476 817, e-mail: m.markova@mybox.cz; Eva Šoukalová (Secretary of the Council for National Minorities) – tel.541 653 546 e-mail: soukalova.eva@kr-jihomoravsky.cz

The Council for National Minorities, within the scope of its competences laid down in the Statutes approved by the Jihomoravsko Regional Assembly in 2005, is responsible for the following agenda in particular:

- it assessed the projects of associations of national minorities and proposed the distribution of funding from the Jihomoravsko budget in accordance with the Rules for the provision and accounting of grants for the activities of national minorities valid for 2005 in a two round grant award procedure,
- it arranged and co-organized traditional meetings of members of national minorities living in the Jihomoravsko Region, called *Returning to Roots*,
- it proposed resources for the activities of national minorities in the Jihomoravsko Region budget for 2006,
- it cooperated on the creation of a Grant Scheme for the activities of national minorities in the Jihomoravsko Region for 2006,
- it monitored and assessed the activities and requirements of associations of national minorities and helped in the organization of their events,
- it regularly informed the Jihomoravsko Regional Assembly, in the form of Reports on the Activities of the Council for National Minorities, about the situation of national minorities and their members in the Jihomoravsko Region,
- it delivered opinions on the prepared ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages,
- it contributed to the processing and publication of an informative collection of papers called *National Minorities and Their Associations in the Jihomoravsko Region*.

The Council for National Minorities administered the affairs of all national minorities; in the case of the Roma minority it discussed the integration of the Roma community and thus partially overlapped with the agenda of the regional coordinator for Roma affairs and the officer for the education of national minorities. It also discussed the integration of foreigners, e.g. participation in the project *Passing on know-how in the integration of foreigners in cooperation with WIF/a unit of the City Hall (MA 17)* and communication with members of communities which do not yet have the status of a national minority, e.g. Vietnamese.

The coordinator for Roma community affairs in the Jihomoravsko Region, in the scope of the extended competence of the Jihomoravsko Regional Authority, specifically contributed to the integration of members of national minorities in 2005, primarily by carrying out the following tasks:

- the transmission of information;
- the methodological and coordinating activity of Roma advisers and members of staff of municipalities delegated with the performance of state administration, whose agenda is to carry out tasks stemming from the Czech Government's concept for the Integration of Roma into Society;
- cooperation with NGOs and support within projects of the EU Structural Funds;
- a cultural presentation of the regional authority at *MISS ROMA 2005* in cooperation with the *Association of Roma and National Minorities* in Hodonín;
- the production of documents for the Office of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs;

- cooperation on the continuation of a project of the Secondary Police School in Brno, called *Preparation of Citizens of National Minorities for Acceptance as a Police Office of the Czech Police Force*;
- cooperation in the field of employment with NGOs and the office of the government plenipotentiary for the Jihomoravsko Region for issues related to citizens who are hard to place on the labour market;
- personal attendance at cultural events and training seminars held by NGOs of members of national minorities.

Key, consistent activities of the coordinator for Roma community affairs are to help the Roma minority in the fields of employment, education, safety, and housing, to assist the coordinating, methodological and teaching activities of Roma advisers, assistant teachers, and field social workers, and to cooperate with the representatives of nongovernmental organizations and self-government bodies specializing in national minority issues in the region.

Contact person: Jiří Daniel (coordinator for Roma community affairs) tel. 541 658 312, e-mail: daniel.jiri@kr-jihomoravsky.cz.

Education Department of the Jihomoravsko Regional Authority

The integration of Roma into society in the Jihomoravsko Region was mainly the responsibility of the Education Department of the JMK Regional Authority, insofar as it assisted integration in the education of members of national minorities. In the sphere of primary education, it cooperated with schools attended by children and young people of the Roma national minority. It helped set up preparatory classes, and where necessary tried to establish the position of assistant teacher for children from a socio-culturally disadvantaged background.

In the field of secondary education, in 2005 work continued on the programme *Support of Roma pupils at secondary schools* in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic.

The Education Department, in collaboration with the Multicultural Education Department of Masaryk University, Brno, continues to develop cooperation on the preparation of educational programmes intended for members of the Roma national minority.

Contact person: Věra Koupilová (officer for the education of national minorities) tel. 541 658 303, e.mail:koupilova.vera@kr-jihomoravsky.cz

o Grant policy

The Jihomoravsko Region maintains a grant system for national minorities that is separate from other grant schemes run by the region. Up to the end of 2005, the provision of grants for the activities of national minorities was governed by the 'Grant rules for the provision and accounting of grants for the activities of national minorities'; for 2006, the Jihomoravsko Regional Council published a 'Grant programme for the activities of national minorities in the Jihomoravsko Region'. The purpose of the Jihomoravsko Region grant policy is to secure the co-financing of projects geared towards the activities of the members of national minorities, especially in the following areas:

- a) the upbringing of children and young people (e.g. aesthetic, technical, etc.)
- b) the maintenance, development and presentation of the cultures of national minorities,
- c) education in the languages of national minorities and multicultural upbringing,
- d) the dissemination and acceptance of information in the languages of national minorities or to a large degree in the languages of national minorities, or on national minorities in society,
- e) support for extraordinary cultural and sports events of local, regional and supraregional significance,
- f) support for traditional crafts and other folk traditions,

- g) exhibitions and other presentations,
- h) support of publishing activities.

Through its grant policy, the region supported civic associations operating in the field of national minorities and schools with a multicultural orientation. In 2005, CZK 3.5 million was earmarked from the regional budget for this activity.

KARLOVARSKO [KARLOVY VARY] REGION

<i>committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Committee for National Minorities, established in 2005	http://www.kr-karlovarsky.cz/kraj_cz/samosprava/vybory/sznam_vyboru.htm?id=60	Závodní 353/88 360 21 Karlovy Vary-Dvory tel. 353 502 111 e-mail: posta@kr-karlovarsky.cz

In 2005, the committee met three times after its establishment. The contact person is the regional authority's coordinator for minorities, Mr Vaculík.

The committee wants to help members of national minorities to exercise their rights, but its activities are still at an early stage of development. Minority agendas in the region are mainly the responsibility of the coordinator for Roma affairs, national minorities and the integration of foreigners, Mr Vaculík.

Drugs are handled separately within the regional council, but the anti-drug commission and its coordinator.

The region has no grant scheme intended specifically for national minorities, but their members can draw on funding from various programmes.

VYSOČINA REGION

No committee or any other advisory body has been set up to cover this area. The Vysočina Region has a *Vysočina Fund*, where parts of the region's development resources are concentrated. These resources are assigned to individual entities via grant schemes; they are awarded as grants or loans in accordance with the principles laid down in the Statutes and in accordance with the approved priorities of the region, independently of the budget year. The *Vysočina Fund* is one of the instruments used for the gradual implementation of the Vysočina Regional Development Programme. Individual entities can submit applications in the advertised programmes irrespective of their nationality. There are no separate programmes intended solely for national minorities.

The position of coordinator of Roma advisers was combined in 2005 with other agendas – the drug policy, crime prevention and the integration of asylum seekers. This means that the Roma coordinator was responsible for four agendas. Since 2006, the drug policy agenda has been assigned to another member of staff.

KRÁLOVÉHRADECKO [HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ] REGION

In 2005, besides the agenda of the coordination of Roma affairs, the regional coordinator of Roma advisers was also responsible for drug policy, the integration of foreigners, national minorities and the coordination of coordinators of socially maladjusted persons. The situation would be better if these agendas were kept separate. The region's grant schemes for national minorities are not separate from other programmes. Applicants who comply with the conditions of the grant award procedure may submit applications in particular to the social affairs and health department (social services), the education, youth and physical education department (education) or the culture unit (cultural events). In its grant award procedure, the region does not discriminate against any minority; all organizations who meet the conditions may apply. The results of all grant award procedures are posted on the region's website.

LIBERECKO [LIBEREC] REGION

<i>committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Committee for Social Affairs, Safety and Minority Issues	http://www.kraj-lbc.cz/index.php?page=1811	U Jezu 642/2a 461 80 Liberec 2 tel. 485 226 558 fax 485 226 329 e-mail:jozef.holek@kraj-lbc.cz

A Committee for Social Affairs, Safety, and Minority Issues has been set up in the region to act as an advisory body at the Liberecko Regional Authority – without national minorities. There is also a Commission for Nationality Issues at Liberec City Hall, where all minorities are represented. No committees or commissions are registered in other municipalities, even though the percentage of minorities is fulfilled. For example, in the municipalities of Mimoň and Nové Město pod Smrkem the Roma population accounts for more than 10% of the population, but this is not reflected in the latest census conducted by the Czech Statistical Office in 2001.

This committee has been set up as an initiative and advisory body of the regional council to cover the areas of social policy and national minority issues. In particular, the committee carries out tasks entrusted to it by the council, to whom it is accountable for its actions. The committee is authorized to present its initiatives, proposals, or opinions from its field of activity to the Regional Council. It gathers, discusses, and presents the Council with information, documents and proposals for the creation and application of uniform goals of the region's social policy and coordinates the fulfilment of tasks stemming from the Regional Development Plan and other strategic documents. Grant policy: Liberecko Region grant fund 2005, programme: Support for the Social Programmes of Liberecko Region (subject of support: Projects promoting the activities of national and ethnic minorities).

MORAVSKOSLEZSKO [MORAVIA-SILESIA] REGION

<i>committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Committee for National Minorities, established in 2004	http://www.kr-moravskoslezsky.cz/vyb_nam2.html	28. října 117; 702 18 Ostrava tel. 595 622 222, the coordinator for national minorities is Helena Balabánová, tel. 595 622 349 e-mail: helena.balabanova@kr-moravskoslezsky.cz

Committee for National Minorities

This committee was set up in the new electoral term in accordance with Section 76 of Act No 129/2000 on regions (the Regional Order), as amended, by means of an assembly resolution, and its members were elected based on nominations from individual political clubs.

- The activities of the committee in the field of national minority policy

The committee held talks with the representatives of organizations drawing together the members of the Polish national minority living in the region on the scope of ratification of the European Charter for Minority or Regional Languages, and drafted the text of the opinion for the region in comment procedure related to the material for discussion by the Czech Government.

- The committee's activities in the field of government policy assisting the integration of members of the Roma community into society

The committee discussed and recommended that the competent regional bodies approve the general principle to draw up a strategic regional document called *Strategy for the integration of the Roma community of the Moravskoslezsko Region 2006-2009*.

It also discussed the general principle of the regional project *Terne Čhave – a project for the training of specialist staff from centres for the development of the functional literacy of Roma*

young people and recommended that the competent regional bodies present an application for financial assistance for this project from the Human Resources Development Operational Programme, in the scope of the second call, Priority 2 – Social integration and equality of opportunity, Measure 2.1 Integration of specific groups of the population at risk of social exclusion.

Coordinator for national minorities and Roma affairs

The Moravskoslezsko Regional Authority's powers in this area are exercised primarily through the activities contained in the job description of the coordinator for national minorities and Roma affairs. Given the high number of inhabitants in the region claiming membership of historical national minorities, the job description of the coordinator was expanded to include the agenda of the coordinator for national minorities and as of 1 January 2003 the job was classified within the culture and monument care department.

- Coordination of the activities of the Roma advisers of municipal authorities of municipalities with extended competence in the Moravskoslezsko Region

During 2005, four working meetings were held between the coordinator and employees of municipal authorities of municipalities with extended competence responsible for the agenda under Section 6(8) of Act No 273/2001 on the rights of members of national minorities and amending certain laws, as amended, which were used to pass on information regarding the possibilities of implementing the Government document *Concept of Roma Integration* at the level of municipalities with extended competence, especially in areas of the region with high densities of inhabitants belonging to the Roma ethnic group. The work of these officials in the field of the devolved competence of state administration is encumbered mainly by the fact that they have to combine several positions at once, even at the municipal authorities of municipalities with a relatively high concentration of Roma inhabitants (e.g. Karviná, Vítkov, Odry). During 2005, the activities of a Roma adviser were carried out at 19 municipalities with extended competence. In Český Těšín, Jablunkov, and Frýdlant nad Ostravice, no Roma adviser was appointed because there is a low proportion of Roma inhabitants in these localities. The municipal authorities of these municipalities only send formal representatives to working meetings with the coordinator.

- Cooperation with municipal authorities and the elected representatives of local government

Besides these official informative and methodological meetings, in 2005 personal contact was established on a number of occasions between the coordinator and Roma advisers, other employees of municipal authorities, the representatives of local government, and the representatives of NGOs for the purposes of providing methodological assistance in tackling specific problems in localities. The themes handled most frequently were: information and methodological assistance in the submission of government grant applications in the grant programme of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs called *Support of Field Social Work* (Budišov nad Budišovkou), methodological assistance in handling conflicts concerning co-existence between the Roma minority and the majority society (Bohumín), help in searching for opportunities to manage the issues of adequate housing for the inhabitants of localities directly at risk of social exclusion (Ostrava, Bohumín), methodological assistance in handling the issue of setting up community centres, with contributions from NGOs, for the free-time activities of children and young people from problematic localities (Rýmařov, Bohumín, Orlová).

- Methodological assistance for the employees of municipal authorities carrying out the activities of field social workers

During 2005, in the scope of the government grant scheme *Support of Field Social Work* 17 field social workers were employed at eight municipal authorities in the region to work with clients directly at risk of social exclusion, living in spatially segregated localities:

<i>municipality</i>	<i>number of field social workers in 2005</i>
Bruntál	1
Budišov nad Budišovkou	1
Frydek-Místek	3
Karviná	4
Krnov	2
Nový Jičín	1
Ostrava	3
Orlová	2
Total	17

For the performance of field social work in the localities, two separate working meetings were held in 2005 which were attended by elected representatives of municipalities, Roma advisers and field social workers from municipal authorities, and the representatives of non-profit organizations at two places in the region (Orlová and Krnov). The field social workers had the chance to compare the demands of the field work of their colleagues directly in the localities they visited. The working meetings discussed individual activities of field social work, the methodology applied of preparing the final report, and the preparations for the accounting of government grants under the Programme for the Support of Field Social Work in 2005.

○ Preparation of the project *Terne Čhave* (Young People)

In 2005, the coordinator's activities were expanded to include the production of a project presented in the award procedure under the Human Resources Development Operational Programme, Measure 3.2. The region presented the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with an application for financial assistance for the project *Terne Čhave* (Young People) – a project for the training of specialist staff from centres for the development of the functional literacy of Roma young people in the second round of the call for projects under the Human Resources Development Operational Programme, Priority 2 – Social integration and equality of opportunity, Measure 2.1 Integration of specific groups of the population at risk of social exclusion. The aim of the project is to build up a basic functioning network of providers of specific social services, provided mainly to young people from the Roma ethnic group directly at risk of social exclusion, and to train seven implementation teams from non-profit organizations (or other organizations) which operate in selected localities of the region and provide social services in the methods of social work geared towards the development of the functional literacy of these young people. The project will be implemented in four districts in the region – Ostrava, Karviná, Bruntál, Nový Jičín – in localities with the highest concentration of inhabitants belonging to the Roma ethnic group. Expected project outcomes: an improvement in the current social situation of the inhabitants of specific localities in the region directly at risk of social exclusion, an increase in the number of young people employed in these localities, an improvement in the conditions of young people to free themselves of marginalization and for a change in lifestyle.

○ Other activities of the coordinator

In cooperation with the UK Embassy and the Office of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs, the region organized an international conference called 'For Czech schools to be for everyone', which was held on 15-16 September 2005. The coordinator for national minorities and Roma affairs made a major contribution to the preparation and organization of the conference. The conference focused on a presentation of examples of good practice from the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic concerning the inclusion of children from traditional Roma families in the mainstream of primary education. The conference delegates were representatives of central state administration authorities, regional government authorities, municipal government bodies, head teachers, the representatives of NGOs, a number of prominent foreign guests and the professional public.

Besides normal telephone and personal consultations with head teachers in the region, in 2005 the coordinator delivered expert opinions on nine requests from nursery schools and primary schools; five requests were for the establishment of the position of assistant teacher for socially disadvantaged children, pupils and students, and four were for the establishment of a preparatory class for socially deprived children.

One of the coordinator's key activities in cooperation with NGOs in 2005 was methodological assistance during the implementation of the project *Sastipen ČR – Health and social assistances in socially excluded localities* in the Moravskoslezsko Region. The implementer of this project is the Roma centre *DROM* Brno. This is a nationwide pilot project aimed at lessening the ramifications of the social exclusion of inhabitants in the region living in problem areas as regards their health care. In this project, five health and social assistants were employed; they will work primarily in spatially segregated localities in the Bruntálsko, Ostravsko, Orlovsko and Karvinsko areas.

The participation of the regional coordinator in this project, in the form of methodological assistance and as the intermediary in the exchange of important information between the representatives of institutions involved in the project in the Moravskoslezsko Region was laid down under Government Resolution No 219 of 23 February 2005.

o Grant policy of the committee

The Committee discussed the conditions of the grant programme for the support of the activities of members of national minorities living in the Moravskoslezsko Region for 2005 and 2006 and recommended them to the regional council for publication. The committee also discussed and recommended that the region's competent bodies approve a proposal for the provision of grants from the regional budget for 2005 to applicants in the Programme for the support of the activities of members of national minorities living in the Moravskoslezsko Region for 2005.

The committee discussed an application from the *Greek Community* in Krnov-město (Sídliště pod Cvilínem J 49) for financial assistance from the budget of the Moravskoslezsko Region for the construction of a monument to Greek citizens living in Krnov, Czech Republic, and recommended that the regional council uphold this application.

The regional council announced a grant *programme for the support of the activities of members of national minorities living in the Moravskoslezsko Region for 2005*. It focuses on support for the activities of organizations of members of national minorities in the region, especially in the fields of culture, multicultural and integration educational activities, including projects in these areas geared towards the integration of Roma communities; it is not intended for the support of activities in crime prevention, drug policy and the integration of foreigners. Thirty-six projects were entered in the grant procedure in three different categories (art with a national-minority theme, culture and education, and documentation on national minority culture) seeking total aid of CZK 3,032,700. Under Resolution of the Regional Assembly No 4/134/1 of 28 April 2005, it was decided to grant aid to ten of the submitted projects. Specific examples of the projects receiving grants are mentioned below.

OLOMOUCKO [OLOMOUC] REGION

A committee for national minorities was not set up in the Olomoucko Region, given the result of the 2001 census and the de facto absence of stronger entities participating in the activities of national minorities.

The agenda connected with national minority issues is the responsibility of Renáta Köttnerová, who primarily holds the position of coordinator for Roma affairs and is also involved in the

integration of foreigners and asylum seekers. Contact: Regional Authority, Social Affairs Department, tel./fax 585 508 218, 585 508 572, e-mail r.kottnerova@kr-olomoucky.cz.

The Olomoucko Region's grant schemes for national minorities are not separate from other programmes. Civic associations, humanitarian organizations, and natural persons may apply for contributions of up to CZK 20,000 for the following areas: education and science, youth, culture, sport and physical education, crime prevention, social pathology and primary prevention of drug addiction, health care, social services and humanitarian aid, tourism and the environment. The regional council makes decisions on the granting of contributions.

In 2005, the above-mentioned entities and municipalities were able to apply for grants as part of significant projects of the Olomoucko Region; the Olomoucko Region makes decisions on the award of grants, whereby the same areas as those above apply. In 2005, no organization carrying out activities related to national minorities applied for a grant within the scope of significant projects.

PARDUBICKO [PARDUBICE] REGION

<i>committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Regional Council Commission for the Integration of the Roma Community and Other Ethnic Groups	http://www.pardubickykraj.cz/org.asp?thema=2744&category=	Komenského náměstí 125 532 11 Pardubice tel. 466 026 111 fax 466 611 220 e-mail: posta@pardubickykraj.cz

Under a Resolution of the Pardubicko Region Council, the Pardubicko Region Council Commission for the Integration of the Roma Minority and Other Ethnic Groups was set up.

The regional coordinator for Roma affairs is part of the social affairs department and is responsible for the following agenda:

- a) integration of Roma communities
- b) integration of foreigners and asylum seekers

Given the size of the region and the issues covered, this accumulation of tasks is bearable.

Projects under the *Programme for the integration of the Roma community and the integration of foreigners* are supported from the budget of the Pardubicko Region within the scope of grant award procedures.

PLZEŇSKO [PLZEŇ] REGION

According to the last census, 2.7% of the inhabitants of the Plzeňsko Region claim nationality other than Czech, and a committee for national minorities has not been set up by the Regional Assembly. Minority issues are handled, where necessary, by the Plzeňsko Regional Council's Social Affairs Commission.

The Plzeňsko Regional Authority has established the position of coordinator of Roma advisers within the social affairs and health department; this coordinator contributes to the coordination of the Roma advisers of municipalities in and defines the worker responsible for the integration of foreigners and national minorities.

The coordinator of Roma advisers, where necessary, methodologically guided Roma advisers at the municipal authorities of municipalities with extended competence and helped resolve specific cases. The coordinator is also responsible for the agenda connected with the supervision of the provision of social services in accordance with Act No 114/1988 on the competence of the bodies of the Czech Republic in social security, as amended, the position of coordinator for the integration of minorities and foreigners is connected with the crime prevention agenda. At most municipal authorities of municipalities with extended

competence, the position of Roma adviser exists; this adviser is responsible for monitoring and analysing the situation of the Roma minority in the given locality. In most cases, this position must be combined with others and therefore the adviser has other agendas to cope with as well.

In 2005, as in previous years, the Plzeňsko Region announced a separate grant system called *Programme of support for field social work in socially excluded Roma communities*.

CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE

<i>committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
City of Prague Council Commission for National Minorities	http://www.praha-mesto.cz/zastupitelx/komise.aspx?kid=10034	Mariánské nám. 2, 118 00 Praha 1 tel. 236 001 111, chairwoman e-mail: hana.halova@cityofprague.cz tajemnice e-mail: jana.cerna@cityofprague.cz

No Committee for National Minorities has been set up in the City of Prague (according to the Act on the City of Prague, the number of national minorities based on statistics does not reach the required 5% of the population). Since 2000, however, the City of Prague Council Commission for National Minorities in the City of Prague has been operating; the composition of the Commission is stable and changes during the electoral term based on the requirements of national minorities for changes or based on life events which occur during the electoral term.

The current composition of the Commission is stated under the list of Commission members provided in the table below.

Contact officers:

The contact person for negotiations is the President of the Commission, the councillor Hana Halová. The mediation of information for the President of the Commission can also take place via the following persons:

Vladimír Osoba, manager of the secretariat of the councillor Hana Halová

Jan Černá, secretary of the Commission and specialist for national minorities

Jaroslav Balvín, Commission member and specialist for national minorities.

The agenda of the Commission in 2005 was much the same as in previous years:

- Maintenance of communication with nationalities
- Maintenance of communication with the civic associations of national minorities
- Negotiations on individual actions of national minorities of a more significant nature in the activities of minorities and in the activities of the City of Prague
- Discussion of the conditions and implementation of *city-wide programmes for the support of the activities of national minorities in the City of Prague*

This agenda is the responsibility of the specialists in national minorities:

Jaroslav Balvín and Jana Černá.

The accumulation of agendas became apparent in that, besides this field of activity, these members of staff were also made responsible for issues related to the integration of foreigners, even though, aware of the increasing complexity and differences of the agendas, the director of the secretariat asked Councillor Hana Halová to set up the position of officer for the integration of foreigners. Given the restriction in positions at Prague City Hall, this request was not upheld, and therefore the above-mentioned members of staff must scope with both agendas.

Therefore, they are in charge of the agenda for the integration of foreigners in the following main points:

- Maintenance of communication with foreigners who want to communicate and cooperate with the City of Prague
- Maintenance of communication with civic associations integrating foreigners
- Negotiations on individual projects integrating foreigners of a more significant nature in the activities of minorities and in the activities of the City of Prague
- Discussion of the conditions and implementation of *city-wide programmes for the support of the activities of national minorities in the City of Prague* geared towards the support of the integration of foreigners (as of 2006, when the supplementary programme on the financial support of activities integrating foreigners was approved)
- Maintain the agenda of the City of Prague Council Commission for the Integration of Foreigners, which works under the presidency of Councillor Hana Halová

The accumulation of the agenda for Roma communities in the City of Prague was manifested primarily in the fact that Jana Černá, besides working as the secretary for the national minorities' commission and the commission for the integration of foreigners, also maintains the agenda for the advisory body of Roma advisers. Otherwise, from the work aspect, this agenda is the responsibility of a separately identified Roma coordinator.

The grant policy in 2005 was implemented via the city-wide programmes for the support of the activities of national minorities. The programmes were structured into programmes supporting:

- cultural activities
- publishing
- awareness and educational activities

ÚSTECKO [ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM] REGION

<i>committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Committee for National Minorities, established in 2005	http://www.kr-ustecky.cz/	Velká Hradební 3118/48 400 02 Ústí nad Labem Committee chairperson: tel. 475 657 806 e-mail: budjac.r@kr-ustecky.cz

The committee tackles purely national minority issues. Committee administration is the responsibility of a member of staff from the social affairs and health department, based on an extended job description.

There are no separate grant schemes in support of national minorities. Organizations of members of national minorities have the opportunity to enter all other grant programmes announced by the region.

ZLÍNSKO [ZLÍN] REGION

<i>committee</i>	<i>website</i>	<i>contact</i>
Commission for National Minorities, Ethnic Groups and the Integration of Roma Communities	http://www.kr-zlinsky.cz/index.php?ro=13377	třída Tomáše Bati, 21 761 90 Zlín tel. 577 043 111, fax 577 043 202

The Zlínsko Regional Council set up the Commission for National Minorities, Ethnic Groups and the Integration of Roma Communities as an advisory body. The commission has 16 members, seven of whom are Roma. The commission is chaired by Zdeněk Szpak, a member of the regional council for social affairs and national-minority issues.

In addition, last year regional coordinator was responsible for the agenda of national minorities, the integration of foreigners and Roma issues. Most time was devoted to Roma affairs. Therefore there was no accumulation of the agenda with the drug policy.

2. What is the cooperation like between the Committee for National Minorities (council / other body) and organizations of members of national minorities?

JIHOČESKO REGION

There are no organizations of members of national minorities at the level of special-interest organizations in the Jihočesko Region; to date, no branch of socio-cultural national minority organizations operating nationally has been opened either.

JIHOMORAVSKO REGION

Cooperation between the Council for National Minorities and organizations of members of national minorities is very good and is expressed primarily in mutual cooperation and the organization of joint projects, support of their activities and the participation of Council members in events organized by individual associations on the occasion of their public and religious holidays. A list of associations of national minorities and organizations operating in this field in the region is provided in Annex No 10.

KARLOVARSKO REGION

Committee members include representatives of national minorities, who are naturally in contact with their communities. Of the organizations of members of national minorities, only Slovak, German and Roma organizations are culturally active. Of the others, only more active individuals can be found. The contact person for nationalities is mainly Mr Vaculík

KRÁLOVÉHRADECKO REGION

The regional authority does not differentiate in its cooperation with non-profit organizations. The region cooperates with anyone who expresses an interest.

LIBERECKO REGION

Cooperation only exists on the territory of the Liberec area. The commission cooperates with anyone who expresses an interest. Generally speaking, there is interest in the public life of Roma organizations, and this is manifested in everyday life. The most active are the *Liberec Roma Association*, the civic association *Cultural Traditions*.

MORAVSKOSLEZSKO REGION

Committee members are acquainted with the current situation of Roma communities living in the Moravskoslezsko Region and the possibilities of handling them; they personally visited several spatially segregated localities in the region, and held discussions with their inhabitants and the representatives of non-profit organizations working in these areas. The committee entered into lively cooperation with organizations drawing together members of national minorities in the region; it is kept posted of events held throughout the year, which committee members have the chance to attend.

Cooperating organizations drawing together members of national minorities living in the Moravskoslezsko Region are specified in Annex No 10.

- o Information on certain projects implemented by organizations drawing together members of national minorities that received grants from the Moravskoslezsko Region in 2005

PZKO Festival - Třinec 2005	
Organizer	Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic Střelníční 28, 737 01 Český Těšín
Event dates	28 May 2005, Třinec

This cultural event held by the largest organization of members of the Polish national minority living in the Czech Republic took place in the sports stadium in Třinec. In the rich programme, all dance groups and choirs in the *Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic*, along with foreign guests from Poland and Slovakia, gave performances. The event was attended by approximately 4,000 visitors from the whole region. Significant festival guests were Jiří Carbol, the deputy governor of the Moravskoslezsko Region, and Kazimierz Kuc, the deputy chairman of the Polish Senate.

Sixth Czech-German Days	
Organizer	Silesian German Association Horovo náměstí 2, 746 01 Opava
Event dates	23-25 June 2005, Opava

Three June days in Opava became an opportunity for a get-together between members of the German minority living in the region, the majority population and guests. The programme, the sixth annual *Czech-German Days* in Opava, included a panel discussion on the theme of *What did the end of the Second World War do for Opava?*, which was held in the assembly hall of the University of Silesia and was attended by the university chancellor Zdeněk Jirásek and the deputy mayor of Opava Jan Mrázek, as well as cultural performances by choirs from Bolatice, Havířov and Opava. The *Sixth Czech-German Days* ended with a Catholic mass in Germany in the Church of the Holy Ghost, Opava. The series of cultural events included an exhibition of the work of Josef Kruschke.

Krnov Greek Days 2005	
Organizer	Krnov-město Greek Community Sídliště pod Cvilínem J/49, 794 01 Krnov
Event dates	17-18 June 2005, Krnov

This folk afternoon on the square in Krnov was attended by several Greek folk song and dance groups in the Czech Republic (e.g. the ensemble of the *Lyceum for Greek Girls in the Czech Republic*, *Antigoni* from Krnov, *Nea Elbida* from Bohumín), guests from Greece (a folk dance group from Preveza) and from Slovakia (the folk dance ensemble *Šmykňa*). The event included the now traditional conference on the teaching of Modern Greek, Greek dancing and an exhibition of Greek books.

Sixth Karviná Roma Festival	
Organizer	Association of Roma in North Moravia Palackého 607, 735 06 Karviná-Nové Město
Event dates	25 June 2005, Karviná

This traditional Roma festival of dance and music in Karviná was attended by almost 7,000 visitors. The event presented performances by eleven music groups and soloists from the Czech Republic (Věra Bílá and *Kale*, Rokycany), Slovakia (the popular music group *City Boys* from Trnava) and Poland (*Rewia Ciganska*). The festival's special guest was the finalist from last year's *Czech SuperStar* Martina Baloghová. The festival was opened by Antonín Petráš, the mayor of Karviná, and the governor of the Moravskoslezsko Region, Evžen Tošenovský, also made his traditional appearance to wish the event the best of success.

OLOMOUCKO REGION

The coordinator works closely with representatives of the Bulgarian minority, in cooperation with the *Bulgarian Club* activities are held to present the culture of national minorities (*We Can Communicate, Days of Bulgarian Culture*). In 2005, there was a change in the leadership of the *Šumperk Greek Community*, contact was established with the chairman Theodor Amanatidis and cooperation was agreed for the forthcoming period. The closest contact is maintained with members of the Roma minority.

All civic associations are provided with a regular information service on the possibility of obtaining contributions for their activities from the regional budget and on other advertised grant schemes run by the ministries and other donors.

PARDUBICKO REGION

Persons from the Roma minority are also represented in the Pardubicko Region Council Commission for the Integration of the Roma Minority and Other Ethnic Groups. Some of them are simultaneously statutory representatives of Roma civic associations (for an overview, see Annex No 10).

PLZEŇSKO REGION

Only representatives of the Roma minority contacted the Plzeňsko Region in 2005, mainly to follow up the possibility of obtaining financial contributions from the grant award procedure.

CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE

The commission cooperates with most national-minority civic associations based in the City of Prague. The overview of these associations is almost the same as the names of associations which submit projects in competitions for grants under the city-wide programmes for the support of the activities of national minorities.

These contacts are also provided in the Concept of the City of Prague policy in relation to national minorities, published by Prague in 2002. Regular, close cooperation with these organizations takes place via the chairpersons and members of these organizations. In order not to be limited to contact with the chairpersons, once a year Prague organizes a plenary session of members of national minority civic associations, which helps raise mutual awareness and cement knowledge of issues which interest both parties.

ÚSTECKO REGION

Cooperation with the organizations of members of national minorities is good as the representatives of some organizations are committee members and provide information about their activities and joint events, to which they invite members of other minorities and regional representatives.

ZLÍNSKO REGION

There are no autonomous organizations of national minorities in the region. There are civic associations set up by Roma members with whom the Zlínsko Region cooperates mainly via advertised sub-programmes in the field of the integration of Roma communities – in the form of grant schemes.

3. In your opinion, what effect will the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages have on public life in your administrative district?

Jihočeský region

None of the minority languages can be defined within the meaning of Article 1 of the Charter, i.e. as a language within the meaning of a narrower demarcated territory where it is the means of expression for such a number of persons warranting the adoption of various protective and support measures.⁴⁸⁾ Considering the current national-minority situation in our region, we believe that, with regard to these circumstances, the impact of the ratified charter on public life will be minimal here.

Jihomoravský region

The Charter will promote the use of the Slovak language in the region in contact with the region's public administration authorities, with simultaneous backing from legislation already effective and in force (especially Act No 500/2004).

Karlovarský region

A clear specification and approach to European rules will definitely benefit the integration of national minorities, and therefore definitions are necessary in the fields of education, judicial authorities and the right to an interpreter, relations with public authorities, the mass media, culture, etc.; in our region it mainly concerns German, Vietnamese, and to some extent Slovak.⁴⁹⁾

Vysočina region

The Charter will not have a significant impact on life in the region.

Královéhradecký region

The ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages is supported, but there are concerns that problems will arise in its application, e.g. due to the lack of Roma interpreters, that the authorities are not prepared for.

Liberecký region

A problem will probably arise when members of the Roma community make written or oral references to Resolutions, previously Decisions, under the Rules of Administrative Procedure. Public administration is not prepared for translation and interpreting into Romani.

Moravskoslezský region

The Moravskoslezský Regional Assembly's committee for national minorities views the European initiative in the form of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages as an opportunity to promote the national identity of members of national minorities living in the region. At a meeting of committee members and representatives of organizations drawing

⁴⁸⁾ This is an inaccurate interpretation. The full text, with substantiation, can be found at http://wtd.vlada.cz/pages/rvk_rmm.htm

⁴⁹⁾ This is an inaccurate interpretation; obligations under the Charter do not apply to the languages of migrants (i.e. in this case Vietnamese).

together the members of the Polish nationality on 20 September 2005, concerning the ratification of the Charter, a mutual consensus was reached in the matter of practical implementation after ratification.

Further to a committee meeting on the ratification of the Charter, the cultural and monument care department of the regional authority ran an assessment (for the more precise understanding of committee members in this issue) of the opinions of the secretaries of certain municipal authorities with extended competence in the Moravskoslezsko Region, in which they expressed their views on the estimated operating cost of implementing the Charter in ordinary working conditions of public administration. Secretaries of the following municipal authorities with extended competence in the Moravskoslezsko Region were approached for their opinion on the estimated cost: Bruntál, Český Těšín, Frýdek-Místek, Havířov, Jablunkov, Karviná, Třinec and Rýmařov. These are municipalities in whose administrative competence a large proportion of members of national minorities live. The highest estimate of costs and the highest number of users of services in minority languages is anticipated in the Jablunkov area, where many inhabitants of Polish nationality live. In contrast, no increased costs are expected in the Rýmařovsko and Bruntálsko areas, where inhabitants claiming Slovak nationality live. In general, it became evident from the comments of the secretaries of the municipal authorities of municipalities with extended competence regarding this matter that certain services are already provided at municipal authorities; at some authorities they are routine. The secretaries did not express concern of a disproportionate workload on the authority in this sphere caused by an excessive rise in users demanding the provision of services in a minority language after the ratification of the Charter.

Overall, the costs of municipal authorities in the region connected with the implementation of Article 10 of the Charter, in the scope of the proposal for ratification, are estimated at CZK 2,500,000 to CZK 3,000,000 per year.

OLOMOUCKO REGION

As regards the impact of the prepared ratification of the European Charter for Minority or Regional Languages, according to the representatives of national minorities this act will not affect public life in the Olomoucko Region.

PARDUBICKO REGION

The ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages will not have a significant impact on public life in our administrative district. Specifically, the Roma minority does not require, for example, interpreting in its native language or teaching in Romani at primary schools. The clear reason for this is the fact that not all Roma living in the Pardubicko Region master Romani.

With a view to preserving the Roma culture, we support the publication of Roma periodicals, the development of Roma culture, the holding of festivals and broadcasts on the radio and television.

PLZEŇSKO REGION

As the European Charter for Minority or Regional Languages only applies to Slovak in the Plzeňsko Region, we do not expect it to have a major impact on public life in the region. According to the latest census, 7,773 Slovaks live in the Plzeňsko Region. As of May 2005, Slovaks, as nationals of an EU Member State, are not required to register with the foreign police, so there is no overview or qualified estimate of how many of them live in the region. At any rate, before and after the Czech Republic's accession to the EU, Slovaks living in the Plzeňsko Region did not present themselves or act as a minority within the meaning of Act

No 273/2001 on the rights of members of national minorities and amending certain laws, as amended; their migration to the Plzeňsko continues to be primarily economic migration.

CAPITAL CITY OF PRAGUE

The City of Prague welcomes the ratification of this Charter, including the aspect of support for minority and regional languages, because in its sub-programmes in support of the activities of national minorities Prague has a programme which, in our opinion, has targeted the support of minority languages since 1999. This programme is a programme financially supporting the publications of national minorities. While nationalities use the opportunity to publish in their own languages, it has become a widespread practice for publications to contain mirror text, i.e. with the text in their own language and in Czech. Last year, this possibility was also taken up and six publications were released. This means that since 1999 there have been approximately 70 publications, including not only books, but also various radio and video materials in the languages of minorities.

A project which also highlights the impact of the Charter on public life in Prague and sums up publishing activity in 2005, is a public presentation of the publications of national minorities, planned for June 2006 in the Great Hall of the City of Prague Assembly.

ÚSTECKO REGION

The Charter will be the main theme of the next meeting of the Committee for National Minorities. Given the short existence of the committee, it has not been possible to discuss this matter earlier. After discussion by the committee, it will be possible to estimate the Charter's effect on public life in the region.

ZLÍNSKO REGION

The impact of the Charter will be felt in situations where Roma citizens submit applications in Romani. The authorities are currently unprepared for instant translations from Romani to Czech.

5.3.1. Summary

- *Handling the minority agenda*

Regional assemblies generally maintain a dynamic and innovative approach to national minority issues. Based on the census, three of them (Karlovarsko, Moravskoslezsko and Ústecko) are required to set up a committee for national minorities. The dynamic approach compared to the standards of municipalities and chartered cities means they have better financial opportunities, less interlocking between regional assembly members and local communities, and the physical and political need to handle the agenda connected with national minority issues – at least those of the Roma – in most regions. Unlike the situation in 2004, when there were four committees at regional level, last year nine regions had set up a council, committee or commission, two regions (Plzeňsko, Jihočesko) had entrusted the problem of national minorities to a special member of staff, and in the Olomoucko Region the agenda is in the remit of the Roma coordinator. In the Vysočina Region, there is no separate body for national minorities, and the Středočesko Region, which has set up the position of Roma coordinator, failed to respond to questions, nor is it clear from the region's website whether the agenda of the national minorities is entrusted to this person. The situation in the Jihomoravsko Region points to the diversity in the approach to the problem, as a Council for

National Minorities has been set up here, while in addition it has a Roma coordinator and education is the responsibility of an officer for the education of national minorities.

Besides national minority issues in general, regions often have to cope with themes such as the integration of foreigners (or asylum seekers) and, in particular, Roma communities. The social agenda (the housing situation, unemployment, drug policy, etc.) is also linked to the task of Roma integration. In some cases these agendas are bundled into the responsibilities of a single person, which mainly happens with Roma coordinators, who exist in all regions and who have some affinity with the other areas. This situation is sometimes unsustainable (an example would be the Královéhradecko Region).

- ***Bodies geared towards national minorities and their basic activities***

Committee for National Minorities

<i>region</i>	<i>description</i>
Karlovarsko	seven members; the chairman is a member of the assembly, representatives of the Vietnamese, Slovaks, Germans, and Roma. Most of the agenda is covered by the Roma coordinator.
Liberecko	13 members; an advisory, initiative and coordinating body for the Regional Council; no national minorities represented
Moravskoslezsko	11 members, cooperation with the Polish minority, especially in the field of the Charter, integration of the Roma, other minorities only covered marginally (the proportion of grants awarded corresponds to this)
Ústecko	11 members; administration is the responsibility of the social affairs and health department

Council for National Minorities

<i>region</i>	<i>description</i>
Jihomoravsko	seven members, an advisory and initiative body, members appointed by agreement of the political clubs within the assembly. Project evaluations and proposals for the earmarking of funds for national minorities, monitoring of activities and identification of requirements, information for the assembly on their situation, evaluation of the Charter, support for cultural activities and publishing aimed at national minorities. The agenda also encroaches on other areas, although they have their own bodies (e.g. the Roma coordinator and officer for the education of national minorities), and the activities of the Roma coordinator also overlap with this issue in general.

Commission for National Minorities

<i>region</i>	<i>description</i>
Capital City of Prague	29 members. The chairman is a councillor, the commission is made up of experts and the representatives of minorities (including the Vietnamese community; a special guest is a representative of the Jewish community). The commission communicates with national minorities, discusses activities concerning them and activities in their support. Its activities are encumbered by the fact that it is taking over the integration of foreigners.
Královéhradecko	the number of members is not specified; it mainly tackles Roma issues
Pardubicko	the number of members is not specified; commission for the integration of the Roma minority and other ethnic groups; the Roma coordinator combines the Roma agenda with the integration of foreigners and asylum seekers
Zlínsko	16 members; the agenda for national minorities, ethnic groups and the integration of Roma communities. The regional Roma coordinator contributed to all these fields.

Roma coordinator responsible for national minorities in general

<i>region</i>	<i>description</i>
Jihomoravsko Královéhradecko Olomoucko	besides Roma issues, the coordinator communicates with the representatives of local government specializing in the issues of national minorities within the region, and contributes to programmes such as the preparation of members of national minorities for recruitment as officers of the Czech Police Force (Jihomoravsko)
Karlovarsko Moravskoslezsko	position expressly connected with the affairs of national minorities

Officer for national minorities

<i>region</i>	<i>description</i>
Jihočesko	also covers the integration of foreigners and asylum seekers
Jihomoravsko	Officer for National Minority Education
Plzeňsko	Coordinator for the integration of minorities and foreigners, also administrates the crime prevention agenda. A separate Roma coordinator is responsible for Roma issues

- ***Communication with the representatives of minorities***

Where necessary, the representatives of other minority communities (the Vietnamese, representatives of the Jewish community, etc.) are involved in the work and meetings of committees. The City of Prague communicates not only with the organizations of minorities, but also once a year holds a plenary session for members of the civic associations of members of national minorities.⁵⁰⁾

In certain cases (the Jihomoravsko Region), representatives of civic associations based on an initiative of majority society (usually with a multicultural focus) are invited to meetings at the same level with representatives of national minorities.

- ***Grant policy***

From the aspect of the regions, most attention focuses on the Roma community, which is reflected by the amount of grants: approximately 58%, whereas other minorities receive similar volumes of between one and three per cent of the total sum of all grants.

The regions differ in their grant policy depending on whether or not they earmark funds exclusively for the needs of national minorities. Special programmes for national minorities (besides those solely geared towards Roma) exist in the Jihomoravsko Region, Liberecko, Moravskoslezsko and the City of Prague. In these regions, national-minority issues occupy a relatively significant place.

Other regions do not explicitly take into account the field of national minorities, this is more often a matter for municipalities and chartered cities. In the Olomoucko Region this programme was offered, but no interest in this specifically defined type of grant was registered among minorities.

- ***Approach to the Charter***

Regions are most interested in Slovak and Romani. As regards the use of Romani in official communications, regions are concerned that there will be problems with the cost and dearth of interpreters (Královéhradecko, Zlínsko). Other regions view the situation more realistically, in

⁵⁰⁾ This approach can be used as a proven model for other regions.

that use of Romani among the Roma is diminishing and there will not be much need to use it in official communications (the Roma themselves will not know the necessary terminology etc.; Pardubicko Region). Similarly, in the case of the Slovaks the regions do not expect the application of Slovak in official contact as there is little need to apply this language (Plzeňsko) or demand an interpreter.

The regions do not expect the use of Polish to entail any significant changes either (Moravskoslezsko). This is because Polish and, in particular, the dialect used in the Těšínsko area – as the common form of communication among members of the Polish minority – are often also mastered by the non-Polish inhabitants of Těšínsko. Where there is mutual will, official communications in the relevant municipalities take place in Polish or the local dialect without any problems. The largest rise in costs is expected in the Jablunkov area, which has the highest concentration of the Polish population. Overall, the costs of municipal authorities connected with the implementation of Article 10 of the Charter, in the scope of the proposal for ratification, are estimated at CZK 2,500,000 to CZK 3,000,000 per year.

Some regions had not expressed an opinion because of their late approach to this issue.

It is worth mentioning the comments of the representative of the Plzeňsko Region, who referred to the minorities law (Slovaks do not behave and act as a minority and therefore they have no entitlement to seek the use of their language in official communications). However, the Charter explicitly avoids national minorities and focuses on languages. Therefore the effects need not copy the situation of national minorities.

Types of advisory bodies and grant schemes for national minorities in the regions

<i>region</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Commission</i>	<i>Roma coordinator also with responsibility in this field</i>	<i>other position (member of staff)</i>	<i>grant programme</i>
Jihočesko					X	
Jihomoravsko		X		X	X	X
Karlovarsko	X			X		
Vysočina						
Královéhradecko			X	X		
Liberecko	X					X
Moravskoslezsko	X			X		X
Olomoucko				X		
Pardubicko			X			
Plzeňsko					X	
City of Prague			X			X
Středočesko						
Ústecko	X					
Zlínsko			X			

6. How the national minorities see their situation

As in previous years, representatives of national minorities in the Council were asked to prepare documentation on prepared questions which are the same as the titles of the headings in this section. The content of the documentation was not changed; only style was edited. The authors of the texts are named in a footnote. Where subjective interpretations or clear discrepancies appear in the text, the Secretariat has added a note of explanation.

6.1. Projects of national minority organizations supported in 2005

The following overview illustrates the financial assistance awarded to the organizations of members of national minorities by self-governing bodies at the level of municipalities and regions on the one hand and grants from central state administration authorities on the other. It reveals inter alia what sort of overview the representatives of national minorities have of grants.

BULGARIAN MINORITY ⁵¹⁾

Projects supported by municipalities / chartered cities / regions

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Organization, Prague	Balgarska sedyanka - publication	Prague City Hall	70 000
	Prague – Heart of Nations, festival		30 000
Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Organization of Cyril and Methodius, Prague	Zapisky - publication		30 000
	Cultural and educational activities		40 000
Vazraždane, Prague, civic association	Club and operating activities		30 000
	Days of Bulgarian Culture		60 000
Pirin Brno, civic association	Lessons of Bulgarian song and dance	Jihomoravsko Region	35 000
	Preservation of Bulgarian culture		20 000
	Operating costs of cultural activities	Brno City Hall	20 000
	Development of Bulgarian culture and folk traditions		30 000
Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Association, Brno, civic association	Bulgarian culture, language and folk traditions		85 000
Total			450 000

Projects supported by central state administration authorities

<i>organization</i>	<i>project, purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Bulgarian Cultural and Education Organization, Prague	Publication of the periodical <i>Roden glas</i>	Ministry of Culture	200 000
	Getting By (Bulgarian lessons)		20 200
	Exhibition marking 125 years of the Bulgarian organization		20 000
Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Organization of Cyril and Methodius, Prague	Days of Bulgarian Culture	Ministry of Culture	70 000
Pirin Brno, civic association	Preservation of Bulgarian culture	Ministry of Culture	70 000
	Lessons of Bulgarian song and dance	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	88 000

⁵¹⁾ This documentation was sent by the Council member Atanas Ivan Belkov.

Vazražďane, Prague, civic association	Publication of the periodical <i>Balgari</i>	Ministry of Culture	300 000
	Days of Bulgarian Culture		80 000
	Club and operating activities		60 000
	Reading, speaking, writing Bulgarian	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	75 000
Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Association, Brno, civic association	Bulgarian folk traditions as part of European integration	Ministry of Culture	45 000
Total			1 028 200

CROATIAN MINORITY

No documentation was supplied. However, representatives of this minority did not submit any projects in the grant schemes run by the ministries.

HUNGARIAN MINORITY⁵²⁾

Projects supported by municipalities / chartered cities / regions

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Union of Hungarians, Prague Unit	Prague – Heart of Nations	Prague City Hall	30 000
	Club meetings		20 000
	DVD – 15 th anniversary of the Union		20 000
	Nyitnikék dance group		20 000
Brno Unit	Days of Hungarian Culture	Jihomoravsko Region	75 000
	Cultural activities	Brno City Hall	100 000
Litoměřice Unit	Cultural information and documentation	City of Litoměřice	14 000
Teplice Unit	Cultural information and documentation	City of Teplice	31 000
		Teplice Cultural Centre	8 000
	Days of Hungarian Culture	Ústecko Region	50 000
Ostrava Unit	Cultural information and documentation	City of Ostrava	80 000
	Days of Hungarian Culture	Moravskoslezsko Region	47 240
Total			495 240

Projects supported by central state administration authorities

<i>organization</i>	<i>project, purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Union of Hungarians Living in the Czech Republic	Publication of the periodical <i>Prágai Tükör</i>	Ministry of Culture	997 000
	Cultural information and documentation		450 000
	Days of Hungarian Culture		130 000
	National meetings		40 000
Union of Hungarians, Brno Unit	Köris dance group	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	50 000
Total			1 667 000

⁵²⁾ The documentation was prepared by the Council member Štefan Végħ.

GERMAN MINORITY⁵³⁾

Projects supported by municipalities / chartered cities / regions

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Association of Silesian – German Friends in Hlučín	Cultural activities	Hlučín Municipal Authority	4 000
Silesian German Association, Opava	Sixth Czech-German Days	Moravskoslezsko Region	70 050
German Cultural Association – Brno Region	Ludwig Czech commemorative plaque, with publication	Jihomoravsko Region	40 000
	Care of German culture	Brno City Hall	20 000
Total			134 050

Projects supported by central state administration authorities

Ministry of Culture – programme for the support of cultural activities (projects of the German minority)

<i>organization / project</i>	<i>project grant (CZK)</i>	<i>total grant (CZK)</i>
Cultural Association of Citizens of German Nationality, Prague		
Care for the cultural heritage and the preservation of the folk traditions of the German minority on the territory of the Czech Republic	50 000	60 000
Heimatchor Choir, Kraslice	10 000	
Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, Prague		
Large Gathering of Folk Art and Culture of the German Minority and Friends of Germans from All Regions	220 000	220 000
Silesian German Association, Opava		
Cultural festival with a cultural meeting of the German minority of Moravia and Silesia	30 000	30 000
Union of Germans – Hřebečsko regional group, Moravská Třebová		
Hřebečský dance group – preservation and development of the culture of the German minority	50 000	100 000
Eleventh Days of Czech-German Culture	50 000	
Union of Germans – Chebsko regional group		
Weekend seminar – Fold dancing in Chebsko	15 000	40 000
'Music Without Frontiers' concert	15 000	
Workshop, rehearsals and year-round presentation of Chebsko folk dances by a folk dance group	10 000	
Union of Germans – North Moravia, Orlické hory, Šumperk		
Day of folk culture of the German minority	15 000	15 000
Union of Germans - Liberec, Lužice – North Bohemia, Liberec		
Christmas Celebration 2005	6 000	14 000
Czech-German Cultural Afternoon 2005	8 000	
Union of Germans - Krušné hory region, Chomutov		
Publication of a brochure – lyrical poetry	15 000	15 000
Cheb Association of Horní Slavkov		
Additions to the travelling exhibition 'The German minority after 1945'	30 000	65 000
Young people on the trail of German and Jewish culture	15 000	
10 th anniversary of the Cheb Association	20 000	
Society of Friends of Germany, Kravaře		
Publication of a CD/MC with German folk songs	30 000	30 000

⁵³⁾ The documentation was prepared by Erich Lederer and Richard Šulko, representatives of this minority in the Council.

German Language and Cultural Association, Brno		
Amateur dramatics	18 000	18 000
Folk songs and customs of German-speaking countries	0	
Silesian German Association in Hlučínsko, Bolatice		
Preservation of cultural traditions in Hlučínsko	20 000	20 000
Association of Friends of Šumava, Větřní		
Seniors' cultural day of the German national minority	15 000	25 000
Cultural day of the German national minority	10 000	
Total		652 000

Ministry of Culture – programme of support to disseminate and accept information in the languages of national minorities (periodicals and electronic media)

<i>periodical</i>	<i>publisher</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Landes-Zeitung (fortnightly)	Assembly of Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia	1 778 000
Prager Volkszeitung (fortnightly)	Cultural Association of Citizens of the Czech Republic of German Nationality	1 900 000
Kleiner Brünner Gassenbote (bimonthly)	German Language and Cultural Association	30 000
Total		3 708 000

POLISH MINORITY⁵⁴⁾

Projects supported by municipalities / chartered cities / regions⁵⁵⁾

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic	Głos ludu – academic conference	Moravskoslezsko Region	53 000
	The way we are	City of Český Těšín	15 000
PZKO, main committee	PZKO Festival 2005 - Třinec	Moravskoslezsko Region	100 000
Ars Musica	Propagation of choir singing		75 000
Harcerstwo Polskie w Republice Czeskiej	Journeys through the history of the Těšínsko area		62 000
Macierz Szkolna (School Foundation) in the Czech Republic	Ninth Baginiecki Festival		80 000
Total			385 000

Projects supported by central state administration authorities

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic	Publication of the newspaper Głos ludu	Ministry of Culture	4 850 000
	Congress of Poles Documentation Centre		280 000
	The way we are		140 000
	Perspektiva 21		150 000
	Widowiska – Anna Waclawik	State Cultural Fund of the Czech Republic	50 000
PZKO, main committee	Publication of the periodical <i>Zwrot</i>	Ministry of Culture	1 100 000
	PZKO Festival 2005 - Třinec		200 000
	Cultural and educational activities		400 000
	Bajka puppet theatre		900 000

⁵⁴⁾ The documentation was prepared by Józef Szymeczek, Council member, and Roman Kaszper (head of the Office of the Congress of Poles).

⁵⁵⁾ According to the representative of the minority, the overview is not complete; many smaller organizations also draw on grants from municipal budgets.

Ars Musica	Propagation of choir singing		90 000	
Harcerstwo Polskie w Republice Czeskiej	Publication of the periodical <i>Nasza Gazetka</i>		974 000	
	Free-time activities of young members of national minorities	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	350 000	
Society of Polish Teachers in the Czech Republic	Texts for teaching in schools with Polish as the language of instruction		2 080 000	
Primary School with Polish as the Language of Instruction, Horní Suchá	23 rd Track and Field Athletics for pupils of Polish schools		103 000	
Primary school and nursery school with Polish as the language of instruction, Český Těšín	Sports and cultural activities		40 000	
Primary School with Polish as the Language of Instruction, Vendryně	100 th anniversary of the foundation of the school building		50 000	
Primary school with Polish as the Language of Instruction, Český Těšín	Local traditions and school		50 000	
Primary school and nursery school with Polish as the language of instruction, Karviná - Fryštát	Implementation of primary school curricula with the assistance of regional elements or getting to know Těšín area of Silesia		35 000	
Stanisław Hadyna primary school with Polish as the language of instruction	Skiing races (cross-country and slalom) for all schools with Polish as the language of instruction in the Czech Republic		60 000	
Macierz Szkolna (School Foundation) in the Czech Republic	Ninth festival of children's songs		Ministry of Culture	60 000
Collegium Cantorum	Development of the art of choir singing			60 000
House of Culture – Association of Art and Special-Interest Activities, Třinec	Development of the Hutník choir		40 000	
Klub Polski v Pradze	Days of Polish Culture, Lysá nad Labem		30 000	
Total			12 092 000	

According to the representative of the Polish minority, the amount earmarked by the Moravskoslezsko Region for the support of national minorities was too small.⁵⁶⁾ A disputable rule applied by the regional authority is the threshold of a minimum amount of CZK 50,000 in project applications. This rule means that smaller (not only Polish) organizations are ineligible to take part in grant award procedures. The *Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic*, the umbrella organization of the Polish minority, has approached the regional authority to discuss this matter; however, the regional authority did not comply with the request to lower the threshold.

The Polish minority manages generally successful projects at all levels of state administration. However, most difficulties are caused by the fact that the amount of the government grant has

⁵⁶⁾ Note by the submitter of the report: the overview of the grants awarded by regions to the organizations of members of national minorities (see Annex No 9) indicates that the Moravskoslezsko Region does not provide these organizations with lower amounts than is normal for the other regions. Furthermore, it is one of four regions which explicitly run a national-minority grant scheme.

remained stagnant for several years. This has had a particularly negative effect on the publication of periodicals (*Głos Ludu, Zwrot, Nasza Gazetka*, etc.), in respect of which the rising costs of printing, distribution and overheads restrict the development and quality of these printed materials. In the case of the newspaper *Głos Ludu*, the minority's representatives are forced to hold an annual award procedure for printing, distribution and editorial activities. If the award procedure were to be deliberately blocked again (as in 2002), in the form of appeals and other administrative manoeuvres, the very existence of this periodical could be jeopardized. These periodical projects, which in cases of problems cannot be suspended until proceedings take place smoothly, should be multi-annual. The possibility of a multi-annual project would lessen the risk of complications during the selection of companies in the first year. In subsequent years, there would be no need to implement complex legal steps connected with the annual award procedure. Periodicity could last for five years. It should also be borne in mind that the award procedure must be arranged by members of staff of the office of the *Congress of Poles*, as its limited finances do not permit it to commission experts to carry out this activity. These amateurs in this field do not have the chance to seek the information they need in cases of doubt (not even from the grant donor). Therefore, the Polish minority would welcome the establishment of a legal advice service by the Ministry of Culture for these purposes.

ROMA MINORITY

No documentation was supplied.

RUTHENIAN MINORITY⁵⁷⁾

<i>organization</i>	<i>purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Friends of Ruthenia Society	Podkarpatská Rus - periodical	Ministry of Culture	84 750
	publishing, conference of compatriots	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	111 968
	exhibition of children's drawings	Prague City Hall	25 000
	Operating expenses, general meeting	own expenditure	95 014,50
Total			316 732,5

RUSSIAN MINORITY⁵⁸⁾

<i>organization</i>	<i>purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Russian tradition	Russkoye slovo – periodical	Ministry of Culture	1 350 000
	Cultural and social activities of Russian Tradition in 2005		150 000
	Supplement to Russkoye slovo - Slovo dietyam	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	260 000
	Prague – Heart of Nations	Prague City Hall	30 000
	Celebration of the 10 th anniversary of the Children's Ballet Company		40 000
	Bravo opera III (concert)		70 000
	Michail Mikora – Prague and Jazz (exhibition)		30 000
	Petr Savický – Unexpected Poems (book)		50 000
Association of Russian Groups in the Czech Republic	Grant for the operating expenses of the Brno branch of the Association of Russian Groups in the Czech Republic	Brno City Hall	60 000
	First International Festival of Russian Works	Jihomoravsko Region	150 000
	Russian school		38 500

⁵⁷⁾ This documentation was prepared by Agáta Pilátová, a former member of the Council.

⁵⁸⁾ The documentation was prepared by the Council member Alexej N. Kelin.

Union of Russian-Speaking Students and Their Friends – ARTEK	How well the young people of various national minorities know Prague	Prague City Hall	25 000
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Total 2 253 500

GREEK MINORITY⁵⁹⁾

Projects supported by municipalities / chartered cities / regions

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Greek Community, Prague	Akropolis choir and dance group	Prague City Hall	30 000
	Cultural and educational activities		20 000
	Lectures, lessons of Greek and contribution to the lease of a clubroom		30 000
	Publication of the book <i>Řečtí uprchlíci [Greek Refugees]</i>		90 000
Greek Community, Brno	Greeks in Brno in 2005	Brno City Hall	100 000
Greek Community of Šumperk	Celebrations of the public holiday (28 October 1941)	Šumperk Municipal Authority	35 000
	Establishment of the children's dance group Alexandria – purchase of costumes		15 000
Greek Community of Karviná	Minority policy of the Greek Community of Karviná	Karviná Municipal Authority	15 000
	Fifth Greek district festival Karviná 2005		20 000
Greek Community of Bohumín	Support of national minorities	Bohumín Municipal Authority	28 000
Lyceum for Greek Girls in the Czech Republic	Activities of the Lyceum in 2005	Jihomoravsko Region	80 000
	Greek traditional dance	Brno City Hall	15 000
Hellenika endowment fund	Preservation of Greek cultural awareness	Brno City Hall	15 000
		Jihomoravsko Region	60 000

Total 553 000

Projects supported by central state administration authorities

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Association of Greek Communities	Cultural activities of the Greek minority in the Czech Republic	Ministry of Culture	350 000
	Monument to Greek citizens	Ministry of Finance (Council)	260 000
Greek Community, Prague	Publication of the magazine <i>Kalimera</i>	Ministry of Culture	400 000
Lyceum for Greek Girls in the Czech Republic	Preservation and development of the culture of the Greek minority in the Czech Republic		145 000
	Lessons of Greek dance	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	260 000

Total 1 415 000

⁵⁹⁾ The documentation was prepared by the Council member Trifon Moras.

SLOVAK MINORITY⁶⁰⁾

Projects supported by municipalities / chartered cities / regions

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Club of Slovak Culture	Search for parallels	Prague City Hall	35 000
	Prague Echoes		50 000
	Landmarks of Praha 3		30 000
Limbora	Prague – Heart of Nations, festival	Prague City Hall	550 000
	Modification of premises, courses, camp, operations		110 000
	Prague – Heart of Nations, festival	Praha 2 Municipal Ward	27 000
	Children – year-round activities		35 000
	Together – competition of song and recitals		4 300
	Folk traditions without frontiers		27 000
	Dialogue - cross-cultural programme	National minority IMP	20 000
	Limbora – traditional programmes		60 000
International Folk Festival Prague – Heart of Nations, Seven on Seven	Praha 7 Municipal Ward	20 000	
Slovak-Czech Club	200 years of Slovak art	Prague City Hall	40 000
	Club evenings of Slovak Touches		30 000
	Prague – Slovak writers workshop		40 000
	E. Charous: Differences converge		50 000
	M. Dědič: Review		60 000
	Days of Slovak Culture in Tábor	Jihočesko Region Tábor	10 000 18 000
Půčik	Tell us, folks, how we are to play today	Brno City Hall	20 000
	Slovak folk costumes and their use for the folk ensemble		20 000
	Living in the same town		25 000
	Free time and traditional folk culture	Jihomoravsko Region	20 000
	Dance workshop for large and small		46 000
	Living in the same town		30 000
Community of Slovaks in the Czech Republic ⁶¹⁾	International festival of Slovak folk traditions – Jánošík's Ducat	Zlínsko Region	35 000
		Municipality of Rožnov pod Radhostěm	10 000
CzechoSlovak Stage, Prague	Prague Slovaks at the CzechoSlovak Stage	Prague City Hall	40 000
	Turn out the lamps, turn out the lamps		30 000
Total			1 492 300

Projects supported by central state administration authorities

<i>organization</i>	<i>project, purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Club of Slovak Culture	Development of the culture of the Slovak minority	Ministry of Culture	700 000
	Domus		100 000
	Slovak books in the Slovak Culture Club		20 000

⁶⁰⁾ The documentation was prepared by the Council members Helena Nosková and Vladimír Skalský, grants were added by the submitter of the report.

⁶¹⁾ The minority's representative states information, without elaborating, that 'individual regional communities of Slovaks received grants totalling CZK 170,000 from Regional and Municipal Authorities.'

	Contemporary Slovakia	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	300 000
Limbora	Echoes	Ministry of Culture	60 000
	Limbora and Malá Limborka		65 000
	Limbora 2005		65 000
	Total	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	77 000
	Prague – Heart of Nations, festival – documentation	State Fund of the Czech Republic the Support of Film	50 000
Slovak Literary Club in the Czech Republic	E. Charous: Differences converge (second part of a two-year grant)	Ministry of Culture	10 000
	Prague – Slovak writers workshop		40 000
	Set of papers to mark the 125 th anniversary of M.R. Štefánik's birth		35 000
Slovak Literary Club in the Czech Republic	Jan Kollár literature competition	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	210 000
Community of Slovaks in the Czech Republic	International festival of Slovak folk traditions – Jánošík's Ducat	Ministry of Culture	80 000
	Roots Clubs		90 000
	Mutual relations of Czechs and Slovaks		50 000
CzechoSlovak Stage, Prague	Operation of the CzechoSlovak Stage – Slovak premieres		100 000
Slovak-Czech Club, Prague	Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic		380 000
	Club evenings of Slovak Touches		60 000
	Exhibition - 200 years of Slovak art	50 000	
Total			2 542 000

Ministry of Culture – programme of support to disseminate and accept information in the languages of national minorities

<i>publisher</i>	<i>periodical</i>	grant (CZK)
Community of Slovaks	Korene	2 600 000
Slovak-Czech Club	Slovenské dotyky	2 850 000
	Slovak Internet Radio	220 000
Club of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic	Listy Slovákov a Čechov	1 150 000
Slovak Literary Club	Zrkadlenie	400 000
Total		7 220 000

SERBIAN MINORITY⁶²⁾

Projects supported by municipalities / chartered cities / regions

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Serbian Association of St Sava	Week of Serbian documentaries	Prague City Hall	40 000
	Lectures and talks at club meetings of the Serbian minority in Prague		30 000
	Southern countries – mirror edition of a collection of verse by Slobodan Rakitić		45 000
Czech-Serbian Cultural Union	Exhibition of pictures by the graduate of the Academy of Art Helena Vančurová		20 000

⁶²⁾ The documentation was prepared by the Council member Branislava Kubešová.

	mirror edition of a collection of verse by H. Tarkó		30 000
Total			165 000

Projects supported by central state administration authorities

<i>organization</i>	<i>project, purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Serbian Association of St Sava	Second Days of Serbian Culture in Prague 2005.	Ministry of Culture	150 000
	Club meetings of the Serbian minority		75 000
	Publication of the periodical Srpska reč		300 000
Total			525 000

UKRAINIAN MINORITY⁶³⁾

Projects supported by municipalities / chartered cities / regions

<i>organization</i>	<i>project/purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Association of Ukrainians and Friends of Ukraine	Activities: Choir of St Vladimir, concerts in regions, CD with spiritual music, honouring the memory of T. Ševčenko, publication of Water Colours by H. Mazurenko, Ukrainian Independence Day, Famine in the 1930s in Ukraine, St Nicholas' Day, lectures	Prague City Hall	165 000
Association of Ukrainian Women in the Czech Republic	Concert by T. Ševčenko, Mothers Day, presentation of the book Fate of the Banderovetz Fighters and the Tragedy of the Greek Catholic Church - conference, Independence Day – Panychida and social meeting at the Club of the Ukrainian Initiative in CR, Conference on the resistance fight of Ukraine in Prague (with the Slavonic Library in Prague), the publication Yeretyk (Heretic) and a presentation during the Days of Ukrainian Culture, Panychida of Famine Victims, Concert to mark the 120th anniversary of the Ukrainian women's movement in Ukraine		65 000
Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic	publication of the Museum of the Resistance Struggle of Ukraine in Prague and the Fate of its Collections, Conference on the Resistance Struggle of Ukraine in Prague (with the Slavonic Library), Ignis – music ensemble, concerts		55 000
Total			285 000

⁶³⁾ The documentation was prepared by the Council member Bohdan Rajčinec.

Projects supported by central state administration authorities

<i>organization</i>	<i>project, purpose of grant</i>	<i>donor</i>	<i>grant (CZK)</i>
Association of Ukrainians and Friends of Ukraine	Activities: Choir of St Vladimir, concerts in regions, CD, honouring the memory of T. Ševčenko, publication of Water Colours by H. Mazurenko, Ukrainian Independence Day, Famine in the 1930s in Ukraine, St Nicholas' Day, lectures	Ministry of Culture	90 000
Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic	Publication of the periodical <i>Porohy</i>		850 000
	Days of Ukrainian Culture in the Czech Republic (week in the Czech Republic, Brno, Plzeň, Prague, Chomutov),		130 000
	Ukrainian Club (Prague, year-round),		250 000
	Malanka 2005 – traditional meeting		70 000
	Smoloskyp children's club (year-round)	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	250 000
Ruta civic association ⁶⁴⁾	Publication of the periodical Ukrainian Journal	Ministry of Culture	204 000
Total			1 844 000

JEWISH COMMUNITY

No documentation was supplied.

6.2. Examples of cooperation with self-governing bodies in 2005

BULGARIAN MINORITY

Particularly good cooperation is with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Prague City Hall and other chartered cities, such as Brno, Olomouc and Ostrava.

CROATIAN MINORITY

No documentation was supplied.

HUNGARIAN MINORITY

Cooperation between the local government and all organizational units of the *Union of Hungarians Living in the Czech Republic* is good.

The representative of the Brno organizational unit attends a meeting with the representatives of Brno City Hall and the Jihomoravsko Regional Authority once or twice a year (although there is no Hungarian representative in the committee). The Prague Unit representative is a member of the Prague City Hall Council's Commission for National Minorities. In the Ostrava, Plzeň, and Teplice units, Hungarians are not represented in local government or in committees, but they have contact with local and state administration authorities and cooperate with other national minorities in the relevant locality. The representative of the Union of Hungarians is a member of the Committee of the Government Council for National Minorities Council Committee for Cooperation with Local Authorities.

⁶⁴⁾ Added by the submitter of the report.

GERMAN MINORITY

The representatives of the German minority appreciate the support provided in the organization of meetings with former inhabitants in Germany, exchanges of young people, and the holding of cultural events such as exhibitions and concerts. They also appreciate the support provided in the publication of printed materials, the repair of monuments (especially religious monuments) and cooperation with nurseries and schools. Some regional organizations are invited to Czech-German events. There is good cooperation from schools, especially universities.

In places where local authorities cooperate with members of the German minority, the minority's representatives are invited to joint meetings and contribute to the handling of specific events in the regions. In cooperation with municipalities, cities and compatriot associations, the German minority contributes to the repair of various monuments – churches, chapels and other monuments. The unions work intensively with schools, libraries, museums and other cultural facilities. Financial assistance from the cities is used in the organization of exchanges of students and pupils; cultural exchanges with partner towns and cross-border cooperation are promoted. In this area of cooperation, Czech-German meeting centres ('Begegnungszentren') are very active; these centres offer German courses, cultural events, exhibitions, library services and other services to their members and the general public. These centres are fully subsidized by the German Embassy.

Organizations cooperate with local authorities and are invited to events in Chomutov, Kovářská, Skalná, Varnsdorf, and Ústí nad Labem. These are primarily social and cultural events within the scope of various cooperation programmes with German towns and districts. In some places, financial grants are awarded or premises are made available for events free of charge.

POLISH MINORITY

Cooperation with local authorities is generally good. Poles in Těšínské Slezsko are very actively involved in public life in the scope of municipal self-government. Many of them are members of municipal assemblies. According to the minority's own estimate, the number of Poles in municipal assemblies is not more than seventy. The overwhelming majority of citizens of Polish nationality are appointed to assemblies in Těšínsko municipalities as candidates from the political movement *Coexistence - Wspólnota*. Others are candidates of the Association of Independent Candidates or other independent initiatives. Most Poles are in the assemblies of the following municipalities: Hrádek, Košariska and Vendryně. The problems that Poles are most interested in include Polish schooling and the exercise of the right to bilingualism (the labelling of municipalities, the use of Polish in official communications). In some municipalities, the exercise of this right has continued to be problematic, even in cases where an application for the introduction of bilingual names is supported by a petition.

The platforms where Poles can exercise their rights are the Committees for National Minorities. Unfortunately, these committees are set up by political agreement and therefore it is hard for Poles to be appointed. For example, just one Pole is represented in the Committee for National Minorities of the Moravskoslezsko Region. In municipalities, the situation is similar, although Poles are represented on a greater scale in this case. However, in most cases, the chairpersons of these committees are still Czechs who often override the requests of the Polish minority. For example, in Návsí there was a successful petition for the implementation of bilingual signs, but – after an anti-Polish campaign in the local press, bordering on hysteria – the signs were not introduced because this move was rejected by the Committee for National Minorities.

The minority's representative would welcome an initiative from the Office of the Government, which, at reasonable intervals or at least as required, could organize meetings with the chairpersons or representatives of committees with the assistance of the Congress of Poles. This is an urgent requirement because the new Rules of Administrative Procedure are being implemented and certain mistakes and misunderstandings are arising. For example, the chairman of a certain municipality ordered the head teacher of the Polish school to write notes to Polish parents in the registration books of Polish children in Czech. A discussion with a representative of the Government Council for National Minorities could prevent complications which this standpoint of Czech nationalists in the position of head teachers might give rise to in the near future.⁶⁵⁾

Many municipalities provide sufficient grants for the cultural activities of the Polish minority, especially local PZKO chapters. Larger cities, such as Český Těšín, Třinec, and Karviná award grants based on submitted projects which are assessed by a project commission. In small municipalities, decisions on applications are in the competence of the assembly, which awards grants on an individual basis further to proposals from the municipal council. This assistance is welcomed. Over the past five years, no complaints about the detrimental treatment of Polish projects or applications from municipalities have been registered in the Těšínsko area.

ROMA MINORITY⁶⁶⁾

Estimates put the number of Roma inhabitants living in the Czech Republic at approximately 150,000 – 250,000. The largest communities live in the Ostrava area and in north Bohemia (Děčín, Ústí nad Labem). Unfortunately, many Roma – for various reasons – do not claim Roma nationality, which is not good.⁶⁷⁾

Of the roughly 250 Roma organizations registered, more than 20% are inactive. The Roma minority urgently needs elected legitimate Roma representatives with a mandate to defend the interests of the Roma minority. However, it has become evident that this process will not be easy.

At present, the Roma minority does not have a representative in the Czech Parliament or in any of the new regional assemblies. A couple of individuals have been elected to the assemblies of what are generally small towns and municipalities. Roma are employed at the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, but it would be advisable for the latter ministry to recruit another 2-3 Roma representatives, mainly in the employment section.

The Roma minority has representatives in the Czech Government's advisory bodies:

- each region has a Roma representative in the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs, which has 26 members;
- the Roma minority has three representatives in the Government Council for National Minorities, who were appointed for the first term of office.

⁶⁵⁾ Note by the submitter of the report: The Council does not have the competence to intervene in the relations of individual municipal chairman and head teachers, but could initiate meetings on this issue in cooperation with the relevant committees for national minorities.

⁶⁶⁾ This documentation was prepared by the Council member Cyril Koky.

⁶⁷⁾ Note by the submitter of the report: The reasons for not claiming membership of the Roma nationality cannot be considered solely as intentional denial of Roma identity. A larger section of the Roma community understood the category of nationality to mean citizenship. For more details, see, for example, Moravcová, M. - Bittnerová, D.: Kdo jsem a kam patřím? [Who am I and where do I belong?] Prague 2005. Furthermore, government policy in relation to the Roma community in this matter is based on actual need, not on the results of the census.

RUTHENIAN MINORITY

The minority's representative did not express any comments on this matter.

RUSSIAN MINORITY

As in previous years, the representatives of this minority's organizations work in commissions for national minorities at the city halls in Prague and Brno.

GREEK MINORITY⁶⁸⁾

The *Association of Greek Communities in the Czech Republic* gives a positive rating to the participation of representatives of the Government Council for National Minorities, as well as the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the Czech Republic at official events such as the Greek Days in Krnov and the unveiling of a monument to the Greek citizens of the same place.

The *Greek Community of Bohumín* highlights the cooperation with the Bohumín municipal authority in relation to the celebration of significant Greek days.

The *Greek Community of Šumperk* cooperates with *Vila Doris*, which is a villa run by Šumperk municipal authority for extra-curricular cultural activities for children and young people in Šumperk. The Greek Community of Šumperk also mentioned the regular participation of representatives of Šumperk municipal authority at social events organized by this municipality in the region.

The *Greek Community of Prague* gives a good rating to visits by the representatives of the Council Secretariat and Prague City Hall to important events held to mark the celebration of significant days of the Hellenic Republic.

The *Greek Community of Brno* was satisfied with the support and participation of representatives of the local authority in events organized by this community, held to mark Greek public holidays, especially representatives of the Committee for National Minorities at Brno City Hall.

The *Lyceum of for Greek Girls in the Czech Republic* appreciated the cooperation with local authorities which took place at the level of Brno City Hall in the form of meetings with individual representatives of the city and members of staff from the culture department and the social welfare department. Meetings were held with assembly representatives at the level of the Jihomoravsko Region.

SLOVAK MINORITY

Cooperation with local authorities in 2005 relied on the programme and specific activities of minority organizations. The common denominator was the attempt to present Slovak culture and the interest of local authorities in this culture. Cooperation is very good with the City of Prague. The Slovak minority is represented here in the national minorities commission. Meetings are attended by two members of civic associations - Mária Miňová (*Limbora* civic association), and M. Beňo (*Community of Slovaks*). The *Club of Slovak Culture* (KSK), *Slovak-Czech Club*, *Slovak Literary Club* and *Limbora* made organizational contributions to an international conference on the identity of national minorities, including the cultural programme. Cooperation is very good in the organization of the international festival *Prague*

⁶⁸⁾ In addition to the information provided by the Council member, the submitter of the report states that the *Hellenika* endowment fund cooperated with the leadership of the Municipality of Mikulov in implementing the project *On the trail of Greek emigration*, and with the Council for National Minorities of the Jihomoravsko Region in the implementation of the project *Greek Regions – Macedonia*.

Heart of Nations and other cultural programmes where the main organizer is *Limbora*. This association cooperates very well with the municipal authorities of Praha, 2, Praha 3 and Praha 4. In these municipal wards, the association is popular for its folk programmes - Dožínky, Vinobraní, Folk without Frontiers, etc.

The *Club of Slovak Culture* cooperates very well with the self-governing bodies of the City of Prague and the municipal authorities Králíky, Aš, Liberec, Ústí nad Labem and Karlovy Vary. The most significant project run by the *Slovak-Czech Club* is the *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic*. In 2005, this event took place in nine towns and municipal wards. In České Budějovice, Moravská Třebová and Praha 7 the municipalities were the co-organizer; in Tábor the event was supported by grants from the town and the Jihočesko Region, and the situation was similar in Kroměříž, Jihlava, Plzeň, Brno and Olomouc. There is also good cooperation in the cities of Brno, Rožnov pod Radhostěm, Teplice, Třinec and Karviná.

SERBIAN MINORITY

The *Serbian Association of St Sava* cooperated with the Ministry of Culture, specifically the department for regional and national culture, the media and audiovisual department, the secretariat of the Minister for Culture and the director of this secretariat, the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic and its Chairperson, Prague City Hall and its Commission for National Minorities, and the municipal wards of Praha 1, Praha 2 and Praha 4. Talks at all levels were exceptionally constructive and there were always attempts to comply with the association's needs and requirements. It is a generally accepted truth that the conduct and decision-making of authorities is protracted, but in the experience of the representatives of the minority this has never been the case. The Minister for Culture, who assumed the patronage of the event *Second Days of Serbian Culture*, which he also personally opened (and even addressed those present in Serbian several times), and the Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies and members of staff from his secretariat were exceptionally constructive and professional. The representative of the minority appreciates the assistance of members of staff of the Ministry of Culture from the above-mentioned departments, who helped cope with specific problems on more than occasion.

UKRAINIAN MINORITY

The representative of the Ukrainian minority appreciates the cooperation with Prague City Hall, the mayor of Chomutov, the deputy mayor Rudolf Kozák, who is also the chairman of the committee for national minorities, and the Ukrainian association *Bells of Hope*, whose chairman is also a member of the committee (*Days of Culture in the Czech Republic* – autumn 2005).

He also appreciates the cooperation with the following cities: Poděbrady (in the administration of graves and the columbarium of the intelligentsia in this city), Ostrava (its support of the local organization SUPU, chaired by Vasil Vaník), Liberec (multi-cultural educational concerts called *Living Together*), Brno (Masaryk University in Brno – Ukrainian-based activities and lectures) and Prague (Charles University in Prague – Ukrainian-based activities and lectures).

JEWISH COMMUNITY

No documentation was supplied.

6.3. Examples of good practice in 2005 in the field of national-minority life

BULGARIAN MINORITY

For 33 years, the *Bulgarian Cultural and Education Organization, Prague* has published a periodical called *Roden glas*, since 2002 with the support of the Ministry of Culture; a newsletter called *Inform* is also published at the expense of Bulgarian Cultural and Education Organization, Prague; with support from Prague City Hall, it published a history of the Bulgarian minority called *Balgarska Sedyanka*; it co-organizes and participates in the folk festival *Prague – Heart of Nations*; it took part in the Olomouc event *We Can Communicate* with the participation of the representatives of eight minorities and physically disabled fellow citizens (a recording of this event was broadcast by Czech Television in the programme *Babylon* on 30 September 2005); the Bulgarian football team in Olomouc won the 2005 minorities tournament held under the auspices of the Senate of the Czech Republic (the club in Olomouc is in the organizational structure of the Bulgarian Cultural and Education Organization, Prague).

The *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Organization of SS Cyril and Methodius, Prague* organized a concert in the orthodox church (Prague) on 18 December 2005 and the official presentation of the oil painting *The audience granted to SS Cyril and Methodius by Prince Rostislav at Velehrad* (this work by Inka Delevová-Mrkvičová was donated by J. Balurov); it published *Zápisky*; it held *Days of Bulgarian Culture* in cooperation with the civic association *Vazraždane*.

The civic association *Vazraždane Prague* publishes the periodical *Balgari* with the full backing of the Ministry of Culture; it organized a seminar of Bulgarian folk dancing on 15 February 2005; it organized a celebration of the holiday marking the arrival of spring, *Baba Marta*, the orthodox Easter, etc.; it organized the concert *Young Bulgarian Talent*, Foerster Hall, Prague, 12 June 2005; it organized a social evening to mark the Bulgarian Independence Day, it organized *Days of Bulgarian Culture* on 23 November 2005, Roxy Club, Prague; it organized the concert *Gena Dimitrova in memoriam*, 12 December 2005, Suk Hall, Rudolfinum, Prague; at the end of the Days of Culture it organized the concert *Tebe pojem* in the Martinů Hall, AMU Prague.

The civic association *Pirin Brno* organized dancing lessons focusing on the teaching of Bulgarian folk dances, with the participation of professional choreographers from Bulgaria; it organized a workshop of Bulgarian folk dancing; it took part in the international folk festival in Strážnice, Brno and Mikulov. It performed in Budapest. In all, it held 20 different performances.

The *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Association in Brno* organized a social evening to mark the public holiday of the Liberation of Bulgaria from Osman Rule (3 March); it organized a national meeting of compatriots in Mikulčice (coaches from Prague, Ostrava and Bratislava; this traditional official meeting was attended by approximately 200 people); it took part, via the folk ensemble *Kytka*, at a minorities festival in Bratislava; it organized a poetry evening devoted to the work of Vatyó Rakovsky (17 November 2005); and it participated in the official award of the medal of Masaryk University to the Bulgarian president Georgi Parvan (27 September 2005).⁶⁹⁾

The *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Club, Ostrava* organized joint celebrations of all Bulgarian public and orthodox religious holidays; it organized events for children and young

⁶⁹⁾ Note by the submitter of the report: There is also the civic association *Association for Bulgaria* in Brno, whose main mission is to support Czech-Bulgarian relations, the presentation of Bulgaria and its culture in the Czech Republic.

people; it organized a performance by the Bulgarian group *Gambrinus* from Sofia, the *Pirin* ensemble from Brno; it maintains very good cooperation with self-governing authorities, with Czech Television (the *Babylon* programme) and with other minorities; it organized excursions (Krakov, Mikulčice); it took care of seniors.

The *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Club, Plzeň* saw its activities diminish after the death of its chairman, Dr Jovev; current activities are based on social meetings to mark public and religious holidays.

The *Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Club, Ústí Nad Labem* organized social meetings and celebrations of Bulgarian public and religious holidays.

CROATIAN MINORITY

No documentation was supplied.

HUNGARIAN MINORITY

The *Brno unit*, through the operation of the *Hungarian Cultural and Information Centre* (which provides interpreting, translation, and information services), generates some of the funding to run the organization. The development of Czech-Hungarian mutual relations is thus supported.

The *Litoměřice unit* is part of the long-term plan within the scope of Community Planning in the city of Litoměřice. Since 2003, information about the association and its activities have been published in the Catalogue of Social Services Provided in Litoměřice; this entry was made possible by its close cooperation with the member of staff of the municipal authority responsible for national minorities, Tibor Horváth. The association's activities in the city are viewed very positively, in part because its operations geared towards children and young people make a significant contribution to crime prevention. The association is keen to continue this cooperation in the future.

The *Plzeň unit* was involved in the Ninth IVV Olympiad, which drew the participation of 154 Hungarian hikers.

The *Teplice unit* is actively involved in social and cultural life in Teplice. The largest of these events is the annual opening of the spa season, which is positively appreciated by the municipal assembly and the inhabitants of the city.

The *Prague unit* is actively involved in the international folk festival *Prague Heart of Nations*. It took part in *Dialogue of Cultures 2005*. In addition, it organizes other cultural events of worth. The dance group *Nyitnikék* regularly represents the Hungarian minority at various events and festivals throughout the Czech Republic.

GERMAN MINORITY

In the field of national-minority life, regional unions in their respective regions fared very well. Besides cultural activities, members benefited from the preparation of seminars for seniors, a winter course of German combined with skiing for older children and students, and children's summer camps in cooperation with the Assembly of Germans and with the assistance of a grant from Germany. In cooperation with the training centre in Bad Kissingen and Hohenberg, children were given the chance to attend a camp with German children. Some unions organized summer camps with partner towns.

For the older generation, approximately 80 persons, which suffered health problems due to the post-war years, spa visits were again organized in cooperation with the *Czech-German Fund for the Future* and the charity *Busow – Educational and Social Work*.

A new development was the organization of small rehabilitation projects for those for whom spas were not recommended for serious health reasons (e.g. radiation).

Members are highly appreciative of the cooperation with former German inhabitants, German courses and culture in general. The National Meeting of Germans was attended by many children and the younger generation.

Mutual meetings of the members of different organizations are held with cultural programmes. Meetings to mark Mothers Day and Easter have become traditional. These meetings are regularly attended by members of neighbouring organizations and delegates of affiliate organizations from Germany (Kovářská – Lauter, Varnsdorf – Seifhennersdorf - Zittau, Ústí nad Labem – Teplice – Dippoldiswalde). A great boon in the region of West Bohemia is the activity of the women's choir in Kraslice, which held 16 performances, eight of which were abroad. Recently it has also received assistance from the municipality (use of the Cultural Centre). Members of minority organizations are regularly invited to take part in events held, for example, by the J.E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem (in 2005, for example, the excursive meeting of Academia Baltica, summer schools of the Czech language in cooperation with the university in Erlangen). Cooperation is also good with the Ústí nad Labem Museum.

POLISH MINORITY

The Polish minority is organized very well. At present, more than 30 Polish associations are active in the Czech Republic, of which 27 are grouped together within the *Congress of Poles*. The representatives of all these organizations meet four times a year at joint sessions of the Council of Representatives of the *Congress of Poles* in the Czech Republic. This Council may set tasks for the executive body, the Council of the *Congress of Poles*, which is the executive representative of the joint interests of all organizations. Otherwise the associations are entirely autonomous. The organizational skills of the Poles in the Czech Republic are exemplary and generate respect, primarily among other Polish compatriot groups in Europe and America.

In 2005, the association *Zrzeszenie Śpiewaczo – Muzyczne* was formed after breaking off from the PZKO. All organizations organize dozens of cultural, social, and sports activities during the year. The most significant events traditionally include *Gorolski święto* in Jablunkov (the PZKO organization in Jablunkov), *Třinecko Film Summer* (the *Culture Club* charity, Třinec), *Youth Rally* (*Culture Club*, Třinec), *Festival of Children's Songs* (*Ars musica*, *Macierz Sokolna*) and *Days of Student Culture* (*Association of Polish Youth*). An overview of the year-round activities of the Polish minority, called *Tacy jesteśmy* (*Congress of Poles*), was successful, especially in the media. Unfortunately it is not possible to name all the significant events here.

Most publicity was generated by the Czech-Polish drama project *Těšín Sky* (*Těšín Theatre*).

The *Congress of Poles* is located in the building of the Agricultural School in Český Těšín. It uses the premises free of charge, although it covers its own overheads (water, heat, electricity).

Cooperation with local authorities is very good. Cities and smaller municipalities support national minority projects as far as they are able.

Polish television broadcasting from the Czech Television studio in Ostrava has become very popular. Czech Radio in Ostrava has had an affinity with the Polish minority for several decades and regularly facilitates broadcasting in Polish throughout the day.

Cooperation with the Council for National Minorities of the Government of the Czech Republic is superb.

ROMA MINORITY

Of projects focusing on the cultural activities of the Roma national minority in 2005, the most significant included *Roma Song*, a festival which took place in the complex of the Wallachian Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm and was organized by the civic association Democratic Alliance of Roma of the Czech Republic. This event was held under the aegis of the Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic. Just as significant is the *Karviná Roma Festival*, organized by the *Association of Roma in North Moravia*, and other regional Roma music festivals in Liberec, Hořice pod Krkonoší and elsewhere. The *Khamoro* world Roma music festival, organized by the civic association *Word 21*, where top foreign and domestic groups perform every year, enjoys international fame.

A significant project is the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno. This is an expert and educational institution set up by the State. The museum houses a library and reading room, which offer a wide range of Roma and Roma-studies literature.

The following periodicals are published: the children's magazine *Kereka*, the magazine *Romano vod'i*, and the newspaper *Romano hangos*. The Roma radio broadcasts *O roma vakeren* operate very well. The *Dženo* civic association does very good work, operating the Internet radio station *Rota*, which is the only station of its kind in the Czech Republic.

We consider the support of preparatory classes at primary schools to be a very positive development, along with the support of the position of assistant teachers, programmes to support the pupils of secondary schools and the support of field social work in excluded Roma communities. It would be good if Roma undergraduates⁷⁰⁾ also received support, as they do in Slovakia. However, it is worth mentioning the increase in the number of Roma who have a secondary or higher education.

After the public administration reform that has taken place here, Roma coordinators have become well established at the new regional authorities. Seven Roma currently work at regional authorities.

RUTHENIAN MINORITY

Two publications were released that have positively raised the profile of the *Society of Friends of Ruthenia*: the historian Ivan Pop published *Ruthenia [Podkarpatská Rus]* as the 29th volume in the Libri publishing house's series *Brief History of States*. This publication was supported by our *Society*; besides discussing the history of the territory of the Ruthenians from ancient times to the present, in which Ruthenia remains part of the Ukraine, it also offers a brief overview of life here and useful information and addresses for tourists. This bound work has 192 pages. It had a print run of 1,200 copies and sells well on the book market, as interest in Ruthenia is growing among the Czech public, motivated primarily by the fact that this territory was part of Czechoslovakia until 1939.

The first part of the memoirs of General M. Kričfaluši, *Taking Stock of Time*, was followed up by the second part, *What We Fought For*, which was edited by the historian K. Richter.

The Brno branch of the Society of Friends of Ruthenia contributes, together with the T. G. Masaryk Club, to the re-edition of publications from the First Republic (e.g. *Technical Work in Ruthenia 1919 - 1933*, *Uzhorod 1933*; *Church Monuments in Ruthenia*, Prague 1929).

The Ministry of Culture supported the publication of four issues of the periodical *Podkarpatská Rus [Ruthenia]* (totalling 44 pages), which provides Society members and

⁷⁰⁾ Note by the submitter of the report: As is mentioned in section 4.4.2, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports provided indirect support to Roma university students in its *Programme to promote the integration of the Roma community*. In all, 62 Roma students study at post-secondary vocational colleges and universities in the public and private sector.

others with information about the Society's activities and about life in Ruthenia. Because the membership base is gradually expanding to include citizens of Ruthenian nationality, a permanent part of the magazine is a page issued in Ruthenian. The Society's efforts are also aimed at creating a Ruthenian section. News from the branches in Brno and Jindřichův Hradec also have a place in the periodical.

In Teplice, a meeting of Ruthenians, local immigrants from Ruthenia, was held. At this meeting, it was decided that these fellow citizens would consider the possibility of setting up a branch with which the Society would be able to cooperate.

In Jindřichův Hradec a discussion was held with pupils from the primary school on the theme of 'Do you know Ruthenia?' Trips motivated by the cultural events of surrounding municipalities, trips to learn more about border nature, and sports activities have become traditional.

To mark the 15th anniversary of the founding of the *Society of Friends of Ruthenia* (in 1990 it actually picked up from where the original Society had left off in 1936), a meeting was held in the MAT cinema in Praha 2, which had a programme split into two sections: the History of the Society and Prospects for Development and the Focus of Activities in the Future.

The Brno branch is very active, staging a number of talks on the issue of compensation for property which Czechoslovak citizens were forced to abandon in 1939. The branch also organized tourist trips to attractive regions of Ruthenia, with the possibility of visiting relatives and acquaintances.

During the year, Society members were tasked with the performance of individual activities. As part of two exhibitions of children's drawings, the original theme of which was expanded from the narrow *Prague greets Uzhorod* (the Uzhorod School of Art celebrated its 50th anniversary) to include other primary and nursery schools from Sharishky Shtyavnik, Havaj, Preshov and Medzilaborce, and thus strengthened the artistic voice of Ruthenian children. The acquisition of the children's drawings was mainly made possible by the chairman of the T. G. Masaryk Club in Uzhorod, Ivan Latko, and the chairwoman of the Ruthenian Awakening in Slovakia, Anna Kuzmiaková. We recorded the children's drawings on CD.

The Brno branch held two exhibitions of photography by its member R. Štursa, called *Ruthenia – Tomeček's Promised Land*, in Uzhorod (June 2005 – exhibition hall of the outdoor museum) and in Mukachev (July – in the theatre building).

RUSSIAN MINORITY

The associations *Russian Tradition*, *Association of Russian Groups in the Czech Republic* and *Artek* have continued their highly professional activities. A larger number of members of the diaspora and members of majority society participate in and help to organize these activities.

In 2005, the civic association *Russian Tradition* geared its activities towards the implementation of grant projects supported by Prague City Hall, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

The city hall projects include:

1. Ensuring the participation of representatives of Russian traditional culture at the international folk festival Prague Heart of Nations 2005 (grant project number 1030). This project was implemented on 26-29 May 2005 and the Russians were represented by three groups from Tobolsko: Rosinochka, Syurpriz and Dolya (see the report on this event in the periodical RS 3/2005, p. 7).
2. A concert to mark the tenth anniversary of the Children's Ballet Theatre (grant project number 1031) was held on the RSVK premises in Na Zátorce on 12 June 2005 and

was met with great success (see the report on this event in the periodical RS 4/2005, p. 9).

3. The gala concert *Bravo opera III* (grant project number 1032) was held to the satisfaction of the many visitors, music lovers, members of the Russian community and their fans, as has become the tradition, in the Municipal House on 20 November 2005 (see the report on this event in the periodical RS 6/2005, pp. 6-7).
4. Michail Mikora (painter): an exhibition called Prague and Jazz (grant project number 1033) was held in December 2005 and met with great interest among visitors and the professional public. A catalogue of the exhibited work was published.
5. Petr Savický: the book *Unexpected Poems [Nečekané básně]* (grant project number 2011) was published in September 2005 in the series Little Library of Russian Tradition, and is distributed via our organization and several book shops (see the information about the publication of this book in the periodical RS 4/2005, p. 8).

Of the grant projects implemented with the support of the Ministry of Culture, the most significant is the project for the publication of the periodical *Russkoye slovo* [Russian Word], which has been taking place for three years. The periodical is recognized among other periodicals of national minorities for its literary and publicist quality and for the high standard of its graphic design. Members not only of the Russian national minority, but also other Russian-speaking foreigners and Russian teachers at various levels of education are interested in the periodical, and it is also popular among those interested in the Russian language and culture. To mark the 60th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany, a larger mono-thematic issue was published with a higher print run, and was well received. In addition, the literary supplement *Vltava* was published twice.

The periodical and the civic association *Russian Tradition* prepared for the launch of the website at www.ruslo.cz, where exhaustive information will be available on the content of the periodical, along with an archive of key articles and information about the association's activities.

For the second consecutive year, the children's *Slovo dyetem* was published as a supplement to *Russkoye slovo*; this supplement is supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The supplement is distributed together with the periodical *Russkoye slovo* and part of the print run is targeted at Russian schools in the Czech Republic and schools where Russian is taught as a foreign language.

Support from the Ministry of Culture also contributed to the implementation of a project comprising a series of discussions on *Contentious Issues in the History of the Second World War*, devoted to the 60th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

In the implementation of this project, discussions were held with prominent historians from the Czech Republic and Russia in Lysá nad Labem, at the Teacher Training Faculty of Charles University, Prague, etc. This series culminated in an international conference held on 20 November with the participation of authorities such as V. Nálevka and J. Hrbek from the Czech Republic and N. Narochnickaya and V. Falin from Russia. (See the report on this event in the periodical RS 5/2005, p. 8).

Besides grant projects, *Russian Tradition* also held a number of events out of his own resources and in collaboration with other organizations. These events included:

- organizing a concert programme as part of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the liberation and end of the Second World War, called *Demarcating Dejvice*. This concert was held on 8 May 2005 (see the report on this event in the periodical RS 3/2005, pp. 8-9).

- an exhibition and forum of artists from Russia and the Czech Republic, called Gold-Beautiful, held on 20 September 2005 on the premises of Prague City Hall. The event was held under the aegis of councillor H. Halová and the ambassador of the Russian Federation in the Czech Republic, A.L. Fedotov (see the report on this event in the periodical RS 5/2005, p. 7).
- *Russian Tradition* was the co-organizer of a Russian Day at the races in Pardubice on 19 June 2005, where it organized the cultural and social programme for this event: an exhibition of work by the artist N. Gepp and a concert by the Russian ensemble from Permi, *Karavay* (see the report on this event in the periodical RS 4/2005, pp. 6-7).

Based on Decision No 52/18 991/2004 ORNK/ N the Association of Compatriots and Friends of Russian Tradition in the Czech Republic received a non-capital grant from the Czech national budget for 2005 totalling CZK 150,000. The resources were assigned for the implementation of a project called Cultural and Social Activities of *Russian Tradition* in 2005. During the implementation of this project, the following events were held:

- An event traditionally held by *Russian Tradition* every year in the Municipal House – the *Bravo Opera* gala concert. This time, the gala concert *Bravo opera* III was held to the satisfaction of the many visitors, music lovers, members of the Russian community and their fans, as has become the tradition, in the Municipal House on 20 November 2005 (see the report on this event in the periodical RS 6/2005, pp. 6-7).
- Ensuring the participation of representatives of Russian traditional culture at the international folk festival Prague Heart of Nations 2005. This project was implemented on 26-29 May 2005 and the Russians were represented by three groups from Tobolsko: Rosinochka, Syurpriz and Dolya (see the report on this event in the periodical RS 3/2005, p. 7).
- A concert to mark the tenth anniversary of the Children’s Ballet Theatre was held on the RSVK premises in Na Zátorce on 12 June 2005 and was met with great success (see the report on this event in the periodical RS 4/2005, p. 9).
- Michail Mikora (painter): an exhibition called Prague and Jazz was held in December 2005 and met with great interest among visitors and the professional public. A catalogue of the exhibited work was published.

Last year was significant for the whole of Europe and Russia. It was the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Therefore the *Association of Russian Groups in the Czech Republic* (‘Association’) devoted special attention to this event during its activities in 2005:

- In May 2005, the *Association* welcomed representatives of the Peace and Friendship Mission from Russia to the Jihomoravsko Region and held a concert by the winners of the Moscow international festival – competition of children’s and young people’s work, called Open Europe.
- In 2005, the *Association* hosted the first international festival of Russian song, poetry, current affairs and art called *In the Beginning was the Word*, to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. This festival was among the most significant events held in Brno and the Jihomoravsko Region in general. The festival took place under the aegis of the governor of the Jihomoravsko Region, Stanislav Juránek. Festival participants were Russian-speaking personalities from Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, England, Lithuania, Belarus, and Russia, who demonstrated their artistic work, took part in discussions and a cultural programme, and toured the sights of Moravia. The Russian and Czech media covered the festival. The works of the festival participants are included in the third issue of the Almanac *Souznění* [‘Harmony’].

From the second half of October 2005, the Russian School for the children of *Association* members and other interested parties began operating within the Association. The *Russian School* project is divided into several areas:

- the teaching of Russian (basic, conversation, individual, special intensive weekend courses),
- cultural awareness (events, lectures, video documents, etc),
- social events (including for children),
- special interest course – Russian Cook,
- series of Russian Folk Healing,
- presentation of new Russian technologies and production companies.

The *Association* continues the tradition of welcoming the New Year. This time, the *Hvězdopad* theatre company prepared a two-act performance for children and their parents. In the first act, guests were welcomed by Snow White and Grandfather Frost. Pupils of the *Russian School* who are actors in the junior *Hvězdopad* group ran a production of a fairy tale by the Soviet children's writer Samuil Marshak called *The Skilful Mouse*. There was also traditional round dancing with singing around a fine Christmas tree. The children recited poems and songs to Grandfather Frost that they had prepared for this event and in return received nice presents from him. The second act involved the young and talented poet, composer and performer Konstantin Lavrushin, the girls' choir *Sudarushka* and duets by Zuzana and Ruzana Melkumyan.

The *Association* is a permanent participant in all social events focusing on the life, traditions and cultural heritage of national minorities:

- the festival *Returning to Roots* in Brno,
- the folklore festival in Strážnice,
- the Christmas concert at Reduta Theatre.

The *Association* organizes tourist trips for its members to enjoy the beautiful areas of the Czech Republic. It also mediates networking between Czech companies and firms from the former USSR, and is working on the establishment of branches in St Petersburg, Cherkasy (Ukraine). The *Association* has had a branch in Nizhnii Novgorod, Russia, since 2002.

The *Association* is a regular contributor to the periodical *Russkoye slovo* and the newspaper *Česko dnes* ['The Czech Republic Today']; these are periodicals of the Russian minority in the Czech Republic that also provide information about the lives of *Association* members in Brno. A project for the establishment of a civic advice centre for the integration of foreigners is being prepared in cooperation with students from the Social Studies Faculty of Masaryk University.

The *Artek* group organizes social, sports and cultural events, especially in the capital. In 2005, a grant project took place called *How well the young people of various national minorities know Prague*. Projects from 2003 and 2004, *Prague – Real and Incredible* and *An Evening of the Music and Anecdotes of National Minorities*, continued, albeit on a lesser scale. The group established contact with young people from various national minorities.

Group members, representatives of the Russian national minority and foreigners try to keep in contact with their roots during their time in the Czech Republic, and also strive to learn as much as possible about Czech culture, history and tradition. Members of *Artek* meet regularly; they are not limited solely to grant projects. They put forward new ideas and discuss the group's future.

In 2005, the activities of the Russian minority were also reflected in the work of certain new organizations.

Prague became the seat of the *Vlast* Worldwide Endowment Fund for the Reconstruction and Development of Russian Civil Society. The aim of the fund is to gather resources in support

of the democratic, cultural, academic, and economic development of Russian civil society. It also focuses on the promotion and development of Russian-Czech social and cultural relations and joint programmes implemented in the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic. The fund's goal is to support charity programmes and events geared towards preserving the unity of the Russian nation, its specific national nature, spiritual and cultural values, and to support the fostering of civil society based on democratic principles and Christian traditions. The participation of this society in international cultural, political, economic and ecological organizations; support in the struggle with inhumane ideologies, Nazism, fascism, chauvinism, communism, xenophobia, religious intolerance, terrorism and sectarianism.

The civic association *Russian Culture in Prague and the Czech Republic* was established and registered in Prague under the aegis of this foundation. This association was set up to fulfil the goals mentioned above. Its first public performance was the organization and implementation of the International Children's Festival *Prague Winter Fairy-Tale*, with the participation of 300 children. Preparations are currently under way for the International Children's Festival *Prague Children's Summer*. This festival will be attended by more than 600 children from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and the Czech Republic.

Preparations are also progressing for the opening of the Russian International Free University, based in Prague, the graduates of which will make a major contribution to the inclusion of Russian society in the economic, cultural and other activities of the EU.

The *Union of Russian-Language Writers in the Czech Republic* was also set up in Prague. Its activities spread beyond the territory of the Czech Republic and enjoy deserved support and attention abroad.

The *Union of Russian-Language Writers in the Czech Republic* draws together not only writers and journalists, but also musicians, singers, photographers and other artists. Its activities are not limited to the publication of the literary almanac *Grafoman* (eight issues of this literary periodical have been published; its establishment was registered and duly appreciated by the Czech literary public, see *Literární noviny*, 30 August 2004, Zadražilová M., *Nejsou grafomani jako grafomani*, pp. 1,8), which makes room for the presentation of prose, poetry and current affairs texts by young beginners and by experienced and recognized writers. The Statutes of this Union and the content of all issues of *Grafoman* are published at <http://www.federation.name/>; in the Czech Republic, the Union also publishes books in Russian and Czech. Four books have been published so far:

- E. Samarina. *Dlouhá cesta domů* ['Long Way Home']. This book won second prize in the Veritas literature competition in England
- D. Mizgulin. *Dvě řeky* ['Two Rivers']. Verse translated into Czech
- Savelyev, *Vražda velkého gosudara* ['Murder of a Grand Prince']
- Savelyev, *Syndrom chronické únavy, uhranutí* ['Chronic Tiredness Syndrome, Bewitchment']

The Union took part in the International Book Fair *Book World 2005* and exhibited 26 books by Union members at its stand.

In addition to this, the Union holds regular, public meetings of members where new works are presented and evaluated, and cultural themes are discussed. Also, for the general Russian-Czech public, concerts and presentations are held where poetry and prose by Union members is presented alongside original music and musical interpretations of well-known Russian and world composers, songs, video screenings, etc. The most significant events include:

- 25 January 2005 – Presentation of *Grafoman* in the Russian Centre of Science and Culture, accompanied by a concert,
- 24 March 2005 – Cultural event by the Union of Russian-Language Writers in the Slavonic Library in Prague,

- 7 April 2005 – Half-Open Day, concert and performance by the Union,
- 26 May 2005 – ‘Time to meet in candlelight’, meeting of authors and readers, concert,
- 8 September 2005 – ‘On our way, blowing our horn, move aside’, evening of literature and music,
- 30 May 2005 – ‘Laugh Therapy’, concert at the Vltava Cultural Centre,
- 16 December 2006 – Results of the Union’s activities in 2005, evening of literature and music.

Unfortunately, the Union of Russian-Language Writers currently receives no support from any Russian or Czech governmental organizations or from independent sponsors. The almanac is published at the expense of the Union’s members, which severely limits its activities.

GREEK MINORITY⁷¹⁾

Representatives of the Greek Communities in Šumperk and Prague praise the constructive approach adopted by employees of the municipal authority in Ústí nad Orlicí, whose contribution helped complete the list of compatriots who died in 1951 - 1962, who had been placed in the treatment institution in Těchonín. The list is available on the official website of the *Greek Community* in Šumperk.

The *Lyceum for Greek Girls in the Czech Republic* cites examples of good cooperation in national-minority life with the Museum in Krnov, in the scope of the exhibition of *Greek Art and Ethnography in the Collection of Lyceum Books*, which was held as part of the *Greek Days in Krnov 2005*. The *Greek Community in Karviná* provided assistance for a performance by the dance group of the *Lyceum for Greek Girls* at the local festival in Karviná. Cooperation with the organizers of folklore festivals and meetings of the national minorities of the Jihomoravsko Region in Brno is traditionally good. The Greek minority regularly takes part in events in the Jihočesko Region – *Returning to Roots, Harmony of Europe 2005* and *Living in the Same Town*.

Cooperation continues with the *Hellenika* endowment fund, especially in the organization of transport to the *Menelaida* festival in Karditsi, Greece, and transport within the scope of the project *On the trail of Greek emigration*.

SLOVAK MINORITY

The international folk festival *Prague – Heart of Nations, Folk Without Frontiers, Christmas with Limbora, Mexican Evening with Limbora at the Club of Slovak Culture (KSK)*, KSK programmes at the Slovak Institute: *Days of Dominik Tatarka* (the zone for secondary schools *Between Prague and Paris*), *Slovak Afternoon of St Nicholas*, a presentation of the children’s book *Chumáčik*, the second Prague conference of secondary school pupils, called *Slovakia Through My Eyes*, an exhibition at the Teplice Municipal Gallery by the KSK in cooperation with the regional Teplice unit called *Between Rationality and Passion*, the zone for children called *Through poetry and song into fairy tales, come with us* (KSK, 10 performances in Prague and other towns).

Several performances by the children’s ensemble *Limborka* were organized at Motol Hospital for children in the oncology ward and at other hospitals.

⁷¹⁾ Besides the information supplied by the Council member, the submitter of the report notes that the *Hellenika* endowment fund also supported the project of the *Association of Greek Communities in the Czech Republic – Monument to Greeks Settled in the Czech Republic*, which was unveiled on 29 October 2005 in the Smetana Gardens in Krnov, based on a design by the Brno teacher and artist Lefteris Joanidis.

Cooperation between KSK and the Teplice Union in the *Month of Czech-Slovak Cultural Reciprocity*, October 2005 – five joint programmes.

In the field of legislation, the main forward shift in 2005 was the preparation for the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages; the degree of cultural activity by the Slovak national minority in the field of live culture and in the dissemination of information in the language of the national minority (periodicals and occasional publications) is exceptional. Local authorities responded superbly to events such as *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic*. We also appreciate unconventional forms of support, e.g. the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic provides room at its seat, Nostický Palace, to the *Slovak-Czech Club* to hold *Slovak Salons*.

Púčik is a folk civic association representing and drawing together children and young people – members of the Slovak national minority – in South Moravia.

The *Púčik* folk association set up the *Púčik* folk ensemble, which, ever since its foundation in 1991, has focused on the interesting use of free time for young people, especially as regards maintaining and preserving the folk traditions and customs from all regions of Slovakia.

In the production and presentation of traditional folk culture in 2005, it fostered mutually beneficial cooperation with state administration authorities, cultural organizations and other organizations active in the Jihomoravsko Region.

The *Púčik* folk ensemble offered interesting use of free time in a special-interest club for young people in Brno and the broader environs.

Every year, it prepared a dance workshop during the spring and autumn holidays for its members from the children's folk ensemble and from the adult ensemble, as well as for any members of the general public who are interested. At this dance workshop, experienced dance teachers and choreographers teach dances from the various regions of Slovakia.

The aim of the dance school was to teach participants, in a simple way, the basic dance elements and dance motifs from selected Slovak regions. It also developed dance motifs into a choreographed piece so that workshop participants had a coherent overview of dance forms in the individual regions of Slovakia. In our preparations for the dance school, we looked for old, forgotten dance materials, and invited quality experts who choreographed these materials and taught them to the dance school participants in a simple way. We videoed dance school classes to archive them for future generations of new ensembles, dancers and people interested in the folk culture of the Slovak people.

The *Púčik* folk ensemble is actively involved in the cultural and social life of Brno and the surrounding area; the ensemble separately organized concerts and performances for children and adults. It performs at promotional and side events in Brno and in the vicinity.

The *Púčik* ensemble is also involved in charity work, especially for disabled children and seniors; it organizes concerts of an educational nature for children from schools in Brno.

Through regular work with young people in the group, we tried to revive, develop and preserve the old, forgotten folk heritage that can be found in dances, songs and customs stored and protected over the decades by our forefathers. In complex conditions, and in the hubbub of the city, we wanted to show young people the values of folk culture and heritage that our grandfathers left us in songs, dance, music, embroidery, and in beautiful, brightly coloured folk costumes.

SERBIAN MINORITY

In 2005, the *Serbian Association of St Sava* started organizing club meetings of association members and persons interested in the Serbian minority. These meetings were met with enthusiasm, joy and élan by members and will continue to be developed and organized. At

these club meetings, lectures and talks were arranged with significant guests and members of the association. Members of the Serbian minority were very pleased halfway through last year to receive the first issue of a periodical which the association started publishing in Serbian with support from the Ministry of Culture. This is the only link to majority society, and the periodical also prints items which they are interested in hearing about – news from the Czech Republic and Serbia. They were also enthusiastic about the appearance of the periodical, the quality of printing and the paper, and even suggested that the paper could be of a lesser quality if this would mean issues could be printed more frequently; based on half a year's experience, this proved unfeasible. The association will be able to discuss a change in periodicity of *Serbské slovo* [Serbian Word] only after it has gained several years more experience.

UKRAINIAN MINORITY

In particular, it appreciates the support of local authorities (see section 6.2).

JEWISH COMMUNITY⁷²⁾

Lauder schools attached to the Jewish School in Prague

o *Gur Arje primary school*

Teaching at the primary school builds on the approved educational programme 'Primary school with extended language teaching'. Pupils are taught the same range of materials as at other primary schools, and the curriculum is complemented with Jewish themes. Children start working with computers from the first grade.

English lessons begin in the third grade. These lessons are divided between a Czech teacher and a native speaker. The Czech teacher focuses on grammar, vocabulary and writing. The native speaker mainly practises conversation skills with the pupils.

Hebrew lessons begin in the sixth grade. In all higher grades, conversation with a native speaker is available in clubs. First-graders may also enrol in a Hebrew club, where this language is introduced to them: they learn their first Hebrew words in the form of songs, poems and nursery rhymes. Hebrew lessons are provided by a native speaker who can also speak Czech. The teaching of other languages, e.g. German and French, is provided in afternoon clubs.

Pupils work in small classes (with a maximum of 20 pupils) with a wide range of afternoon activities, and visits to theatres, exhibitions and concerts. Excursions to places associated with Jewish history are regularly organized. Children also go to the mountains and school trips to the country.

Health programme: daily movement, where possible outside, trips to the country, drinks.

Transport to the school for first-tier pupils – by agreement and depending on capacity – is organized by microbus.

In the afternoon, the school offers pupils a library and clubs. After-school care centre for grades 1-5: time outside, games, walks, playtime, homework. There is a school club for the second tier of primary school.

⁷²⁾ The documentation was prepared by a permanent guest of the Council, Tomáš Kraus.

Distribution of themes related to Jewish education and Hebrew:

Primary School Tier One			Primary School Tier Two		
Grade 1	Tora and festivals	2 lessons per week, compulsory	Grade 6	Traditions, laws, prayers	2 lessons per week, compulsory
	Hebrew	2 lessons per week, optional club		Hebrew	2 lessons per week, compulsory
Grade 2	Tora and festivals	2 lessons per week, compulsory	Grade 7	Traditions, laws, prayers	2 lessons per week, compulsory
	Hebrew	2 lessons per week, optional club		Hebrew	2 lessons per week, compulsory
Grade 3	Tora and festivals	2 lessons per week, compulsory	Grade 8	Jewish history, Israel	2 lessons per week, compulsory
	Hebrew	2 lessons per week, optional club		Hebrew	3 lessons per week, compulsory
Grade 4	Tanakh and festivals	2 lessons per week, compulsory	Grade 9	Jewish history, Israel	2 lessons per week, compulsory
	Hebrew	2 lessons per week, optional club		Hebrew	3 lessons per week, compulsory
Grade 5	Tanakh and festivals	2 lessons per week, compulsory			
	Hebrew	2 lessons per week, optional club			

o *Or khadash* grammar school

This school has a comprehensive curriculum. The aim of the school is to provide education within the scope of European, Czech and Jewish culture. The school is open to all students with Jewish roots and to those who want to come to grips with Jewish culture and tradition. Classes form small collectives and offer a personal approach. Teaching takes place in accordance with state curricula published by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for grammar schools. However, the teaching plan is adapted to the features specific to this grammar school, i.e. the rudiments of Judaism and Hebrew. Besides compulsory English and Hebrew, the school also offers French and German.

The grammar school organizes various trips, cultural events and educational projects with a Jewish theme.

The school also offers skiing lessons, sports trips in the countryside, and trips to France and Israel. Students can use a modern computer study room and library containing reference literature and fiction.

Distribution of the teaching of Hebrew and Jewish studies

grade 1	Oldest history of the Jews and basic aspects of Jewish life and institutions 2 lessons per week, compulsory
	Hebrew 2 lessons per week, compulsory
grade 2	Jews and Judaism in the Middle Ages and modern period 2 lessons per week, compulsory
	Hebrew 2 lessons per week, compulsory
grade 3	Jews in the era of emancipation and integration into European nation states 2 lessons per week, compulsory
	Hebrew 3 lessons per week, compulsory
grade 4	Shoah, the establishment of Israel, modern streams of Judaism and current developments in Judaism in the Czech Republic and the world 2 lessons per week, compulsory

Hebrew 3 lessons per week, compulsory
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Since its foundation, the school has published a school calendar every year where Jewish festivals, the start of the Sabbath and the dates of parents' evenings and other significant school events are marked.

The school has published a Jewish cookbook, which sums up kosher teaching and offers recipes for the preparation of traditional dishes.

6.4. Problems that had to be tackled in 2005 in connection with national-minority issues

BULGARIAN MINORITY

After almost two years of effort, the minority succeeded in reaching a consensus on the nomination of a representative of the Bulgarian minority for the Council. This had been one of the most serious problems throughout the Bulgarian minority. The representative of the Bulgarian minority in the Council is confident that many vague areas and problems will gradually be resolved and that the Bulgarian minority as a whole will be viewed in a positive light.

CROATIAN MINORITY

No documentation was supplied.

HUNGARIAN MINORITY

- The national-minority policy of the Czech Republic is implemented in the form of grant schemes, especially those announced by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The results of these annual grant schemes are uncertain and often do not depend on the previous results attained by an organization. Therefore the planning of the *Union's* activities for future years is complicated. Also, increasing numbers of organizations are applying for grants in the individual grant schemes every year, but the amount of the resources distributed has remained stagnant for many years; this means the activities of the organizations involved have had to be toned down.
- The *Union of Hungarians* does not have sufficient funds to operate a secretariat with a paid worker, and therefore there are problems in the coordination of cooperation with organizational units; as a result, there are occasional absences from national activities of national minorities. At the same time, the preparation and accounting of the grants that are announced requires increasing professionalism and is becoming more time-consuming. Also, further government and other institutions (e.g. the Office of the Government, the Hungarian Embassy, etc.) expect our active cooperation. All these activities, which often take place in working hours, however, cannot be handled at the same time as normal employment. In order to pay a member of staff to do this work for us, we have to draw on our already dwindling resources from grants. Therefore we would welcome a solution to this problem.
- We wait in great anticipation of the protracted establishment of a *House of Nationalities in Prague*; the approval of a plan and selection of an appropriate building are considered to be a very constructive step by the representatives.
- Following the floods in 2002, we have been unable to resume radio broadcasting for the Hungarian national minority.
- In Ostrava, a large city, no advisory body has been set up for national minorities, even though Ostrava is one of the largest multinational cities in the Czech Republic.

- At the Moravskoslezsko Regional Authority, there is a Committee for National Minorities, but no one represents our minority in this committee. From what we gather, it has eleven members, two of whom are members of the Polish nationality (incidentally, they are also members of the regional assembly), and the others are Czechs.⁷³⁾
- Last year was the first year in which the *Plzeň Unit* did not receive a grant from the City of Plzeň.
- A common problem in involving the younger generation in the activities and life of organizations run by the Hungarian national minority is now being successfully dealt with thanks to the members of folk dance groups.

GERMAN MINORITY

One of the German minority's problems in 2005 was, again, the demand for a humanitarian gesture which the members of this minority are expecting from the Czech government. For a long time, the German minority has been involved in talks to right wrongs and to ensure the moral rehabilitation of Czech citizens of German nationality. This year, it received Prime Minister Paroubek's apology addressed to the Sudeten German social democrats and anti-fascists positively. However, at the same time, it also expected a shift in the promised negotiations regard the humanitarian gesture for the German minority living in the Czech Republic, which was meant to have taken place by the end of 2005. Most members, especially the older generation of the German minority, were very disappointed with a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Němec, briefly stating that the entire matter had been resolved by Prime Minister Paroubek's apology.

Based on the progress in this case and other circumstances, the German minority feels like a category of second-class citizens, and, as other specific cases have shown, this minority is often overlooked in official events of self-governing bodies with German partners or in the support of local authorities in general.

Another problem was the low percentage of grants earmarked for the publication of the minority's printed materials. The publication of a newspaper is highly costly; considering the inadequate education in the mother tongue, the contributions sent in have to be translated and edited. The set requirement of finding 30% of the value of the donation from our own resources (CZK 1,778,000) is very high and very hard to comply with. Even so, the *Assembly of Germans* and its unions in the regions do their utmost, even through their own financial resources, to keep the newspaper alive and improve the quality of union activities.

Irrespective of the many disappointments, we would still like to express our gratitude for the financial assistance we receive for our activities. We are confident that in the future many problems will be resolved and that Czech citizens of German nationality will live to see recognition and rehabilitation.

The greatest problem for the minority's second representative in the Council continues to be the publication of the newspaper *Prager Volkszeitung*. Difficulties in the past resulted in the late allocation of grants by the Ministry of Culture, i.e. the grantor. Recently, this has been compounded by the requirement to respect the increased percentage of co-financing for the project (and the cancellation of the possibility of seeking an exemption), which in our case means putting together a contribution of roughly CZK 500,000 from our own resources. We cannot generate this amount of money from sales. Receipts from advertising or contributions from sponsors are impossible to find because this is not an interesting group of consumers, and so the strict insistence on this requirement essentially means that our newspaper will have

⁷³⁾ The eleven-member committee of the Moravskoslezsko Region is composed of members of the assembly, not explicitly of the representatives of minorities.

to be closed down through administration. A general problem is the ageing of our membership base; the number of members and their mobility is diminishing. Therefore, mediating information through a periodical is of exceptional significance for us.

POLISH MINORITY

The rights held by members of national minorities are defined by various laws. They are defined in particular by Act No 128/2000 on municipalities, Section 29 of which regulates the issue of the use of the name of a municipality, or parts, streets, and other public spaces in municipalities, and the labelling of the buildings of State authorities and regional government in the languages of national minorities. The law also stipulates that such a language may be used only if at least 10% of the municipality's inhabitants claimed membership of that nationality in the last census and if at least 40% of the municipality's inhabitants of legal age claiming membership of this national minority request this use by means of a petition. In our opinion, this is not a good solution to the issue of bilingualism.⁷⁴⁾ Therefore we request that the requirement to organize a petition be deleted from this law. We request that bilingual signs be introduced automatically in all municipalities where, according to the last census, the national minority accounts for more than 10% of the municipality's inhabitants.

In 2005, the Polish periodical *Głos Ludu* almost folded. Due to irregularities in the accounting of the government grant from 2002, the grant for 2005 was suspended until remedial action had been taken. The grant was not released until halfway through 2005. The collapse of the newspaper was just days away. The newspaper's publisher (the *Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic*) regrets that it was treated so harshly. The state should proceed in such cases with greater understanding and sensitivity. The closure of a newspaper which has more than 3,500 subscribers and has been published for 60 years could create a public backlash, which would hardly benefit the Czech state. Not to mention the fact that practically overnight it would also destroy the publisher, which has inherited the mantle of efforts by the Polish minority in the Czech Republic to preserve its cultural identity. The efforts of several generations would be ruined.

The publication of a brochure to mark the first written mention of the municipality of Hnojník was very embarrassing and insulting for the Polish minority. Based on a categorical demand from the *Congress of Poles*, the municipality itself resolved the matter culturally and withdrew the brochure from sale. There was also a scandalous incident at the local post office, where a member of staff of the Czech Post Office incorrectly informed the head teacher of the Polish primary school of the inappropriateness of using the Polish language at the post office. The headquarters of the Czech Post Office apologized for the unseemly behaviour of its staff. A more serious matter was the case of the unjust statement by the municipal chairman in the press, which blamed the Poles for the problems in accounting for the government grants intended for the reconstruction of the Polish and Czech school, because the state also forced him to repair the Polish school and the municipality could not cover the require co-financing; therefore the municipality had problems in accounting for the grants due to the Poles. Thanks to the prompt response by the Ministry of Finance, which waived Hnojník's irregularities in the accounts, this media coverage did not fan the flames of intolerance.

ROMA MINORITY

We consider the minimum participation of Roma in television programmes on Roma to be a problem. It would be advisable for a television programme about Roma to be produced by a Roma organization experienced in this field, such as *Dženo*.

⁷⁴⁾ For more information on this problem see chapter 2, section 3.2.1.

Although the Czech Government has approved a programme of Roma integration and supports a number of good programmes and projects, unfortunately we remain in a situation where Roma are the sub-population at most risk of discrimination and social exclusion. Problems have persisted long term in housing (the forced ejection of Roma from their flats as rent debtors; segregated housing is on the rise).

Young Roma have little opportunity to obtain their own housing. Therefore they live in small, hygienically unsound, overcrowded flats. Long-term unemployment causes poverty, which leads to a rise in crime, especially usury. The government concept does not offer a fundamental solution in these key areas. We consider a fundamental matter to be the unresolved issue of demolishing the pig farm on the site of the former concentration camp in Lety, near Písek.

RUTHENIAN MINORITY

Specific cases were not presented.

RUSSIAN MINORITY

The allocation of land for the construction of a Spiritual, Cultural and Social Centre continues to drag on. The parcel has been transferred by the government to the Praha 10 municipal ward, but its release for this purpose is being held up by administrative obstacles. The whole affair has been going on for several years. In connection with the prepared merger of the Russian and foreign Orthodox Church, this issue has attracted increased interest at international level (the heads and highest representatives of the Orthodox Church in Greece, Serbia, France, Germany, the USA and the Russian Federation), and during 2006 we can expect publicity in the mainstream world media.

Similarly, the matter of unsuitable behaviour by certain members of the foreign police, including demands for bribes to extend residence permits and similar administrative actions, has taken a long time to handle. The police president believes this is a marginal problem, and therefore he has refused to use (claiming it would be too difficult) the method of controlled provocation by using responses to the many advertisements offering fixed rates for the handling of citizenship, expulsions, the granting of residence permits, etc. We agreed with the police president that we would bring him witnesses who had been subject to this procedure. Considering the warranted concerns of these witnesses for their lives, we expect that some of these people will decide to move from the Czech Republic and will be willing to testify. For the time being, this problem is handled within the community by public charity collections at the church for those applicants who do not have their own resources for the provision of the bribes that are demanded.

We often encounter negative attitudes towards Russians. For example, on 27 June 2005 the newspaper MF DNES ran an article on the folk festival in Strážnice, in which the author Vojtěch Smola wrote with scorn of the performance by the *Sudarushka* ensemble, which sang Russian folk songs: 'The group of six Russian women, whose repertoire was reminiscent of former Soviet agitation celebrations, was laughable more than anything.'

Unfortunately, the Russian minority still has no representatives in Brno's self-governing bodies or in the Council for National Minorities of the Jihomoravsko Region.

In connection with the problem of involving young people in national-minority activities, members of the *Artek* group have targeted cooperation with the young people of other national minorities. They want to make their activities more attractive and materially more efficient in this way.

However, the group does not have sufficient sponsorship. Projects in 2003 and 2004 were not to plan because of the lack of resources.

GREEK MINORITY

Most civic associations of the Greek minority do not state any major problems. Only the *Lyceum for Greek Girls in the Czech Republic* and the *Hellenika* endowment fund mention complications connected with rented premises and the amount of rent, but these problems were resolved in coordination with the representatives of Brno City Hall to the parties' mutual satisfaction.

SLOVAK MINORITY

Representatives of the Slovak national minority in the Council did not supply a joint text.

SERBIAN MINORITY

A basic problem which had to be resolved not only in 2005, but also this year, is the acquisition of premises for club meetings and the editors of *Srbské slovo*. Although the association has taken part in award procedures announced by Praha 1 Municipal Ward and Prague City Hall several times, it has not obtained premises, to the regret of the membership base. Therefore, it was forced to hire premises for club meetings at great expense. But we remain hopeful that premises will be found for the Serbian minority in Prague.

UKRAINIAN MINORITY

Problems suffered by the minority in the Czech Republic are mainly related to social-law matters.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

No documentation was supplied.