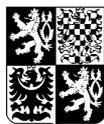


Office of the Government of the Czech Republic
Council of the Government for National Minorities

Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2001

June 2002

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



RESOLUTION

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Nr. 600 from June 12, 2002

to the Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2001

The Government

I. takes into account Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic in 2001 included in Part III of the document Nr. 731/02;

II. imposes on

1. the Vice-Chairman of the Government and the Chairman of Legislative Council of the Government in co-operation with the Minister of Finance on elaborating the chapters of the State Budget "The General Cash Administration Chapter", the item for the reconstruction of premises for establishing the House of National Minorities in Prague at the amount of 20,000 CZK which will be used as a subsidy for the capital Prague, into the government bill of Act on the State Budget of the Czech Republic for the year 2003;

2. the Minister of Finance in co-operation with the Vice-Chairman of the Government and the Chairman of Legislative Council of the Government, the first Vice-Chairman of the Government, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports on elaborating the proposal of measures for the financial support of activities of the members of national minorities and the integration of the Roma community within the reform of public administration reflecting the role of regions since the year 2004 and its submitting to the Government until July 31, 2003;

3. the Vice-Chairman of the Government and the Chairman of Legislative Council of the Government in co-operation with the Minister and the Head of Office of the Government on elaborating information on the implementation of the project mentioned in item II/1 of this Resolution and its submitting to the Government until January 31, 2004;

III. authorises the Prime Minister to submit the report mentioned in item 1 of this Resolution to the Speaker of Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and the President of Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in order to inform respective committees of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

Performed by:

Prime Minister,

First Vice-Chairman of the Government and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs;

Vice Chairman of the Government and Chairman of Legislative Council of the Government and Chairman of Council of the Government for National Minorities,

Minister of Finance, Minister of Culture, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports,

Minister and Head of the Office of the Government.

Noted by:

chief executive officers,
mayors of statutory towns.

Prime Minister
Ing. Miloš Zeman

per proxy
JUDr. Pavel Rychetský
Vice-Chairman of the Government

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1. Demographic aspects

Basic data on the composition of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic, who acknowledge their membership in national minorities, result nowadays only from censa. The last census which took place on March 1st. 2001, was stipulated in Act Nr.158/1999 Coll. This census was preceded by discussions, inter alia on the identification of ethnicity and mother tongue of individuals. During it everybody could enter his ethnicity on the census sheet according to his option. There was no list of nationalities in the column "Ethnicity" and everybody could decide to enter a ethnicity which he/she wanted to declare. Respective methodology instructions determined that, for the identification of a person's ethnicity, neither mother tongue nor used language was important, only his own decision. If a person acknowledges his membership in more than one or none of the national minorities, such information is registered as well. The ethnicity of children younger than 15 years conformed with the ethnicity of the parents. On the other hand, the column "Mother Tongue" required a respondent to enter a language spoken by his mother or foster parent in his childhood. For example Czech, Slovak, Roma, Polish and German languages could be registered in a free column.

The Czech Statistic Office (CSO) in co-operation with the secretariat of the Council of the Government for National Minorities ensured that the printing of the census sheets and methodology instructions were also in minority languages, i.e. Polish, German, Roma, Ukrainian and Russian. In addition, documents were printed in English, French, Vietnamese, Arabic and Chinese. The representatives of national minorities, especially the Roma, participated in the census as assistants or census commissioners (in co-operation with the former Inter-Departmental Commission for Affairs of the Roma Community, 143 persons participated in the census as Roma assistants). The CSO evaluated co-operation with the representatives of national minorities during the census, mostly in a positive manner. Nevertheless, the representative of the Polish minority evaluated negatively the shortage of information for the members of national minorities due to a lack of documents printed in minority languages. The Polish representative also considers the selection of census commissioners from national minorities (by individual communities which proposed concrete persons) to be obscure. In addition, he evaluated negatively the activity of the media which repeatedly gave information on the possible misuse of personal data collected during the census; that fact affected the total number of persons registered as members of national minorities.

The representatives of national minorities paid special attention to the preparation of the census. In minority periodicals they published regular information on this event and respective editorial boards repeatedly appealed to the members of a minority to declare their ethnicity.

According to the results of the census on March 1st. 2001, 1,022,318 persons (9.9%) in the Czech Republic declared other than the Czech ethnicity, including the Moravian and Silesian ones (392,524 persons, i.e. 3.8%). The results of the census show that 629,794 persons (6.1%) acknowledge their membership in other than the Moravian and Silesian minorities. It should also be stressed that the total number of inhabitants of the Czech Republic includes foreigners with permanent or long-term residency on the territory of the Czech Republic (the data on foreigners with short-term residence - mostly tourists - were not collected and they are not included in the final results of the census).

The information of the CSO shows that the total number of those who acknowledge their membership in national minorities is in accordance with final results, lower even by 60,000 people. It ensues from the fact that running results include persons enumerated doubly. The control of duplicity will make the data accurate and all data will be known from the final results of the census in autumn 2002. The final results of the census, embodied in the detailed classification of nationalities, will include inter alia the classification of duplicate nationalities Czech-Roma,

Czech-Slovak, Czech-Other, Moravian-Roma, Moravian-Slovak, Moravian-Other, Slovak-Roma and other combinations.

The inhabitants of the Czech Republic according to nationalities - the results of the census on March 1, 2001¹

Ethnicity	Total number		Men		Women	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total number of inhabitants Including ethnicity	10 294 822	100.0	5 016 688	100.0	5 278 134	100.0
Czech	9 297 735	90.3	4 501 317	89.7	4 796 418	90.9
Moravian	381 615	3.7	204 314	4.1	177 301	3.4
Silesian	10 909	0.1	6 600	0.1	4 309	0.1
Slovak	194 008	1.9	95 191	1.9	98 817	1.9
Polish	52 095	0.5	21 634	0.4	30 461	0.6
German	39 238	0.4	18 452	0.4	20 786	0.4
Roma	11 859	0.1	6 210	0.1	5 649	0.1
Hungarian	14 737	0.1	7 745	0.2	6 992	0.1
Ukrainian	22 189	0.2	9 976	0.2	12 213	0.2
Russian	12 418	0.1	4 650	0.1	7 768	0.1
Ruthenian	1 109	0.0	532	0.0	577	0.0
Bulgarian	4 383	0.0	2 724	0.1	1 659	0.0
Romanian	1 241	0.0	670	0.0	571	0.0
Greek	3 231	0.0	1 679	0.0	1 552	0.0
Vietnamese	17 586	0.2	10 862	0.2	6 724	0.1
Albanian	692	0.0	501	0.0	191	0.0
Croatian	1 594	0.0	894	0.0	700	0.0
Serbian	1 810	0.0	1 145	0.0	665	0.0
Others	39 632	0.4	23 692	0.5	15 940	0.3
Ethnicity is not mentioned	186 741	1.8	97 900	2.0	88 841	1.7

In comparison with the results of the census in 1991 all data on persons who declare other than the Czech ethnicity have decreased. In actuality this relates to the following nationalities: Silesian (by 74.7%), Moravian (72.6%), Roma (64.4%), Slovak (41.6%), German (21.1%), Polish (14.2%) etc. On the other hand, the percentage within the group “Other and Unidentified Ethnicity” has increased even by 364.7%. This is clear from the following table which includes the comparison of data on the most numerous minorities. The CSO presented

¹ Czech Statistical Office, data till February 25, 2002.

these results concerning selected minorities in the summary of results of the census on March 1, 2001: ²

	Total inhabitants	Ethnicity							
		Czech	Moravian	Silesian	Slovak	German	Polish	Roma	Others
1991	10 302 215	8 363 768	1 362 313	44 446	314 877	48 556	59 383	32 903	75 969
2001	10 292 933 (- 0.1%)	9 270 615 (+ 10.8 %)	373 294 (- 72.6%)	11 248 (- 74.7%)	183 749 (- 41.6 %)	38 321 (- 21.1 %)	50 971 (- 14.2 %)	11 716 (- 64.4 %)	353 019 (+ 364.4%)

The data on the census 2001 in this table differs from the results presented in the previous table which summarises the revised data published within the first running results of the census in July 2001.

The decrease of the number of persons who declare other than Czech ethnicity reflects the decreased number of persons who identify themselves with national minorities. Hypothetically there is a complicated series of phenomena which affect such a decrease: a) mixing the terms “ethnicity” and “citizenship”, b) homogenous character of the Czech Republic’s society after the division of the federation, c) response to the fact that filling in the column “Ethnicity” is not compulsory, d) unwillingness or fear to declare other than the Czech ethnicity, e) integration or assimilation of the members of national minorities etc. The reasons why the number of persons who declare other than the Czech ethnicity has been decreasing is a subject for discussion. They show that, for example, in the case of the Roma community this process reflects the social and cultural integration of the Roma into Czech society on one hand, and their leaning towards Czech language and ethnicity on the other. That is why a large part of the Roma declare Czech ethnicity and the use of Czech language. According to one of the first sociological analyses of results of the census in 2001, based on the data³ whose statistic value in regard to the Roma population living in the Czech Republic cannot be explicitly proved, it is possible to presume that Roma language is used here by one half of the Roma population or so. On the basis of data on the mother tongue it is possible to calculate that the number of Roma registered during the census in 2001 is about 72,000 persons. This ensues from the estimation of results of sociological research which is statistically arguable.

In spite of the fact that we still have no complete evaluation of data on all national minorities, their representatives presume that the number of members of national minorities resulting from the census in 2001 is under dimensioned. With respect to demographic development these data will be analysed in detail; the analyses based on collected statistical data should determine the indices for the qualified estimations of the demographic composition of the Czech Republic. It should also be stressed that although the results of the census represent official data on the demographic composition of the society, they are not absolute. Like other demographic information they serve the minority policy of the state only as one of the orientation indices.

With regard to the declaration of mother tongue within selected minorities the running results of the census in 2001 result in following: Czech language -94%, Slovak language - 2.0%, Polish language - 0.5%, German language - 0.4%, Roma language - 0.2%, Russian language - 0.2%, English language - 0.04%, other languages - 0.9%, unidentified - 0.9%.

² The Preliminary Results of the Census on March 1st. 2001. Prague, July 2001, p. 29.

³ Report on the course and results of analyses elaborated by Gabal, Analysis and Consulting The Qualified Estimation of the Number of Members of National Minorities with Special Respect to the Numerousness of the Roma Minority, Prague 2002, p. 15.

The combination of two mother tongues within selected minorities according to the census 2001: ⁴

Language Combination	Nb.	Sex		Age – date of birth			Ethnicity ⁵		
		man	woman	1986-2001	1941-1985	1940 & before	Czech	Second	Other
Czech and Slovak	14 092	6 959	7 133	1 802	10 343	1 947	8 111	4 613	1 368
Czech and Roma	12 967	6 557	6 410	3 462	9 086	419	9 238	2 155	1 575
Czech and Polish	2 551	1 216	1 335	376	1 760	415	1 418	940	193
Czech and German	11 049	5 557	5 492	1 045	6 047	3 957	6 902	3 018	1 129
Czech and English	732	357	375	423	271	38	537	27	168
Czech and Russian	670	288	382	151	405	114	446	111	113
Czech and others	4 067	2 071	1 996	1 182	2 269	616	2 229	1 239	599
Other combinations	3 238	1 615	1 623	207	2 256	775	X	x	x
Totally	49 366	24 620	24 746	8 648	32 437	8 281	X	x	x

In comparison with 1991 the geographic stratification of national minorities has not changed. According to the census in 2001 individual minorities settle in the following regions: ⁶

Region	Total inhabitants	Ethnicity							
		Czech	Moravian	Silesian	Slovak	German	Polish	Roma	Others
CR total	10 292 933	9 270 615	373 294	11 248	183 749	38 321	50 971	11 716	353 019
Prague	1 178 576	1 090 938	2 523	182	17 406	1 666	1 386	717	63 758
Middle-Bohemian	1 129 627	1 077 295	1 017	214	14 181	1 063	2 123	1 342	32 382
South-Bohemian	630 168	598 255	1 789	58	8 538	1 390	441	618	19 079
Pilsen	553 741	527 807	462	47	7 381	1 979	316	636	15 113
Karlovy Vary	306 799	267 403	740	25	13 655	8 701	358	727	15 190
Ústí n.l.	826 380	755 332	828	97	21 172	9 174	1 582	1 819	36 376
Liberec	430 769	401 317	461	72	8 197	3 618	1 886	621	14 597
Hradec Králové	554 348	524 836	594	52	8 128	2 536	1 812	736	15 654
Pardubice	510 079	485 699	2 920	59	5 571	593	637	519	14 081
Highlands	521 212	477 207	25 533	44	3 597	316	250	208	14 057
South-Moravian	1 133 916	885 939	195 770	202	15 452	976	755	624	34 198
Olomouc	642 465	560 880	47 841	224	10 651	1 704	746	857	19 562
Moravian-Silesian	1 277 095	1 109 494	28 980	9 881	42 357	4 377	38 249	1 977	41 780
Zlín	597 758	508 213	63 836	91	7 453	228	430	315	17 192

⁴ According to the information of Czech Statistical Office (data till March 22nd. 2002) 49,000 persons entered more than one ethnicity into their census sheets. The table also includes the information as to which ethnicity was declared by those persons.

⁵ From 14,092 persons who declared Czech and Slovak as their mother tongue 8,111 persons were of Czech ethnicity and 4,643 of Slovak ethnicity. The rest of them (1,368 persons) declared a ethnicity other than Czech or Slovak.

⁶ The Preliminary Results of the Census, p. 30-31.

Most of the Slovaks live on the territory of the Moravian-Silesian region (42,357 persons, most of them in districts Karviná and Ostrava) Ústí region (21,172), Prague (17,406), South-Moravian region (15,452), Middle-Bohemian region (14,181) and Karlovy Vary region (13,655).

Most of the Poles, i.e. approximately 80%, live in the Moravian-Silesian region (38,249), on the territory of Cieszyn-Silesia in districts Karviná and Frýdek-Místek; many of them live in Prague too.

Most of the Germans live in the border districts (in Ústí region 9,174 persons, in Karlovy Vary region 8,701, Moravian-Silesian region 4,377, Liberec region 3,618, Hradec Králové region 2,536, Pilsen region 1,979 and Olomouc region 1,704) and in Prague, the Middle-Bohemian and the South-Moravian regions.

Most of the Ukrainians live in the following towns: Prague, Karlovy Vary, Děčín, Brno, Přerov and Ostrava. The representatives of the Ukrainian minority state that the number of its members is about 30,000 persons, representing both historical and contemporary immigration; in addition, there are approximately 50,000 foreign workers from Ukraine on the territory of the Czech Republic.

Most of the Hungarians live in the North-Bohemian and Moravian-Silesian regions and in the Prague, Pilsen, East-Bohemian, South-Moravian and South-Bohemian regions.

During the census 12,418 persons declared Russian ethnicity. Most of them live in Prague, the Pardubice region, Karlovy Vary, Olomouc, Brno, Ústí nad Labem and Jičín.

Although Roma ethnicity was declared by 11,716 persons living largely in the Middle-Bohemian region, the Ústí region and the Moravian-Silesian region, it is clear that these data on the number of members of the Roma minority do not correspond to the real numbers of Roma in the Czech Republic. In general it is presumed that the number of members of the Roma minority oscillates between 150,000-200,000 persons. Most of the Roma live in the Moravian-Silesian region (Ostrava-Karviná agglomeration) and the Ústí region (Ústí nad Labem, Děčín, Most, Chomutov), the Middle-Bohemian region, the Olomouc region and Prague.

Most of the Bulgarians live in large towns (Prague - app. 1,500 persons, Brno - app. 500 persons, Ostrava - app. 500 persons, Ústí nad Labem and precincts - app. 200 persons, Pilsen and precincts - app. 200 persons, Chomutov and precincts - app. 200 persons, Olomouc and precincts - app. 100 persons, Kladno and precincts - app. 100 persons, Most and precincts - app. 100 persons, Mladá Boleslav and precincts - app. 100 persons). About 1,000 persons are settled in smaller communities.

The Croatians, who until 1948 lived in the South-Moravian communities (Jevišovka, Nový Přerov, Dobré Pole), are registered in 34 districts; most of them live in the South-Moravian and Olomouc regions.

Most of the members of the Ruthenian national minority (who were prohibited to declare their ethnicity during the previous regime) declared Czech ethnicity, while some of them declared a Ukrainian one. This national minority lives largely in Prague and the South-Moravian, North-Bohemian and Moravian-Silesian regions.

Most of the Greeks live in large towns (Prague and Brno), in Northern Moravia and scattered throughout the whole territory of the Czech Republic. During the census 3,231 persons declared Greek ethnicity but according to the estimations of representatives of the Association of Greek Communities in the Czech Republic about 7,000 Greeks live in this territory.

With respect to the demographic composition of our state the results of the census in 1991 and 2001 show the increase of persons who declare Moravian and Silesian ethnicity. Although

these two groups have scored absolutely the largest decrease in comparison with the year 1991 (while in 1991 Moravian ethnicity was declared by 13.2% of the participants of the census, in 2001 their percentage decreased to 3.6%), a large part of the inhabitants declare their Moravian and Silesian ethnicity even now:

	Total number of Inhabitants	Moravian ethnicity		Silesian ethnicity		Moravian and Silesian Ethnicity	
		Totally	%	Totally	%	Totally	%
South-Moravian region	1 133 916	195 700	17.3	202	0.02	195 972	17.3
Brno – city	379 185	69 455	18.3	105	0.03	69 560	18.3
Brno - country	159 886	33 778	21.1	22	0.01	33 800	21.1
Hodonín	160 427	23 935	14.9	13	0.01	23 948	14.9
Olomouc region	642 465	47 841	7.4	224	0.03	48 065	7.5
Moravian-Silesian region	1 277 095	28 980	2.3	9 881	0.77	38 861	3.0

Declaring Moravian and Silesian ethnicity during the census is undoubtedly a symptom of political changes after 1989; such a phenomenon can be considered the expression of Moravian historical identity, but it does not mean that this part of the Moravians and Silesians represent a national minority which differs from the majority by its ethnic origin, language and culture (in this case the variety of dialects and regional cultures cannot be made identical with national difference).

In comparison with 1991 the preliminary results of the census in 2001 do not include persons declaring Jewish ethnicity. During the census in 1991, 218 persons declared Jewish ethnicity; but in this case the preliminary results register the Jews only in the column “Region”: 1,527 inhabitants acknowledged their membership in the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic; in comparison with 1991 their number has increased by 235 persons. According to qualified estimations the number of the Jews now living in the Czech Republic is about 3,500 persons.

2. National minorities in the Czech Republic and the legal framework of their status

2.1. International context

2.1.1. Obligations resulting from multilateral agreements

The protection of rights of national minorities is in various ways guaranteed by international agreements which are binding for the Czech Republic. They are legal documents of the United Nations Organisation (indirect guarantee)⁷ and the Council of Europe.⁸ Performing obligations of the Czech Republic arising out of these agreements is included in reports which

⁷ International Pact on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 27); International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (indirectly Art.15/1a), Art.2; N.120/1976 Coll. on International Pact on Civil and Political Rights and International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Option Protocol to International Pact on Civil and Political Rights (N.169/1991 Coll.on Accession of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic to Option Protocol to International Pact on Civil and Political Rights).

International Convention on the Liquidation of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Art. 1, 2, 5; N.95/1974 Coll. on International Convention on the Liquidation of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Convention on the Rights of Children (Art.2/1; N.104/1991 Coll. on Convention on the Rights of Children).

Convention on Discrimination (Occupation/Profession (Art. 1/1; N.465/ 1974 Coll. on the adoption of Convention on Discrimination (Occupation/Profession).

The complete list of agreements of UN on human rights is published on the page <http://www.unhcr.cz>.

⁸ Convention of Council of Europe on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (N.209/1992 Coll. on the signature of Convention of Council of Europe on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as amended by Protocol N.3, 5 and 8).

the Czech Republic submits to competent control authorities. Information on reports discussed in 2001 is included in *Report on the State of Human Rights in the Czech Republic in 2001* elaborated by the government representative for human rights.⁹

The rights of national minorities according to European standards are defined above all in two documents of the Council of Europe: Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities (the only instrument of international law for the direct protection of rights of the members of national minorities (hereinafter "Framework Convention")¹⁰ and European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages (hereinafter "Charter").

2.1.1.1. Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities

Framework Convention (ETS 157) was signed in 1995 and the Czech Republic deposited ratification instruments to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe as a depositor of Framework Convention on December 18th. 1997. Then the Czech Republic submitted the Introductory Report on abiding by the principles determined by the Framework Convention according to Article 25, paragraph 1 to the Council of Europe on April 1st. 1999.¹¹

At its 10th. meeting in April 2001 the Advisory Committee adopted the position on performing the obligations arising out of the Framework Convention.¹² This was preceded by the Introductory Report of the Czech Republic on performing the obligations arising out of the Framework Convention and the official visit of members of the Advisory Committee in the Czech Republic on October 16-18th. 2000. The Advisory Committee valued the efforts of the government for supporting national minorities and their culture and creating the legal framework for the protection of national minorities and establishing advisory authorities as a guarantee of the implementation of minority policy.

In addition to positive evaluations there were also some negative ones in its opinion. The Advisory Committee took the view that it would be necessary to enforce legal guarantees of principles included in the constitutional order of the Czech Republic and the application of rights arising out of the Convention. In some fields it is necessary to enforce the implementation of existing principles. The Committee found other possibilities for improvement in complying with obligations concerning the participation of minorities in affairs relating to their protection against discrimination and violence, change of the way of behaviour of the police of the Czech Republic towards the Roma and better communication with them. The problematic issue is still discrimination of the Roma in various fields. Furthermore, attention was paid to the situation of minorities (even smaller ones) in the field of education (special schools), culture (access to media) and the possibility to use minority languages in communication with authorities.

⁹ The government discussed the Report at its meeting on April 17th. 2002 and adopted Resolution N.390.

¹⁰ Notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic N.96/1998 Coll. Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities.

¹¹ Information about the Observation of Principles determined by Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities was submitted to the government by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Chairman of Legislative Council on June 9th. 1999.

¹² Council of Europe ACFC/OP (2004) 4 - Advisory Committee to Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities. Opinion of the Czech Republic. Commentary of the Czech Republic on the basis of Rule N.27 of Resolution of Committee of Ministers (97) 10 to Opinion of Advisory Committee of Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities as to the performance of obligations resulting from this Agreement for the Czech Republic - ACFC/OP/I (2001) 4 from August 27th. 2001. The document is published on the web page of the Council of the Government for National Minorities <http://www.vlada.cz/1250/vrk/vtk.htm>.

The Commentary of the Czech Republic to the opinion concerned was submitted to the General Directorate of Council of Europe for Human Rights on August 27th. 2001.¹³ The recommendation on racial intolerance included in this document was added as a result of information on the assessed numbers of the backers of extremist movements, extremist crimes and co-operation between the criminal police dealing with the problem of extremism and Roma consultants of District Offices (measures of timely reporting the crimes against the Roma) and prevention from the occurrence of such crimes.

With respect to recommendations on the behaviour of the police of the Czech Republic towards the Roma, educational measures taken by the Ministry of the Interior¹⁴ and the implementation of the Programme for the prevention of criminality at local level.

In August 2001 the Ministry of the Interior started work on the project *Strategies for the Work of the Police in Relation to Ethnic Minorities*. It is a Czech-British project under the responsibility of Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the British Home Office. Its main aim is to apply principles of modern police work, laying stress on the concept of the police as an institution which serves the public and finding new sources of its legitimacy within a multicultural society. This strategy will include concrete measures and co-ordination of individual actions, resulting in better working methods of the police and contributing to the improvement of ethnic and national relations within the Czech Republic and qualitative changes in the behaviour of the police of the Czech Republic towards the Roma.¹⁵

For the purposes of elaborating the draft of the Resolution which the Czech Republic sent to the expert group for human rights of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in December 2001, additional information inter alia on discussions of the government bill of the School Act and establishment of the Council of the Government for National Minorities. On this occasion the Council of Europe received the English translation of the approved Act on the Rights of the Members of National Minorities and the status of the Council of the Government for National Minorities.

On February 6th. 2001 the commentary of the Czech Republic and the draft of respective conclusions and recommendations¹⁶ were discussed by the Committee of Ministers. After taking them up the Committee of Ministers publicised conclusions and recommendations in which it stated:

- the Czech Republic has reached out for remarkable progress in completing the legal framework for the protection of national minorities and the support of these minorities and their cultures, inter alia by the establishment of the new Council of the Government for National Minorities and committees for national minorities at local and regional level. Progress was also registered in relation to society;
- it is necessary to take further measures for ensuring the complete constitutional guarantees of many provisions of the Framework Convention.;

¹³ The commentary was elaborated with the active participation of the representative of national minorities. The document was then discussed by Council of the Government for National Minorities at its meeting on June 12th. 2001. It is published on the web page of the Council.

¹⁴ For example the project *Neighbours*, the seminars *Police Work in the Field of the Protection of National Minorities*, the courses *Preparation of the Members of National Minorities for Their Admission to Police of the Czech Republic* and preparation courses for the members of national minorities who have become policemen but have not completed their secondary education.

¹⁵ The draft of the Strategy will be elaborated by Ministry of the Interior on June 30th. 2002 and submitted for a comment procedure to all parties and non-governmental organisations.

¹⁶ Resolution ResCMN (2002)2 concerning the performance of obligations resulting from the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities for the Czech Republic. This document is published on the web page of Council of the Government for National Minorities, its original version is published on the page <http://humanrights.coe.int/minorities/Eng/FrameworkConvention/AdvisoryCommittee/Opinions/Czech%20Republic.htm>.

- in spite of strengthened activity of the government, there is still the need of improvement, especially with respect to the dialogue of individual cultures, their mutual tolerance and protection from ethnically motivated threats, as well as violence and hostility to the Roma. Although the authorities of the Czech Republic are ready to improve the situation of the Roma by long-term policy, some problems, especially with respect to their discrimination in various fields, still survives;
- it is necessary to take additional measures for the improvement of the situation of small national minorities in some fields such as education, access to media and use of minority languages in communication with authorities.

The Committee of Ministers recommended that the Czech Republic take account of these conclusions and various recommendations included in the opinion of the Advisory Committee. At the same time it called on the government to continue the dialogue with the Advisory Committee and inform it regularly about measures which have been taken for the application of the above conclusions and recommendations in accordance with Resolution (97)10. It is clear from the opinion of the Advisory Committee that the Czech Republic should give this information in one year from the adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee of Ministers.

2.1.1.2. European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages

The Council of Europe submitted the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages (ETS 148) for signature on November 5th. 1992.¹⁷

The government resolution to the signature of the Charter imposed on the members of the government (inter alia the Chairman of Council of the Government for National Minorities) to check the coincidence between legal regulations and the Charter and - if necessary - take appropriate measures which would enable them to comply to a full extent with obligations of the Czech Republic resulting from entering the Charter into force. For this reason the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the sectors involved and the Council of the Government (Council of the Government for National Minorities)¹⁸ for respective source materials. From measures included in these materials the Ministry of Foreign Affairs considered the proposal of Ministry of the Interior to ratify the Charter after the adoption of the draft of new Rules of Administrative Procedure to be the most important one. This draft also modifies the way of financing an administrative procedure in the case where its participants negotiate in their mother tongue. Since it is one of the basic rights of members of national minorities, and the Czech Republic still has, in the opinion of an international community (see above), several defects of form in this field, it was decided to meet the motion of the Ministry. With respect to the existing state of preparations of the draft of new Rules of Administrative Procedure the Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that it is suitable on the basis of received source materials to start a ratification procedure and consider the possibility to abolish an obligation to guarantee covering the expenses on negotiations of a participant of administrative procedure - a member of a national minority - in his mother tongue. Nevertheless, the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic did not approve the government bill of "Rules of Administrative Procedures" (chamber press Nr.1070/2) in its third reading in February 2002.

¹⁷ The government agreed with the signature of the Charter by its Resolution N.1029 from October 16th. 2000. The Czech Republic signed this document on November 9th. 2000 with a reservation to its ratification; it means that it is still not bound by this Resolution.

¹⁸ In this respect the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not recommend to link the protection of rights of the members of national minorities directly with European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages. As determined in Articles 10 and 11 of the Explanatory Report it has exclusively cultural aims; it determines neither individual nor collective rights of language and national minorities. Nevertheless, the protection of language contributes to the protection of one of the rights of members of national minorities.

The Council of the Government for National Minorities worked in 1999 and 2000 in detail on the proposals of representatives of national minorities and the possibility to ensure keeping obligations resulting from the Charter. According to the opinion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the preparation of the ratification procedure has not progressed a lot in 2001 because some legal regulations of the Czech Republic did not apply a sufficiently constitutional principle which would guarantee the rights of members of national minorities to use their mother tongue. For this reason the Czech Republic is able to assume only a minimum of obligations included in Article 10 of the Charter. Since the problem of the extent of obligations relating to the protection of minority languages is still unresolved it is necessary to mention the initiative of the Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic on March 20th. 2002. The Congress of the Poles established a working group which analysed respective provisions of the Charter and proposed the selection of its 35 compulsory items relating to the protection of Polish language as a regional minority language in Cieszyn.

2.1.2. Obligations resulting from bilateral agreements

The legal protection of national minorities plays a special role in bilateral agreements (including successive obligations) between the Czech Republic and neighbouring states where the obligations relate to the situation of German, Polish and Slovak national minorities. As a matter of fact they relate to agreements between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic,¹⁹ the Czech Republic and Poland²⁰ and the Czech Republic and Germany.²¹ In this context the representatives of respective national minorities often point out that obligations arising out of bilateral agreements are not kept sufficiently, especially with respect to members of the German national minority.

2.1.3. The legislation of the EU

¹⁹ An Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on good neighbourhood, friendly relations and cooperation (published as Agreement N.235/1993 Coll. on the Signature of Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on Good Neighbourhood, Friendly Relations and Cooperation). In Article 8 both states guarantee the legal protection and support of new minorities, i.e. the Slovak minority in the Czech republic and the Czech minority in the Slovak Republic and the development in the field of educational and cultural activities, the activities of clubs etc.

²⁰ Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on Good Neighbourhood, Solidarity and Friendly Cooperation (published as Agreement N.416/1992 Coll. on the Signature of Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on Good Neighbourhood, Solidarity and Friendly Cooperation). The position of the Polish national minority in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics is explicitly described in Article 8/1 - 4.

An agreement between the government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics and the Polish Republic on cultural and scientific cooperation (signed on September 16th. 1991) was not published in Collection of Laws of the Czech Republic. Its implementation has been repeatedly delayed. Bilateral obligations concerning the position of national minorities are specified in Article 6. For the purposes of the concretisation of the above Agreement, the governments of the Czech Republic and the Polish Republic signed on April 12th. 1996 a Programme of Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation between the Governments of the Czech Republic and the Polish Republic for 1996 - 1997. This Programme specifies the field of education of national minorities in Article 11.

²¹ An agreement between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics and the Federal Republic of Germany on good neighbourhood and friendly cooperation (published as Agreement N.521/1992 Coll. on the Signature of Agreement between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republics and the Federal Republic of Germany on Good Neighbourhood and Friendly Cooperation). The Agreement pays attention to the position of national minorities in Article 20/1-5 and Article 21/1-3.

The political document Czech - German Declaration on Mutual Relations and Their Future development (signed on January 21st. 1997). Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic agreed with this Declaration by Resolution N.221 from February 14th. 1997. Article V. of the Declaration determines obligations concerning the support of members of the German minority in the Czech Republic and persons of German origin in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The legislation of the EU does not amend the rights of national minorities. Nevertheless, the situation of national minorities must conform to the principles of non-discrimination. The protection of national minorities from discrimination and support of racial and ethnic equality is explicitly included in EU Directive N.2000/43/ES which determines the principle of equal treatment of persons regardless of their racial or ethnic origin; this Directive entered into force in member states on the day of its announcement in the ES Official Journal, i.e. on July 19th. 2000.²²

2.2. National legislation

The basic protection of national minorities in the Czech Republic is determined by constitutional laws - Act N.1/1993 Coll. The Constitution of the Czech Republic as amended by following regulations (hereinafter “Constitution”)²³ and Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Act N.2/1993 Coll. on the announcement of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as a part of the constitutional order of the Czech Republic, as amended by the following regulations - hereinafter “Charter”).²⁴ The rights of members of national minorities are amended by Act N.273/2001 Coll. on the rights of members of national minorities and the amendment of some laws (hereinafter “Minority Act”) that entered into force on August 2nd. 2001 as well as other laws amending the individual rights of members of national minorities.

The Minority Act specifies the rights of members of national minorities and the competence of ministries, administrative authorities and authorities of territorial self-administration units in relation to these rights. It determines basic terms “national minority” and “a member of a national minority” reflected by Recommendation of the Council of Europe N.1201 from 1993 with respect to an additional protocol on the rights of minorities to the European Convention on Human Rights (neither the Framework Convention²⁵ nor the Charter define a national minority as such). The Minority Act defines a national minority as “a community of the citizens of the Czech Republic who live on its present territory, differ from other citizens by their common ethnic origin, language, culture and traditions and represent the minority of inhabitants; at the same time they show the will to be considered a national minority in common effort to preserve and develop their own identity, language, culture and community which has been formed in the course of history”. A member of a national minority is “a citizen of the Czech Republic who declares other than the Czech ethnicity and shows the will to be considered a member of a national minority with other people declaring the same ethnicity”. This definition reflects Article 25 of the Charter which guarantees specific national rights to the citizens of the Czech Republic.

The legal framework of individual issues concerning the rights of national minorities or the amendments of legal regulations which relate to the application of these rights is determined in the Minority Act in accordance with the Charter and the Framework Convention. It relates to the free option of membership in a national minority, association, participation in resolving

²² The partial implementation of this Directive is determined by § 14 of Act N.273/2001 Coll. on the rights of members of national minorities, amending Act N.2001/1990 Coll. on infractions, as amended by following regulations.

In the legislation of the EU the wider framework of the forbidding of discrimination is included in Directive N.2000/78/EC which determines the general framework for equal treatment at work. This Directive entered into force on December 2nd. 2000.

²³ Article 6 of the Constitution : „ Political decisions must result from the will of the majority and must be expressed by free voting. The decisions of the majority protect minorities. „

²⁴ Article 21 of the Instrument forbids discrimination and Article 25 determines the rights of members of national minorities.

²⁵ <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/157.htm>

the problems of a national minority, use of a minority language in public and in communication with authorities and courts, as well as education and preservation of national culture. At the same time this Act determined that the government would establish a Council of the Government for National Minorities as its consultative and initiative body headed by a member of the Government.²⁶ At the same time it qualified its rule and empowered the Government to determine conditions and ways of providing national minorities with grants for their activities. The government approved this rule by its Decree N. 159 from February 2002 and decided that it would enter into force on April 15th. 2002.²⁷

The Minority Act was prepared in 1990-2000 with the active participation of members of national minorities - i.e. both members of the Council for National Minorities of the Government of the Czech Republic and the public. During the preparation of the intended subject-matter of this law and its paragraphed text, discussions arose among the representatives of national minorities and respective sections, as to whether the act on rights of members of national minorities should be a codex of nationalities' rights (amending all rights of national minorities) or an act that would amend only those spheres of nationalities' rights which have not been amended, referring to other valid amendments or in the case that an existing amendment was not sufficient it would apply a new one. After the above discussions the participants chose the second variant which accords with the Resolution of Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. When having approved the ratification of the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities in an additional resolution, the Chamber of Deputies bound the government to analyse the standards for relationships to national minorities and proposed their amendments which would reflect the principles of the Framework Convention.²⁸

In this context it should be noted that a part of the representatives of national minorities accepted the approval of the Minority Act with hesitation. In their opinion it did not meet their expectations. During the negotiations of the Council and by means of the Association of National Communities within the preparation of the bill they enforced inter alia the establishment of minority self-administration, independent elections for its bodies etc. In addition, the representatives of national minorities attempted at the legal standard for the rights of national minorities which would summarise existing legal regulations scattered in the Czech legal order. Nevertheless, this solution was rejected for legislative and technical reasons.

2.3. The summary of legal regulations and exercise of the rights of national minorities

2.3.1. Association

According to a valid legal regulation on association, the members of national minorities establish freely their organisations - civil associations acting as non-governmental non-profit organisations of national minorities.²⁹ During the establishment of their organisations they have limited use under the Act on Associations and Act N.248/1995 Coll. on benevolent

²⁶ Since autumn 1998 till the adoption of the Minority Act no member of the government has functioned in the Council.

²⁷ Government Decree N.98/2002 Coll. determining conditions and the way of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of members of national minorities and the support of integration of members of the Roma community.

²⁸ Resolution of Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic N.561 from November 6th. 1997 (www.psp.cz/eknih/1996ps/usneseni/u0561.htm).

²⁹ Act N.83/10990 Coll. on the association of citizens, as amended by following regulations. The existing form of the Act on Association is not convenient and as in other civil activities also in this field the representatives of national minorities expect a principal change which the government bill of Act on Clubs and other amended acts notified. The Chamber of Deputies did not approve this Act in 2000 (Regulation of Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic N. 978 from May 2000).

associations and the amendment of some laws, as amended by following regulations or Act N.277/1997 Coll. on foundations and benevolent funds and the amendment of some relevant laws, as amended by following regulations (Act on foundations and benevolent funds).

Since various types of organisations which declare a programme for respective national minorities, but do not implement it, are established within the framework of civil activities, it is not possible to record organisations of national minorities exactly. Nevertheless, the Ministry of the Interior has registered up to March 31st. 2002, 385 civil associations for national minorities, i.e.

- 291 Roma
- 43 German
- 22 Polish
- 14 Slovak
- 4 Ukrainian
- 3 Ruthenian
- 2 Hungarian
- 3 Bulgarian
- 1 Greek
- 1 Russian
- 1 Croatian.

Civil associations of the members of national minorities have both individual and collective membership; they associate the members of national minorities and the majority society. In addition, there are also unions and organisations which associate the members of more than one minority (for example the Association of National Organisations).

The association of members of national minorities is not limited to civil associations. In accordance with respective legal regulation on association in political parties and movements³⁰ three minority political parties and three political movements were established.³¹ Since their membership is limited they are not too active on the national political scene. There is a different situation in the field of local policy. As a matter of fact, in the districts Frýdek-Místek and Karviná, where the concentration of the Polish national minority is higher, many representatives of the Polish political movement “Coexistencia”³² have mandates of members of community councils. The political movement “Roma Civil Initiative of the Czech Republic” stands for elections for the Parliament in 2002 (38 candidates in the Moravian-Silesian region).

³⁰ Act N.424/1991 Coll. on association in political parties and movements, as amended by following regulations.

³¹ Concretely it is the case of Roma political movements - Movement of the Engaged Roma seated in Prague (its activity was detained by the Supreme Court), dissolved Roma National Congress seated in Prague, East-European Minority Movement in the Czech Republic seated in Prague, dissolved Party of Citizens of the Roma Ethnicity seated in Litoměřice, dissolved Christian and Democratic Party of the Roma seated in Ostrava and Roma Civil Initiative (RCI) seated in Prague. Except for the RCI the function of these Roma political subjects is only formal. The political movements Coexistencia seated in Český Těšín, in whose management were the representatives of the Polish minority, has been addressing even the members of other national minorities.

³² According to § 18(1b) of Act N.424/1991 Coll. on association in political parties and movements, as amended by following regulations, the Supreme Court by its Resolution from May 18th. 2001 detained the activity of the political movement Coexistencia because it repeatedly did not perform its obligation resulting from a law which determined the duty to submit to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic an auditor’s report as a part of an Annual Financial Report. The representatives of the political movement Coexistencia submitted their complaint against this decision to the Constitutional Court and at the same time they addressed the Public Guardian of Rights. The Constitutional Court dismissed their complaint and the Public Guardian of Rights announced to them, that according to § 1/4 of Act N.4 349/1999 Coll. on a Public Guardian of Rights, he is not authorised to give an opinion. As the representative of the Polish minority the Chairman of Coexistencia sent on January 10th. 2002 a personal complaint to the European Commission for Human Rights in Strasbourg (Note: the announcement is not exact. The institution concerned is European Court for Human Rights seated in Strasbourg) .

2.3.2. The participation of members of national minorities in the solution of their affairs

In the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic there is one female Deputy from the Roma national minority as a candidate of the Union of Freedom. In the Senate there is one representative of the Polish national minority as a candidate of the same political party.

The provisions of § 17/3 of Act N.128/2000 Coll. on communities (local government), as amended by following regulations, § 78/2 of Act N.129/2000 Coll. on regions (regional government), as amended by following regulations and § 78/2 of Act N.131/2000 Coll. on the capital city Prague, as amended by following regulations, amend the compulsory establishment of committees for national minorities according to the determined percentage of citizens declaring other than the Czech ethnicity (the Minority Act reduced this percentage in communities from 15% to 10%, in regions from 10% to 5% and in Prague from 15% to 5%). Within the self-administration there are committees for national minorities in 32 communities in the districts Karviná and Frýdek-Místek, 4 regions (Moravian-Silesian, South Moravian, Liberec and Ústí) and 2 metropolitan towns (Brno and Liberec). If legal conditions are not satisfied and it is necessary to establish a body which would deal in national minorities and Roma communities, the self-administration authorities establish commissions for this purpose (for example, in Prague, the City Council established the Commission for National Minorities whose members are recruited from active organisations of national minorities).

In accordance with Act N.49/2001 Coll. on elections for community councils and the amendment of some laws, the representatives of the Polish national minority as candidates of the political movement "Coexistencia", or as independent ones, have 90 mandates in 38 community councils in Moravian-Silesian region. Qualified estimations show that even the representatives of the Roma national minority have 10 mandates in community councils (members of the unincorporated association "Roma Democratic Alliance" in Valašské Meziříčí) as candidates of Civil Democratic Party, Social Democracy or as independent ones.

One of the problematic issues is the participation of members of national minorities in resolving problems relating to the mass media. The provision of § 4/2 of Act N.4483/1991 Coll. on Czech Television, as amended by following regulations, especially Act N.39/2001 Coll., determines that the proposals of candidates for membership of the Council of Czech Television are submitted to the Chamber of Deputies by organisations and associations defending national interests, but in the election for a new Council in 2001 no candidate defending the interests of members of national minorities was elected although the organisations and associations submitted their proposals. The representatives of national minorities do not participate in TV decision-making concerning dramaturgy and programmes for and on national minorities. The Council of the Government for National Minorities discussed the existing situation and decided to initiate the establishment of a consultancy working group for TV broadcasting for national minorities.

More active is the participation of national minorities in the programmes of Czech Radio. §2 of Act N.484/1991 Coll. on the Czech Radio, as amended by following regulations, which imposes on Czech Radio the need to develop the identity of national and ethnic minorities. This mission is completed by independent German, Polish, Roma and Slovak editorial boards which ensure regular broadcasting for national minorities on the channel "Radiojournal". In addition, the Czech Radio ensures regular broadcasting on the channel "Regina" for the members of Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Slovak, Ukrainian, Vietnamese and Jewish communities. The composition of broadcasting for national minorities and the dramaturgy of individual programmes are drawn up in co-operation with the Consultancy Working Group for Radio Broadcasting for National Minorities falling within the competence of the Programme Director. The members of this consultative body are recruited from

representatives of national minorities (a similar situation is within the Council of the Government for National Minorities) including the representatives of the Vietnamese and Jewish communities.

The representation of national minorities in consultative bodies of public administration is described in the separate Part 3 of this document.

2.3.3. The use of language

According to § 7 of the Minority Act the members of national minorities have right to use their names and surnames in their language under conditions determined by a special legal regulation (i.e. Act N.301/2001 Coll. on registers, names and surnames and the amendment of some relevant laws - hereinafter "Act on Registers"). In practical terms it means that only a female citizen of the Czech Republic or the parents of a female child under legal age can ask for the entry of an unchanged surname into a register, if they make an affidavit of their membership in a national minority. The acknowledgement of membership in other than the Czech national minority does not influence the woman's citizenship.

§ 62 of the Act on Registers determines that the surname of a woman is entered into the register and the copy of an entry (certificate of birth, marriage and death) "in accordance with the rules of Czech grammar", i.e. with appropriate ending determined by the rule of the change according to gender. In accordance with § 69 of the Act, and on request of the respective woman, the registry enters into the register her surname which corresponds to the rules of Czech grammar and the second surname which does not. A woman can use only one surname which she chooses when submitting an application and which is entered into the register. This step is possible, if it is imposed by any international agreement (for example Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities). If a surname is entered into the register in accordance with the rules of Czech grammar (before the coming the above Act into force, i.e. before July 1, 2001), the provision of § 93 enables a request for the entry of a surname in the form which does not correspond these rules.

Although the members of national minorities embraced this new Act on Registers, the representatives of the Polish and German national minorities pointed out that it did not reflect sufficiently practical problems. These problems occur, if a name or surname is entered according to a previous amendment into the register at variance with the respective standards of a minority languages. In addition, the members of national minorities do not consider the administrative charge of 1,000 CZK for the change of an entry to be appropriate, especially for seniors.

The right to inscribe communities, their parts, streets, other public places, buildings of government bodies and territorial self-governing units with names in the languages of national minorities is determined by § 29/2 of Act N.1128/2000 Coll. on communities; it can be exercised, if the legal percentage of citizens of a community acknowledges membership in a national minority (Minority Act reduced this number from 20% to 10%) and the legal percentage of adult citizens who acknowledge their membership in a national minority (the minority Act reduced this number from 50% to 40%) ask for this by petition. In practice the right to inscribe communities, their parts, streets and other public places with names in the languages of national minorities has not been exercised yet. The languages of national minorities are used partly for the inscription of the buildings of government bodies or other institutions.

The exercise of right to use a minority language in communication with authorities varies in judicial proceedings, administrative proceedings, electoral affairs and public affairs in general:

- a) the use of mother tongue in judicial proceedings is specified by § 18 of Act N.99/1963 Coll., Rules of Civil Procedure, as amended by following regulations, § 7 of Act

N.335/1991 Coll. on courts and judges, as amended by following regulations, § 33 of Act 182/1993 Coll. on constitutional court, as amended by following regulations and § 2 of Act N.141/1961 Coll. on judicial criminal proceedings, as amended by following regulations. According to §2/14 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure everybody who states that he does not speak Czech has a right to use, before bodies responsible for criminal proceedings, his mother tongue or a language which he speaks. The amendment of the Rules of Criminal Procedure by Act N.265/2001 Coll. valid from January 1st. 2002 specifies the conditions of the use of mother tongue in criminal proceedings (the right of national and ethnic minorities to use their language in communication with authorities is primarily based on the Constitution, Article 25/2/b). The provision of § 28 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure specifies conditions for the use of an interpreter;

- b) the use of mother tongue in administrative proceedings is specified by the following laws: the provision of § 4 of Act N. 563/1991 on accounting, as amended by following regulations; the provision of § 12 of Act on possibility to use a foreign language during the execution of accounting documents; the provision of § 46a of Act N.202/1990 Coll. as amended by Act 63/1999 Coll. on lotteries and other similar gambles, as amended by the following regulations, specifies a possibility for a member of a national minority to act in his mother tongue before an approving body of government supervision with an interpreter; the provision of § 3 of Act n.337/1992 Coll. on the administration of taxes and charges, as amended by following regulations, enables the citizens belonging to national minorities to act before a tax executor in their mother tongue;³³
- c) the use of mother tongue in electoral affairs is determined by § 29/3 of Act N.491/2001 Coll. on elections for community councils and the amendment of some laws; if a community establishes a committee for national minorities in accordance with the Act on Communities, it is compulsory to inform of the time and place of elections in communal elections and prove identity and citizenship in the language of the respective national minorities. The same procedure is prescribed by § 15/4 of Act N.37/2002 Coll. which amends Act 247/1995 Coll. on elections for the Parliament of the Czech Republic and the amendment of some laws.

2.3.4. The dissemination and reception of information

This right is exercised by the members of national minorities unlimitedly according to Act N.46/200Coll. on rights and duties in publishing periodicals and the amendment of some laws, or in accordance with respective amendment for publishing non-periodicals. The organisations of national minorities publish many non-periodical and periodical papers in their minority languages. Own press is one of the preferred activities of national minorities which is supported by subsidies from the State Budget (see Part 6 of this document).

The languages of members of national minorities are still not used in the public broadcasting of Czech Television. The representatives of national minorities evaluate the presentation of life and culture of national minorities in the broadcasting of Czech Television very

³³ A specific problem are Rules of Administrative Procedure (ActN.71/1967 Coll. on administrative procedure (Rules of Administrative Procedure), as amended by following regulations, which do not specify the right to use a minority's language in administrative procedures. In respect to the rights of members on national minorities the solution of this problem should result from from the government bill of new Rules of Administrative Procedure; this right relates in fact to a citizen of the Czech Republic who is a member of a national minority and resides permanently in a community where a respective committee for national minorities was established; this right enables him to act before an administrative authority whose administrative region does not include a community in the language of his national minority (in spite of the change of the competence of an administrative authority this right remains valid). Nevertheless, the Chamber of Deputies did not approve the government bill of this Act - see above, clause 2,2 - in its third reading on February 15th. 2002.

negatively. This is why the Council of the Government for National Minorities has been preoccupied with initiatives for the improvement of co-operation between Czech Television and national minorities. Nevertheless, the management of Czech TV is still not interested in such a co-operation.

In the broadcasting of Czech Radio a minority language is used in programmes which are prepared by minority editorial boards (German, Polish, Roma and Slovak). The question is whether the use of languages of national minorities is well-balanced. According to § 31/4 of Act N.231/2001 Coll. on radio and television broadcasting and the amendment of some other laws, an operator of broadcasting is obliged to compose his programmes in such a way which provides a well-balanced offer for all inhabitants with respect to their age, sex, colour of skin, religion, political views, national, ethnic or social origin or membership in a national minority. Regional broadcasting for national minorities is still problematic. The provision of § 32/1/c) which specifies the basic duties of operators of original and adapted broadcasting imposes on them a duty to ensure that these programmes will not incite intolerance motivated by different race, sex, religion, ethnicity or membership in a specific group of inhabitants.

2.3.5. Education

The education of pupils belonging to national minorities in their mother tongue is determined by § 3 of Act N.29/1984 Coll. on the system of primary, secondary and secondary modern schools (School Act).

It is clear that this amendment is not sufficient and therefore it is criticised by the representatives of national minorities. Although requisite changes (reducing the number of pupils in a class or school where the teaching language is a language of respective national minority and introducing the system of bilingual education in selected subjects within the framework of an educational programme) are included in the government bill of a new School Act, it is not possible to expect its approval in the foreseeable future because the Committee for Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sports of the Chamber of Deputies issued on April 4th. 2002 Resolution N.319, in which it recommended the Chamber of Deputies to reject the government bill in the second reading. The Chamber of Deputies rejected the government bill on April 25th. 2002.³⁴

A review of the situation in the field of education of individual national minorities is mentioned in the separate Part 4 of this document.

2.3.6. The preservation and development of culture

The preservation and development of cultural activities of national minorities is ensured by autonomous minority organisations in accordance with legal regulations which specify activities in the field of culture. The development of cultural identity of national and ethnic minorities is the subject of § 2 of Act N.484/1991 Coll. on Czech Radio, as amended by the following regulations, § 17 1/g) of Act N.231/2001 Coll. on radio and television broadcasting and the amendment of some other laws and § 2 1/d) of Act N. 483/1991 Coll. on Czech Television, as amended by Act N.23/2001 Coll.

The creation of conditions for the preservation and development of culture of national minorities conforms to Government Decree N.98/2002 Coll. which determines conditions and ways of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of members of national minorities and the support of activities of the Roma community. § 14 and 15 determine the support of preservation, development and presentation of the culture of national minorities.

³⁴ Resolution of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech republic N.2239 from April 25th. 2002.

The review of the main cultural activities of national minorities is mentioned in the separate Part 5 and 6 of this document.

2.3.7. Penal protection

The existing penal amendment of sanctions of offences motivated by national or racial intolerance included in the Criminal Code (Act N.140/1961 Coll.), as amended by the following regulations, is comprehensive. Criminal Law as such provides everybody with the same protection regardless of the national or racial origin of an offence's victim or any similar aspect. In some legal cases Criminal Law protects persons exposed to attacks motivated by racial, ethnic or similar reasons and it classifies these offences as ones with special merits of case or imposes longer terms of sentence³⁵ because of an offender's motives. According to law it is necessary to prefer the motives of an offender over the origin of a victim.

In the opinion of the Ministry of Justice one of the important steps in the field of penal protection is the approval of a so-called "euro-amendment" of Criminal Law which came into force on July 1st. 2002. This amendment considers a membership in an ethnic group to be one of objective aspects of offences mentioned in Chapter V of the Criminal Code.³⁶ The merits of case of violence towards a group of inhabitants or an individual is amended to provide penal protection from attacks motivated by hate for any ethnic group. According to the Ministry of Justice this amendment accords with respective requirement included in Council Directive No. 43/2000/ES. This Directive relates to the prohibition of discrimination in economic and social issues such as employment, health care, education or access to goods and services.³⁷

On the other hand, it does not relate to offences which are defined in Criminal Law. It is clear that the accordance with respective requirements included in Council Directive N.43/2000/ES will necessitate other amendments of Civil Law including sanctions of Article 15 of this Directive.

§ 19a of the Criminal Code includes new Paragraph 3) which determines that a person who commits an offence mentioned in Paragraph 1 (i.e. who in public incites to hate for a nation, ethnic group, race, religion, class or other group of persons or to limit rights and freedoms of their members) by press, film, radio, television, computer networks accessible to the public or in any other way, or who participates in the activities of groups, organisations or associations which profess discrimination, violence or racial, ethnic and religious intolerance; § 198a/3 is amended in accordance with Art. I.A/d) and e) of the Common Strategy approved by the Council on the basis of the Agreement on the European Union in the matter of the fight against racism and xenophobia; member states are asked to co-operate efficiently in punishing these offences.³⁸

2.3.8. The prohibition of discrimination

The prohibition of discrimination is included above all in the Constitution (Art.96/1) and the Charter (Art.3, 24, 27 and others). Equality before the law is defined by the Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Civil Criminal Code as equality of all parties to a case. Protection from discriminatory acts is guaranteed by the amendment concerning the protection of personal rights included in Act N.40/1964 Coll., Civil Code, as amended by following regulations.

³⁵ § 196, 198a, 219, 222, 235, 256, 259, 260, 261 and 261a.

³⁶ § 196/2, 198/1a and criminal acts according to § 219/2g), 221/2b), 222/2b, 235/2f).

³⁷ CELEX N, 32000L0043, Art.13.

³⁸ CELEX N.469X0443, Art.1.

The forbidding of discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin within the framework of penal affairs was incorporated in § 133a/1 by the amendment of the Civil Procedure Code (Act N.99/1963 Coll., as amended by the following regulations.³⁹

The Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and other international authorities have been pointing out that it would be necessary to elaborate a more efficient amendment concerning protection from discrimination. Anti-discrimination provisions are still scattered in various regulations which do not coincide. In addition, there is no unitary definition of discriminative and non-discriminative behaviour. In some cases anti-discriminative clauses are absent, in other ones they are merely declaratory and lack sanctions. This situation necessitates a new amendment, in all probability in the form of a unitary anti-discrimination law.⁴⁰

According to § 14 of the Minority Act (and because of the gradual implementation of Directive N.43/2000/ES) new merits of case of a delict concerning the members of national minorities are incorporated in § 49/1e) of Act on Delicts as follows: “a delinquent...causes harm to another person because of his membership in a national minority, ethnic origin, race, colour of skin, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion and political views”. For this offence it is possible to impose a penalty at the level of 5,000 CZK. The representative of the Polish minority in the Council points out in this context that in practicality it is difficult for a person to prove that he has been wronged.

2.3.9. The problem of property restitution

The restitution of family property is a specific problem which the members of German and Croatian national minorities consider to be discriminating because of their ethnicity. Act N.87/1991 Coll. on non-judicial rehabilitation, as amended by the following regulations, states in its preamble that “...it is not possible to redress fully, property wrongs committed in 1948 - 1989 and before, including those committed on the citizens of German and Hungarian ethnicity”, but restitution causes from the second half of 1990s show that applications of the members of German and Croatian minorities for compensation remain an open issue.

Assembly of the Germans living in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia submitted in 2001 to the Petition Committee of the Chamber of Deputies a draft of compensation for the citizens of the German minority in the Czech Republic.

Nevertheless, this draft submitted to the Committee on August 15th. 2001 was discussed with the representatives of the Assembly of the Germans living in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia on January 10th. 2002. It includes the following requirements:

- a) both chambers of the Parliament of the Czech Republic have applied to adopt the resolution that the President's Decrees N.12/1945 Coll., N.71/1945 Coll. and N.108/1945 Coll. expire for the members of the German ethnicity living in the Czech Republic;
- b) the property which has been confiscated to the members of German ethnicity is to be restituted; if this property is expropriated, it is necessary to provide the members of the German ethnicity with reimbursement at its estimated value at January 1st. 2001;

³⁹ Act N.30/2000 Coll. amended Rules of Civil Procedure by inserting the new provision of § 133a: “The court considers a declared fact that a participant was directly or indirectly discriminated because of his sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion, world outlook, invalidity or sexual orientation to be proved, if proceedings do not prove a contrary.” (CELEX N.32000L0043).

⁴⁰ Government Resolution N.170 from February 20, 2002 imposed on the chairman of Legislative Council of the Government to elaborate along with respective ministries a substance of the amendment which would meet requirements of European Union Directive N.2000/43/EC including the institutional guarantee of this legal protection.

- c) the duty to work which related to all members of the German ethnicity in concentration, internment or work camps is to be compensated by a financial allowance to retirement pension, a single payment at the level of 20% of average wages in the Czech Republic at January 1st. 2001 for every month of duty to work, or a single payment at the level of average wages in the Czech Republic at January 1st. 2001 for every month of duty to work in which no wages have been paid;
- d) the deposits of members of the German minority are to be returned at the level reckoned on purchasing power at January 1st. 2001;
- e) the loss caused by forcible relocation is to be compensated by a single payment at the level of 10,000 CZK;
- f) disabling the members of the German ethnicity to use titles and work in accordance with their education is to be compensated by a single payment at the level of 10,000 CZK.

The Petition Committee adopted on January 10th. 2002 Resolution N. 271 stating that the draft will not be discussed, if the requirements are not divided into those concerning the revision of after-war legal order and those concerning the redressing of wrongs committed to individuals within the framework of the Czechoslovak legal order.

In addition, the Association of Citizens of Croatian Ethnicity in the Czech Republic submitted to the Petition Committee of the Chamber of Deputies on January 30th. 2002 an application for the restitution of their property in Jevišovka, Dobré Pole and Nový Přerov in southern Moravia from which they were forcibly relocated after February 1948.⁴¹ Although the government, in its Resolution N. 1048 from October 6th. 1999 on the contemporary situation of the Croatian minority in the Czech Republic, took account of the report on the Croatians in the Czech Republic and adopted the declaration, in which it expressed regret for the persecution of the Croatian minority after February 1948, further to its Memorandum addressed to the government of the Czech Republic on January 21st. 1991 that the government did not take on account the Association of Citizens of Croatian Ethnicity in the Czech Republic applies for:

- a) the cancellation of Act N.213/1948 coll. on the protection of public interests which “legalised” the forcible relocation of the citizens of Croatian ethnicity from their homes and their dispersion to the whole territory of Moravia;
- b) the reversion of property which citizens of Croatian ethnicity left at their homes;
- c) the TV and Radio broadcasting of a programme informing the public on crimes committed on citizens of Croatian ethnicity.

The Petition Committee has not discussed yet the application of the Association of Citizens of Croatian Ethnicity in the Czech Republic.

If the representatives of German and Croatian minorities apply to relevant legislative bodies for redressing property wrongs, they also expect from the Czech Republic that it will take relevant collective measures as a good-will gesture towards the members of minorities living on its territory. Although the representative of the Assembly of the Germans living in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia is a member of the Council, their application has not been submitted to the Council yet. On the other hand the representative of the Croatian minority in the Council applied to the Council to hear their application by an official letter dated April 23rd. 2002.

In addition, the representatives of the Polish minority in the Council repeatedly pointed out that they consider the fact that the property of Polish pre-war organisations and associations

⁴¹ The Chairman of Association of Citizens of Croatian Ethnicity in the Czech Republic, Herwik Sitek sent on March 14th. 2002 this document to the Secretariat of the Council along with other source materials on the situation of the Croatian minority in the Czech Republic.

has not been restituted, and the respective legislative branch of the government still has no political will to redress these property wrongs, to be an expression of discrimination.

3. Bodies responsible for the matters of national minorities

3.1 The Parliament of the Czech Republic

The matters of national minorities fall within the province of the permanent Subcommittee for National Minorities of the Petition Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. During its negotiations the representatives of individual national minorities take part. In 2001 the Petition Committee, along with the representatives of national minorities, discussed the government bill on the rights of members of national minorities, the conception of government policy towards the members of the Roma community which would contribute to their integration into society, and was approved by the government in its Resolution N.599 from June 14th. 2001, and the application of the Assembly of the Germans living in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia for compensation for the members of the German minority.

In the Senate these matters fall within the province of the Committee for Human Rights, Science, Education and Culture. Before discussions on the government bill on the rights of members of national minorities, the Committee organised within the plenary session of the Senate the public hearing on “the creation of multicultural civil society in the Czech Republic and the role of national minorities in this process”. This hearing took place on the basis of the initiative of the Association of National Organisations in the Czech Republic and it aimed at acquainting the public and members of legislative branches of government with the problems of national minorities living on the territory of the Czech Republic with regard to the legislative steps concerning the government bill on the rights of members of national minorities.

The representative of the Polish minority considers both parliamentary bodies responsible for the matters of national minorities to be formal and non-functional.

3.2. Council of the Government for National Minorities

The government established the Council of the Government for National Minorities as a permanent consultative and initiative body for the matters of national minorities according to § 6 of Minority Act. The government approved the status of this Council by its Resolution N.1034 from October 10th.2001.⁴²

The members of the Council are recruited from the representatives of the ministries (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented by Deputy Ministers), the representative of the Office of the President, the representative of the Office of the Public Guardian of Rights and the representative of the government for human rights as well as the representatives of 11 national minorities - Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak and Ukrainian. Individual minorities have one - three representatives in the Council and due to their 18 members in comparison with 11 representatives of public authority they are in majority. At the head of the Council is a member of government, nominated by the government on the basis of the Prime Minister’s proposal. The government nominated the members of the Council by its Resolution N. 1163 from November 7th. 2001. The Council has two vice-chairmen - the first represents public authority (the representative of the government

⁴² Essential documents of the Council are published on web page of the Council within the server of the Council of the Government (<http://vlada.cz/1250/vrk/vrk/htm>).

for human rights) and the second represents national minorities (on the basis of the proposal of the Council, a representative of the Polish minority was nominated).⁴³

The secretariat of the Council secures, according to Article 9 of the Statutes of the Council, the administration and organisation of its activity; it prepares the drafts of documents, standpoints to the bills, government decrees and measures concerning the rights of members of national minorities. Nevertheless, it prepares above all the drafts of materials relating to the problems of national minorities. It is a part of the Department of Human Rights at the Office of the Government; in 2001 it had three members including the head.

The meeting of the Council in 2001 took place five times (on April 19th, June 12th, and September 19th, as the Council for Nationalities of the Government of the Czech Republic and after approving its new status on November 20th.⁴⁴ and December 20th, as the Council of the Government for National Minorities). For these meetings the chairman of the Subcommittee for National Minorities of the Petition Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, the member of the Committee for Education, Science, Culture, Human Rights and Petitions of the Senate, the secretary of the Federation of Jewish Communities and, in accordance with actual issue, other guests have been invited. In its meetings the Council discussed above all:

- the preparation of the government bill on the rights of members of national minorities;
- the draft of the new status of the Council of the Government for National Minorities, its rules of order and composition;
- the opinion of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities and performance of obligations by the Czech Republic - ACFC/OP/I(2001)4 - as well as consequent preparation of the overall commentary of the Czech Republic on the basis of Rule N.27 of the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers (97)10 which the Czech Republic submitted to the secretariat of the Committee of Ministers RE and the director of the Department for Human Rights RE on August 27th, 2001; this commentary was discussed by the Committee of Ministers on November 15th, 2001;
- the provision of grants from the State Budget for the activities of national minorities, especially the draft of the government decree determining the conditions and way of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of members of national minorities and the support of integration of the Roma community;
- the settlement of grants from the State Budget for publishing periodicals of members of national minorities in 2000;
- competitive bidding with respect to grants for projects of the publishers of periodicals of national minorities in 2002; discussion on the draft of a working group for competitive bidding with respect to grants for projects of publishing periodicals of national minorities in 2002 and the recommended level of these grants from the State Budget; the Council recommended the Minister of Culture to provide grants in 2000 from the State budget for publishing 18 periodicals of national minorities; in this context the Council paid special attention to the situation in the field of publishing Roma periodicals;
- the establishment of a consultative group as a consultative body of the programme director of Czech Radio for broadcasting for national minorities; for the membership in the

⁴³ The composition of the Council - see the web page of the Council.

⁴⁴ At the meeting of the Council on November 20 also Warwick Maynard, the consultant of the Department for Human Rights of the Council of the Government and the employees of the British Home Office, Anna Marie Andreoli and Jonathan Lane were present. W. Maynard informed the Council about the necessity to implement two EU Directives - N.2000/43/EC which determines the principle of equal treatment of persons regardless of their racial or ethnic origin and N.2000/48/EC on equal treatment at work regardless of citizenship, religion, age or sex. At the same time he spoke about the draft of legislative amendments which should be implemented further to these directives in Czech Legal Order.

consultative group the representatives of Bulgarian, German, Polish, Roma, Russian, Slovak and Ukrainian minorities were proposed (the programme director of Czech Radio also addressed representatives of the Jewish and Vietnamese communities and representatives of the secretariat of the Council).

The drafts of documents submitted by the chairman (before adopting the new status of the Council by the Deputy Prime Minister and the chairman of the Legislative Council of the Government) after the government's meeting in 2001:

- information on the reconstruction of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno for which finances from the State Budget were provided in 1998-2000; the meeting of the government in February 2001; the draft of materials for the meeting of the government was submitted in accordance with Government Resolution N. 790 (Task II/2) from July 28th. 1999;
- the government's approval of the application of the Prague Metropolitan Authority for the transfer of a real property administered by the Fund of Children and Youth for the purposes of building the House of Nationalities in Prague; Government Resolution N.173 from February 19th. 2001 on the government's approval of the application of the Prague Metropolitan Authority for the transfer of a real property administered by Fund of Children and Youth for the purposes of building the House of Nationalities in Prague;
- the report on publishing periodicals of national minorities for which the grant from the State Budget was provided in 2000; the meeting of the government on May 9th. 2001; the draft of materials for the meeting of the government was submitted in accordance with Government Resolution N.771 from December 3rd. 1997;
- the draft for establishing the Council of the Government for National Minorities, approval of its status and nomination of its chairman; Government Resolution N. 1034 from October 10th. 2001 on establishing the Council of the Government for National Minorities;
- the draft for nomination of members to the Council of the Government for National Minorities; Government Resolution N.1163 from November 7th. 2001 on the nomination of members to the Council of the Government for National Minorities;
- the draft of the Government Decree determining the conditions and ways of providing grants from the State Budget for the activities of members of national minorities and the support of integration of members of the Roma community. After discussing the draft of documents at meetings of working commissions of the Legislative Council of the Government (working commissions for Labour Law and social affairs and those for Finance Law) the government approved the draft of respective regulation by its Resolution N.159 on February 20th. 2002.

3.3. The Council of the Government for the Affairs of the Roma Community

The interdepartmental commission for the affairs of the Roma community has been transformed as well. On the basis of Government Resolution N.1371 from December 19th. 2001, on the status of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for the Affairs of the Roma Community, the name of this consultative body and its competency and composition have been changed. The Council has 28 members - 14 representatives of public authority (two Deputy Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs, Finances, Culture, Education, Youth and Sports, the Interior, Local Development, Defence, Industry and Trade, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Health and the representative of the government for human rights) and 14 representatives of the Roma community.

The main activity of the Council is to assure fulfilling the task 9 a) to the conception of government policy towards members of the Roma community in favour of their integration into society (Government Resolution N.300 from March 28th. 2001), evaluation of efficiency of the programme “The Support of Projects for the Integration of the Roma Community” (the document was submitted to the government on April 30th. 2001), creation of conditions for establishing the function of a co-ordinator of Roma consultants (Government Resolution N.781 from July 25th. 2001), control of measures concerning the implementation of government policy towards members of the Roma community in favour of their integration into society (Government Resolution N.1145 from November 7th. 2001).

The Council plays an important role in the implementation of programmes of integration in Roma communities. In 2001 the government released 25,000 CZK for the support of projects for the integration of the Roma community within the chapter “The General Cash Administration of the State Budget”. This amount was divided for the following programmes:

- social-integrative programme;
- social- educational programme;
- support of Roma pupils and secondary schools;
- support of field social workers;
- research of the problems of building flats for the Roma minority;
- qualified participation of the Roma in the census 2001.

The Council takes a share in establishing the function of a Roma consultant as an important part of the system of the Roma’s participation in dealing with their affairs. In 2001 this function was established in all districts and 8 quarters of the capital city, Prague). The function of a co-ordinator of Roma consultants has been established in 5 regions (Prague, Karlovy Vary, Liberec, Hradec Králové and Zlín).

The government bill on the amendment and cancellation of some acts related to the termination of activity of District Offices presupposes inter alia that a Regional Authority will administer and co-ordinate fulfilling the tasks relating to the integration of the Roma community into the society in its district; as for a Local Authority, it should fulfil the tasks relating to the exercise of rights of members of the Roma community and its integration into the society in its district within the wider scope of its powers.

The function of a co-ordinator for Roma consultants within higher regional self- government administrative units is established on the basis of Government Resolution N.599 from July 14th. 2000 in which the government approved the concept of a government policy towards members of the Roma community. The draft, for establishing the function of a co-ordinator of Roma consultants within higher regional self-government administrative units, was drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The aim of this draft is to create, in regions, appropriate conditions for the activity of a Regional Authority’s employee who is responsible for the Roma minority and fulfil the tasks resulting from situations and government policies in a region. The establishment of this function will terminate the process of working up the network of Roma consultants all over the republic. The draft was approved by Government Resolution N.781 from July 25th. 2001 which recommended that the chief executive officers of Regional Authorities should create conditions for establishing the function of a co-ordinator of Roma consultants in 5 regions (Prague, Karlovy Vary, Liberec, Hradec Králové and Zlín). 4 regions will establish this function during this year (Middle-Bohemian, South-Bohemian, Ústí nad Labem and Pardubice), 2 regions presuppose to establish this function by January 1st. 2003 (Pilsen, Moravian-Silesian); in 2 regions this function is identical with the function of a consultant for national minorities (South-Moravian, Olomouc) and the authorities of Vysočina region still

do not wish to establish this function because of the small number of members of the Roma minority in this region according to the census. In accordance with Government Decree N.781 from July 25th. 2001 Liberec, Hradec Králové and Zlín regions requested the Ministry of Finance for a non-investment grant for starting the activity of co-ordinators in 2002.

3.4. Other authorities for the affairs of national minorities

The establishment of committees for national minorities at the level of self-administration bodies where the representatives of national minorities have a majority is described in Part 2 of this Report.

The representatives of national minorities act not only in consultative bodies of the government but also in the Advisory Board for National Culture of the Ministry of Culture and the Advisory Board for the Education of National Minorities of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. They also participate in the activity of selective grant commissions, which evaluate the projects of civil associations of members of national minorities, or organisations acting in favour of them, and proposing grants from the State Budget.

The representatives of national minorities also act in the consultative group of the Programme Director of Czech Television.

3.5. Public Protector of Rights (ombudsman) and national minorities in 2001⁴⁵

In 2001 almost 6,000 natural or legal persons appealed to the Public Protector of Rights (with 5,996 complaints). Most of these persons were recruited from the citizens of the Czech Republic. The complaints of foreigners are mostly lodged with respect to accelerated asylum procedures and problems relating to applications for admission to citizenship of the state or criminal proceedings against these persons.

The Office of Public Protector of Rights does not register complaints of complainants who acknowledge their membership in any national minority according to the Minority Act. The Office has information about such a membership only if a complainant gives it by himself. Nevertheless, even in such cases there is no registry.

If any member of a national minority appealed to the Public Protector of Rights as a complainant, his complaint usually does not relate to a special problem of his membership in a national minority but problems falling within the cognisance of the Public Protector of Rights or out of it. The complaints of the members of national minorities which relate to the fields out of the cognisance of the Public Protector of Rights, relate above all to the problem of the independence of towns and communities (housing policy of towns and communities, allocation of state flats, back rents), property, family and civil disputes and the problem of criminal proceedings.

The Public Protector of Rights started 4 investigations of complaints lodged by the Roma with respect to social security benefits and pensions provided from the Slovak system of social welfare, widow's pensions and citizenship. In three cases he initiated investigations relating to the infringement of rights of members of the Roma community (his intervention enabled to resolve the serious social situation of inhabitants in houses whose bad constructional and technical state jeopardised in many cases the health and safety of citizens. The bodies of state administration and self-administration were not able to react to this situation efficiently and necessary reconstruction and distribution of substitute flats for

⁴⁵ Act N. 349/1999 Coll. on Public Protector of Rights entered into force on February 25th. 2000. This function has been executed since 2001 after the election of JUDR. Otakar Motejl (December 18th. 2000) and his deputy Mgr. Anna Šabatová (January 25th. 2001).

inhabitants whose flats could not be reconstructed were not implemented before the intervention of the Public Protector of Rights).

Even several citizens of the German ethnicity appealed to him with respect to their suffering after World War II and applied for any compensation or at least acknowledgement of the fact that they have suffered because of their German ethnicity. One of such cases is a complaint of a person who spent in 1945 - 1946 several months in an internment camp where he waited for his evacuation to Germany. Since he was descended from a mixed Czech-German family in the end he was not evacuated. He sustained property loss but above all he felt injustice. In any case the Public Protector of Rights stated that the contemporary amendment would not solve the problem of compensation for these persons and recommended to consider the possibility to initiate taking respective legislative measures.

The Public Protector of Rights also acts as a mediator where his function is accepted by parties.⁴⁶

3.6. The President and national minorities

The President (or his Office) regularly communicates with the representatives of organisations of national minorities. He keeps personal contacts with the representatives of minorities during their activities and meetings (music or dance festivals, exhibition openings, concerts, theatre performances etc), seminars, discussion forums and workshops. The lawyers of the President Office also take part in trials concerning racial crimes.

The representatives of minorities appeal to the President's Office or the President himself with applications for his assistance, support or information about the protection of human rights, especially those of national minorities. Applications for legal assistance are submitted to the Department for Contact with the Public. The President's Office pays attention to acts and regulations which relate to the problem of minorities in general.

The President's Office organises the meetings of the President with the representatives of national minorities (in 2001 and before for example in Frýdek-Místek, Český Těšín, Jablunkov, Hřčava, Český Krumlov, Valašské Meziříčí, Most, Cheb, Brno, Pardubice etc., or his visits for example to the World Roma Festival *Khamoro* in Prague, the *Museum of the Roma Culture* in Brno, the *Conciliation Library* in Liberec or his greetings to the congress of *International Roma Union* in Prague, seminars on the problems of Czech-German relations in Jihlava, the festival of Roma songs in Rožnov and Karviná and his auspices over various actions). Many workshops (the reception of the Vlach Roma delegation or the new chairman of the *International Roma Union* etc.) at the Prague Castle or informal discussions in the Villa Amalie took place. The President manifests his respect to national minorities also by the invitation of their representatives to the Prague Castle on solemn occasions, statesmen visits or bank holiday celebrations on October 28th.

Along with the minister of the Swedish government P. Schori the President initiated the *Swedish-Czech Project of Co-operation with the Roma Minority in the Czech Republic* which enabled a delegation of the Czech Roma and scholars of the Roma civilisation to make an educational journey to Sweden, a common stay of Czech, Swedish and Roma young people in Sweden and the publication of the Swedish book by K.Taikon *Kati, you cope with it!*

⁴⁶ The Public Protector of Rights was addressed by a complainant who did not agree that in his parish the marriage banns were not carried out in Polish. He considered such a practice at variance with the Constitution and Act on National Minorities. In this case the Public Protector of Rights was a mediator who suggested to a parish priest a possible solution of this problem -i.e. his active participation in the creation and interpretation of similar notices submitted to his parish.

The President also directed his attention at abolishing the taboo of the problem of holocaust and the situation of the Jews and Roma in the Czech Republic. He initiated the project *Phenomenon Holocaust* and contributed to the research of the Roma and Jewish holocaust within the International Group for Education, Research and Holocaust Memento, wherein the Czech Republic is a member. In co-operation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports the President announced the programmes for young people: the competition of students for the best essay on the topic *Holocaust - the Conscience of Mankind*, the collection of documents on the topic *Disappeared Neighbours* (along with the Jewish Museum) and the competition of children on the topic *Family Stories - What My Parents Told Me* (in co-operation with the civil association *R-Bridges*). The authors of the best contributions were received by the President at Prague Castle where the book *What My Parents Told Me - Roma Family Stories from World War II Narrated by Roma Children* (Prague 2001) was presented. In addition, the President supported seminars on the holocaust in Terezín. The project of the President's Office is realised on the basis of co-operation of the Ministries of Education, Culture and Foreign Affairs with many non-governmental organisations.

4. The education of members of national minorities

4.1. Introduction

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports supported *The European Year of Languages 2001* and participated in many projects which helped to formulate basic linguistic and educational principles, above all *The Common European Reference Framework of Languages, How Do We Learn Languages, How Do We Teach and Evaluate Them*, which represents the basis for the creation of a curricula, description of objects, methods, evaluations and requirements for examinations, *European Language Portfolio* (the summary of language knowledge and experience) and *The Threshold Level of Czech as a Foreign Language* (the description of knowledge of language which enables us to come to an understanding in normal life situations).

Schools proposed a lot of activities and initiatives most of which, in total 134, had the right to use the logo of *European Year of Languages 2001* and were incorporated into its calendar. Inter alia, the following topics were proposed: improvement of quality of teaching languages, support of language variety, short-term attachments, Czech as a foreign language, regional languages and bilingual teaching. The most frequent activities were meetings, conferences, seminars, language-shows and competitions.

Due to interest brought out by the *European Year of Languages 2001* in member states, the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation N.1539 in which it expressed the conviction that it would be necessary to follow up with objects and activities of the *European Year of Languages* even into the future for the purposes of protection of the variety of languages and ways of their teaching. One of the instruments which would help to gain these ends is starting the tradition of a *European Day of Languages*.

The Department of Foreign Relations and European Integration in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports submitted to its management the document *European Parliament Resolution on Regional and Rare Languages* which was approved by the European Parliament on December 13th. 2001. This Resolution follows up with objects and activities of the *European Year of Languages 2001* and stresses the necessity of keeping the variety of languages and the right of every citizen of the EU to use his mother tongue. It appeals to the Council of the EU to incorporate Article 22 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights into the order of business of the next inter-governmental conference and asks the Council and European Commission to focus on the application of this Article in their Regular Evaluation Reports on progress in the process of admission of candidate states.

4.2. Minority Education

Existing legal rules enable to found schools or classes for teaching children of other than Czech ethnicity whose parents are citizens of the Czech Republic in their mother tongue.⁴⁷ Nevertheless, the foundation and administration of these schools usually depends on the interest of parents, which they demonstrate by means of their civil associations. In the system of state education the members of national minorities have a right to education in their mother tongue in accordance with the legal order in force.

The practical application of legal rules necessitates the solution of some specific problems of minority education. For this reason the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports established a *Consultative Group of the Minister of Education for the Affairs of Minority Education* whose members in 2001 recruited from the representatives of Polish, German, Roma, Slovak, Hungarian and Ukrainian minorities living in the Czech Republic⁴⁸ as well as the Jewish community.

The education of members of national minorities in their mother tongue within the system of state education is possible only in the case of more numerous minorities which are allowed to assure the sufficient number of pupils in their domicile. This right is therefore fully exercised only by the Polish national minority. The dispersed settlement and small numbers (in case of Bulgarian, Croatian, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek and Ukrainian minorities and even more numerous ones like Hungarian, German, Roma and Slovak) complicates minority education. Thus the system of state education supports the education of members of Polish, German and Roma minorities while other minorities are educated only within the framework of additional educational programmes by means of grants for out-of-school activities. For this reason the more detailed summary is limited to four national minorities (German, Polish, Roma and Slovak) and the Prague Jewish community.

Data on the declaration of ethnicity during the census and the statistical review of children, pupils and students of other nationalities mentioned every year in the Statistical Annual of the Czech Republic are a specific problem. Although the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in accordance with § 4/2 of Act N.273/2001 Coll. on the rights of members of national minorities and Act N.101/2002 Coll. on the protection of personal data does not record pupils and students according to their ethnicity, in practice it knows the concrete number of pupils attending kindergartens, primary and secondary schools with Polish as a teaching language, i.e. members of the Polish national minority. Nevertheless, Polish pupils also attend Czech schools. The number of pupils of other nationalities can be estimated only. On the other hand, the Statistical Annual includes complete data on the number of pupils of Slovak, Ukrainian, Polish, German and Roma ethnicity. The data for the publications of the Czech Statistical Office are obtained from the Institute for Information in the Educational System (an organisation directed by the Ministry of Education) whose annual data summaries of the number of children, pupils and students of other nationalities in individual types of schools and includes all young people, regardless of their citizenship, with the exception of university students; in the case of universities only Czech students are registered. For the school-year 2001/2002 the Institute for Information in the Educational System has registered pupils of other than the above nationalities. These data are available for the public on the Institute's web page which also presents the number of pupils and students of Ruthenian, Russian, Hungarian, Greek and other nationalities. The following table summarises the number of citizens of the Czech Republic and

⁴⁷ Act N.29/1984 Coll. on the system of primary and secondary schools, as amended by the following regulations and Act N.564/1990 Coll. on state administration and self-administration in the educational system, as amended by the following regulations.

⁴⁸ In 2002 the consultative group was extended by the representatives of the Bulgarian, Croatian, Ruthenian, Russian and Greek minorities.

foreigners at schools and educational institutions according to their nationalities in the school-year 2001/2002:⁴⁹

Type of school	Total	Ethnicity					
		Czech	Slovak	Ukrainian	Polish	German	Roma
Kindergartens	279 838	267 378	350	525	703	125	751
Primary schools	1 056 860	1 035 721	4 779	1 902	2 050	650	471
Grammar schools*	137 110	123 488	652	112	410	117	6
Technical schools	196 184	176 143	856	175	515	96	17
Apprentice Training Centres**	176 644	153 505	759	107	234	89	32
Secondary Technical Schools**	22 691	21 112	173	12	49	8	-
Special schools	71 530	65 206	1 016	38	59	21	745
Universities***	166 439	-	-	-	-	-	-

* including declared Moravian and Silesian ethnicity

** normal study

*** normal study – only students of Czech citizenship

It should be noted that the above data does not correspond with statistical reviews in the publication of the Czech Statistical Office “Foreigners in the Czech Republic” (Prague 2001, p. 103 - 105) which are drawn from the database of the Institute for Information in the Educational System. The difference relates above all to the number of pupils at basic and secondary schools with Polish as a teaching language. The question also is whether those numbers are relevant especially with respect to the problem of education of Roma children or the way of processing real and applicable data.

4.3. The education of individual national minorities

German minority

The German ethnicity’s requirement for education in the mother tongue was formulated clearly in the recommendations of *The Draft of the Sudeten Educational System* adopted by the Sudeten Cultural Council in Liberec in 1992, and declared by the representatives of the Association of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. The representatives of the German national minority acknowledge that, due to its dispersed settlements, the establishment of German schools is not realistic. Nevertheless, a part of the members of the German minority have invoked the establishment of bilingual schools, with a predominance of German language, which will enable children from German and mixed families to master German as their mother tongue. These requirements are indisputably legitimate. In spite of different opinions of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the representatives of the German minority, the Ministry is ready to meet its obligations to the German national minority within the framework of legal rules, inter alia by teaching German children their mother tongue beyond the framework of primary schools’ curricula. In the case of Hungarian and Greek national minorities this obligation is met within the framework of teaching optional subjects.

In 1966 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Schools incorporated the *Private School of German-Czech Understanding* and *Thomas Mann Grammar School* into the network of

⁴⁹ Statistical Annual of the Czech Republic 2001, Prague 2001, p. 578.

schools. The primary school of German-Czech understanding (Bedřichovská 1, Prague 8) was founded by the Assembly of the Germans in 1991 as a private primary school with teaching in German and Czech languages; its aim is to teach German from the first grade and thus contribute to German - Czech understanding. The name of this school was changed due to the amendment of Act N.139/1995 Coll. amending Act N.564/1990 Coll. on state administration and self-administration in the educational system. Nowadays the amended curriculum and syllabus of teaching German from the first grade are applied on the basis of approval of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports within the programme EXTRA 1995. The school is supported by the government of Germany, which assigned a German teacher for teaching German language and provided finances for the purchase of teaching aids (in 2001 ca 1,000 DEM). Nowadays the school has five grades (115 pupils). The sixth grade is opened every year, if there are at least 13 pupils (the decrease of the number of pupils results from their leaving for eight-year grammar schools). Most of pupils are Czech, 5 pupils are German and the rest Russian and Ukrainian. The school is a much-frequented place for parents who want their children to speak fluently in both Czech and German. It has a contract of partnership with the school *Im sonnigen Winkel* in Stuttgart (inter alia pupils of the 4th grade visit it every year). The school-fee in the school-year 2001/2002 is 13,700 CZK. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports provides this school with a 100% government subsidy.

Thomas Mann Grammar School in Prague (Střížkovská 27/32, Prague 8) was founded in 1995 by the Union of the Germans for Prague and Central Bohemia on the basis of the initiative of the parents of pupils of the Private Primary School of Czech - German Understanding. The teaching cycle lasts 8 years and provides general education with extended teaching German language and individual subjects partly in German (mathematics, geography, biology, German history and German literature). The curricula and syllabus were approved by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The school prepares students for passing an examination for *Deutsches Sprachdiplom II der KMK* which guarantees the appropriate knowledge of German for its application at German universities. German is taught in 4 grades and differentiated in 3 levels of knowledge. This study is supported by the government of Germany which assigned a German programme teacher for teaching German language and provides finances for the purchase of teaching aids (ca 1,000 DEM for the school year 2000/2001). At present the study takes place in 7 grades but in the next year it will take place to the full extent i.e. in 8 grades. The school has now 114 pupils. Its higher grades have few pupils, while the first one has 25-30. The school is attended by pupils of various nationalities. They often belong to mixed Czech - German marriages. The school is preferred by parents who come back from German speaking countries and look for the possibility for their children to do bilingual studies. The school keeps a partnership with several schools in Germany. In the school year 2001/2002 the school-fee is 18,300 CZK. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports provides the school with a 90% government subsidy.

The existence of both schools was jeopardised in 2001 by the notice of termination of lease to the Primary School of German - Czech Understanding by the state primary school Prague 8, Žernosecká which leased its premises for teaching. In the end the problem was resolved by the Local Authority of Prague 8 which concluded a lease agreement about an old school in Střížkov. This school was reconstructed at own expenses for *Thomas Mann Grammar School* whose premises in Bedřichovská street were available for the Primary School of German - Czech Understanding from the beginning of the school-year 2001/2002. Finances for reconstruction at the level 11,000 CZK were provided by *Czech - German Future Fund* and the foundation *Hermann-Niermann-Stiftung Düsseldorf*.

In 1997 *Bernard Bolzano Primary School* in Tábor was opened. This school is incorporated into the network of schools under the patronage of the Ministry of Education, Youth and

Sports and 60% of its expenses are covered by the State Budget and contributions of Czech and German sponsors. Nowadays 136 pupils in 7 grades attend it. Teaching follows the educational programme Elementary School with Extended Language Lessons.

In addition, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports supported the foundation of bilingual grammar schools in Prague and Liberec.

Very important contributions in the field of education in general are in the programme of the Czech - German Future Fund, *The Exchange Stays for Youth - Germany*. In 2001 55 projects were implemented.

Large efforts in the field of education of the German national minority are exerted also by 14 regional “meeting centres” - *Begegnungszentren* - (in Brno, Havířov, Hlučín, Horní Slavkov, Cheb, Chomutov, Kravaře, Liberec, Moravská Třebová, Opava, Pilsen, Smržovka, Šumperk and Trutnov) whose activity is fully financed by Germany.

The education of the Polish national minority

The Polish national minority disposes of the network of schools in the districts Karviná and Frýdek - Místek where Polish language is taught. This network includes kindergartens, primary schools, grammar schools and secondary modern schools with Polish language as a teaching language.⁵⁰ Since 1994 the education of the Polish national minority has been favoured.

In the school-year 2001/2002 38 kindergartens with Polish as a teaching language were established. At present 701 children attend them. Primary schools with Polish as a teaching language in the districts Karviná and Frýdek - Místek are attended by 2,326 pupils. 23 classes of secondary schools with Polish as a teaching language in the district Karviná are attended by 686 pupils.

More detailed information about schools where Polish language is taught is mentioned in the table below; the information provided by the Polish national minority in Part 7 of this Report serves for comparison.

Kindergartens with Polish as a teaching language - 2001-2002

Frýdek-Místek district 24 schools 426 pupils	Bukovec; Bystřice; Dolní Lomná; Hnojník; Hrádek; Jablunkov (Písečná 42); Jablunkov (Školní 800); Karpentná; Milíkov; Mosty u Jablunkova; Návsí; Nebory*; Nýdek; Oldřichovice; Písek; Ropice; Třinec (Dolní Lištná č. 172, Kanada, Konská 119, SNP 477, Štefánikova 772); Vendryně; Vendryně, Zálší 615
Karviná district 14 schools 275 pupils	Albrechtice; Český Těšín (Svibice, Akátová 17, Hrabinská 51); Dolní Lutyně**; Havířov (Bludovice, Podlesí); Horní Suchá; Karviná (Fryštát, Nové Město); Orlová – Lutyně; Stonava – Holkovice; Těrlicko

* allocated part of school Oldřichovice

** part of primary school

Total number of pupils in kindergartens according to the Ministry is 701.

⁵⁰ A representative of the Polish minority in the Council pointed out an error in the publication *Foreigners in the Czech Republic* (Czech Statistical Office, Prague, p. 103 - 104) where schools with Polish as a teaching language were included in the chapter „The Education of Foreigners in the Czech Republic“. Schools with Polish as a teaching language in the Frýdek-Místek and Karviná districts are within the framework of the Polish educational system attended by pupils who are citizens of the Czech Republic. Thus the question is not the education of foreigners. The above error will be corrected within the preparation of further materials concerning the education of foreigners.

Pupils of primary schools with Polish as a teaching language (school-year 2001 - 2002)

KARVINÁ DISTRICT

<i>Primary school</i>	I	II	III	IV	V	Total
Albrechtice 11	2	4	6	6	5	23
Bohumín – eloc. Dolní Lutyně	1	1	2	1	1	6
Český Těšín, Svibice 20	6	2	7	7	6	28
Orlová Lutyně, Lutyňská 400	8	7	7	5	6	33
Stonava Holkovice 326	2	2	6	2	3	15
Těrlicko, Pionýrů 1/243	3	7	2	7	5	24
Total	22	23	30	28	26	129

<i>Primary school</i>	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Total
Č. Těšín, Havlíčkova 13	27	27	24	23	30	42	44	50	52	319
Dolní Lutyně, Koperníkova	4	1	0	2	3	13	7	9	10	49
Haviřov-Bludov, Selská 14	7	5	15	7	6	12	10	14	18	94
Horní Suchá 407	4	3	5	6	6	21	17	14	17	93
Karviná-Fryštát, Dr. Laszaka 156	10	9	9	9	9	12	12	16	11	97
Karviná-Nové Město, G.Morc. 1112	9	11	12	11	13	19	15	13	21	124
Total	61	56	65	58	67	119	105	116	129	776

FRÝDEK-MÍSTEK DISTRICT

<i>Primary school</i>	I	II	III	IV	V	Total
Bukovec 66	9	2	7	11	9	38
Dolní Lomná 70	4	3	3	2	7	19
Hrádek 77	8	6	10	10	8	42
Košařiska	2	4	4	2	4	16
Návsí, Pod výtopnou 190	4	7	6	7	8	32
Nýdek 293	4	2	5	6	2	19
Oldřichovice 210	8	13	5	9	12	47
Třinec – Konská 419	0	2	4	3	5	14
Ropice 165	8	4	3	7	7	29
Milíkov	3	7	5	6	4	25
Total	50	50	52	63	66	281

<i>Primary school</i>	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Total
Třinec I, Nádražní 10	9	19	8	8	16	27	26	30	39	182
Třinec VI, Koperníkova 696	4	22	14	17	19	9	21	22	22	150
Bystřice 366	11	11	19	15	14	26	29	33	25	183
Hnojník 6	9	13	10	8	10	21	13	9	13	106
Jablunkov, Bezručova 190	14	18	23	23	20	44	53	56	59	310
Mosty u Jablunkova 750	4	9	7	3	8	6	14	10	12	73
Vendryně 234	13	11	14	16	13	19	17	19	14	136
Total	64	103	95	90	100	152	173	179	184	1140

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	Total
Totally PS Frýdek – Místek	114	153	147	153	166	152	173	179	184	1421
Totally PS Karviná	83	79	95	86	93	119	105	116	129	905
PS TOTAL	197	232	242	239	259	271	278	295	313	2326

Pupils of secondary schools with Polish as a teaching language - 2001 - 2002

<i>Secondary school</i>	6-I.G. III grade	I	II	III	IV	Total
Český Těšín Grammar School	23	122	124	105	93	467
Český Těšín Grammar School and its classes in Karviná		94	97	86	66	366
		28	27	19	27	101
Secondary Technical School Karviná (classes)		13	14	17	19	63
Commercial Academy Český Těšín (classes)		25	30	17	30	102
Secondary Health care School Karviná (classes)		13	14	13	14	54
Total	23	173	182	152	156	686

In 1995 the *Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Education* was established in Český Těšín; it continually contributes to the education of pedagogues and the distribution of teaching materials and aids. On the basis of a tender, an inspector for schools with Polish as a teaching language was nominated. Since 1994 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has been supporting the publication of the magazines *Ogniwo* and *Jutrzenka* which the representatives of the Polish national minority consider to be an important aid for schools with Polish as a teaching language.

Direct expenses at schools with Polish as a teaching language are equal to those at Czech Schools; nevertheless, due to higher expenses per pupil there were some extra finances in 2001 which were provided to:

- primary schools at the level 7,590,000 CZK;
- secondary schools at the level 2,527,000 CZK.

In 2001 the Polish Pedagogic Centre in Český Těšín received subsidies at the level of 4,000,000 CZK. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports provided the Association of Polish Teachers with 65,000 CZK.

The reasons for this financial favouring of Polish national education consists of the smaller number of pupils, increasing number of lessons of Polish language and increasing expenses on textbooks and teaching aids.

In the opinion of members of the Polish national minority the problem is that communities as promoters of minority schools do not get subsidies for covering the expenses of their operation; this leads to their limitation or abolition.

The education of children of members of the Roma community

The education of Roma children is complicated by a language handicap to those who attend primary schools; this handicap is one of the most serious obstacles to their education in the future. In addition to a language barrier there is also different development of personality, hierarchy of values and social and cultural consciousness of the Roma families. These facts reflect in their attitude towards education. It is also beyond dispute that state administration does not respond to specific needs in this field with sufficient flexibility.

Since 1993 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has been dealing in the education of Roma children, especially by establishing preparatory schools for Roma children before they attend primary schools and supporting alternative educational programmes. In the school-year 2000/2001 110 preparatory classes (1,364 pupils) were established: 43 classes at primary schools, 40 classes at special schools and kindergartens. This measure influenced positively the increased number of these classes at primary schools and kindergartens; nevertheless, their number decreased in special schools (by 25%). At the beginning of the school-year 2001/2002

these schools employed 214 assistants, while at the end of the year it employed 264 . In 2001 the amount 26,400,000 CZK was assigned to the wages of assistant teachers.⁵¹

After the initial increase of the number of schools which established preparatory grades and employed assistants this process has been slowing down; up till now there are some districts without preparatory classes and assistants although they have strong Roma communities. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports should inform correctly about the possibility to take measures concerning preparatory classes and assistants in order that the pedagogues are able to conceive of this issue and motivate the parents effectively.

Evangelic Academy - Secondary Social Modern School in Prague has been implementing an experimental project of two-stages, secondary part-time studies for Roma consultants and assistants employed in state administration since 1997. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports approved it as an experimental study of the branch “Social activity within ethnic minorities”. Its first grade was fully financed from OSF funds (the programme could not be incorporated into the budget of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports because it approved the project as a whole in 1998). The subsidy for this school was determined by respective standard for church education (100%).

A similar project is the *Roma Secondary Social School, Limited Liability Company Kolín* which has been operating since 1997. Its aim is to provide pupils with complete secondary professional education; the syllabus reflects the specific features of the Roma and their social and cultural background. The school prepares students for the profession of social workers in Roma communities. The subsidy from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in Middle-Bohemian region is 90% of the standard per pupil (23,534 CZK per year); the subsidy for meals at school is 80% of this standard (5,158 CZK per year).

The adult education of employees of pedagogical and psychological advice centres, educational consultants and assistants working in state administration is assured by the Institute for Pedagogical and Psychological Consultancy, Prague and pedagogical centres. In 2001 a Primary Art School for Roma pupils was established under the patronage of the Czech Hussite Church (40 pupils, 5 pedagogues /2 Roma assistants).

The Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University, Prague implements the programme of *Roma Studies*; in addition, other faculties give lectures on Roma topics (for example the Pedagogical Faculties in Ústí nad Labem and Olomouc and the Faculty of Social Science and Journalism of Charles University, Prague).

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports published on its Internet pages the document “Strategies for the improvement of education of Roma children” (version 2001). This document includes the concept of education of Roma children within various educational programmes for all grades.

The important instrument of the upbringing and education of a Roma generation is represented by local community centres established by the Roma and pro-Roma civil associations. The priorities of more than 100 centres exist in the leisure activities of children and activities in clubs.

The education of children of members of the Slovak national minority

In the school-year 2000/2001 the only primary school with Slovak as a teaching language in Karviná terminated its activity because of the insufficient number of pupils and the unconcern

⁵¹ The establishment of the function of an educator/assistant complies with Methodical Directions of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports N.2548/2000-22 on the establishment of preparatory schools for socially handicapped children and the function of an educator.

of parents to enter their children in it. The most evident decrease of pupil numbers at this school was registered after November 1989.⁵² Because of the unconcern of parents to enter their children in a Slovak school even the project concerning the establishment of *M.R. Štefánik Slovak Grammar School* in Prague 4 was not implemented. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports established this school *de iure*, but due to the insufficient number of pupils, teaching itself could not start.

On the basis of relations between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic ca 5,000 students from Slovakia attend Czech universities in the school-year 2001/2002. 2,500 students of them are freshmen. An attention to the study of Slovak language, literature, history and realia is paid especially at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University in Prague (in 1994 the Department of Slovak Studies was established there). Contemporary Czech-Slovak relations are the subject of the seminars “Summer Studies for Teachers of Civics”.

Lauder Schools in the Prague Jewish community

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports supports the activity of a kindergarten with an alternative programme focused on Jewish culture. In the school-year 2001/2002 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports incorporated *Lauder Primary School „Gur Arje”* into the network of schools under its patronage. This school is a private primary school with teaching in the Hebrew language and the history and culture of the Jews. It has the first and second grade attended by more than 100 pupils. In 1999, the *Jewish Grammar School* was attended by ca 80 pupils and was incorporated into the above network.

The expenses of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on these schools in 2001 amounted to 4,607,000 CZK, i.e. 100% of a normative.

5. The support of cultural activities of members of national minorities

5.1. Introduction

The state supports cultural activities of members of national minorities by means of grant proceedings concerning

- special grants for the support of culture of national minorities living in the Czech Republic; it means that the Ministry considers the culture of national minorities to be one of its priorities;
- grants according to respective activity regardless the ethnicity of the submitter of a project which reflects the principle of integration and considers the culture of minorities to be an integral part of a national culture as a whole.

The attitude of the Ministry of Culture towards the members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic is formulated in the essential document *The Concept of Cultural Policy in the Czech Republic - The Strategy of More Efficient State Support of Culture* approved by Government Resolution N.401 from April 28th. 1999 and updated in Government Resolution N.40 from January 10th. 2001. This document also pays attention to the culture of national minorities; the state does not consider its development, preservation and presentation to be exclusively performing constitutional and legal obligations with respect to these citizens. It states that the government comes into line with the conviction of modern European states that the culture of every national minority living on the territory of such a state enriches the common cultural wealth of their civil communities as a whole.

⁵² The primary school with Slovak as a teaching language in Karviná was established in 1956. Its boom came in the 1970s when it was attended by more than 1,000 pupils.

This attitude of the above Ministry reflects in separate grants for all cultural activities of national minorities.

The essential principle of the Ministry's attitude towards national minorities consists of the creation of conditions under which the members of national minorities, represented mostly by civil associations, would be allowed to enforce their cultural interests and needs.

Attempting to obtain more information about the activities of individual national minorities, on one hand, and enabling the members of national minorities to participate in decision-making on grants for their activities on the other, the Deputy Minister of Culture established in 1997 an advisory committee for the affairs of minority culture. It is a board which monitors and evaluates the cultural needs of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic. It has 9 members: 6 of them are from the largest national minorities (Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Slovak and Ukrainian).⁵³ They are nominated on the basis of a recommendation of the Council of the Government for National Minorities. In addition, there is one representative of the Council's secretariat and two representatives of the professional institutions of the Ministry of Culture. The activity of an advisory committee consists of considering and evaluating the projects enlisted in a tender, and focuses on the support of cultural activities of the members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic.

The projects enlisted in a tender and focused on the support of cultural activities of the members of national minorities concentrate especially on:

- art activities;
- educational activities in individual cultural fields;
- documents on national culture;
- publication activities;
- multi-ethnic cultural activities.

5.2. The most important organisations supported by the Ministry of Culture

Croatian minority

The small and dispersed Croatian minority met for the 11th time in 2001 on the occasion of *The Day of Croatian Culture* in Jevišovka in Břeclav district. This meeting was organised by the *Association of Croatian Citizens in the Czech Republic*. It regularly plays host to Croatian ensembles from Slovakia and the ensemble Pálava from Southern Moravia which deals with Croatian folklore. In addition, some Croatian ensembles arrived.

Hungarian minority

The largest cultural association of Hungarian citizens is *The Association of the Hungarians Living in Bohemia* which carries out extensive and many-sided cultural activities. Inter alia it runs a library and a videothèque and collects documents and information relating to the Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic. The most important activity of this organisation is the festival, *Days of the Hungarian Culture*, during which Hungarian culture is presented by means of various cultural activities in Prague, Brno, Ostrava and Pilsen.

German minority

The interest of the German minority in its cultural heritage is increasing. Some regional unions of *The Assembly of the Germans Living in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia* organise

⁵³ In 2002 the advisory committee will be extended by the representatives of further national minorities (see the representation of minorities in the Council), i.e. the Bulgarian, Croatian, Ruthenian, Russian and Greek representatives.

days of German folk culture. New folklore ensembles are being established. They hold seminars which teach folklore dances of the respective regions (for example a seminar on folklore dances from Cheb region, reconstructions of old German dances, folk costumes and customs, and the publication *Customs of Hřebeč Region, Hřebeč Songs and Dances*). The representatives of 20 regional unions meet in Prague every year at *The Grand Rendezvous of Folk Art and Culture of the German Minority*.

In addition to the Assembly of the Germans Living in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia there is also the *Cultural Association of the German Citizens in the Czech Republic* which deals with the preservation, development and presentation of German culture. It organises many cultural activities mostly at a regional level.

Social and cultural activities of the German minority are supported to a great extent from the framework of grant programmes of the Ministry of Culture. The Czech-German Declaration from January 21st. 1997 resulted in the establishment of the *Czech-German Future Fund*, which functions as an international institution (hereinafter the Future Fund). The Future Fund was established on the basis of the signature of its Statute by the Czech and German governments on December 29th. 1997, as an endowment fund according to Czech law with its registered office in Prague. It was registered on December 31st. 1997 and definitely registered according to the provisions of the new Czech Act on Endowments and Endowment Funds on March 25th. 1999. Its aim is to develop mutual understanding between the Czechs and the Germans, their mutual meetings and various forms of co-operation consisting of the support of common projects in 10 fields (youth, schools and education, social policy, construction projects and renovation of monuments, minorities, conferences/seminars/discussion forums, meetings, ecology, culture, science and publications).

Polish minority

The Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic associates 22 Polish minority organisations and co-ordinates their activities. The important activity of this association is collecting, opening and popularising public records, books and exhibits which present the past of the Polish national minority on the territory of the Czech Republic.

The Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic (hereinafter PCEU) is the largest cultural organisation of members of national minorities in the Czech Republic; every year it implements the project *The Cultural and Educational Activity of PCEU* which consists of a lot of activities in a region (concerts, performances, recitation programmes, exhibitions, lectures, seminars etc.) The most important of them is the folklore festival *Gorolski Święto* in Jablunkov; it includes puppet performances in Polish language for children and various cultural activities. Another important project of PCEU is the semi-professional puppet theatre *Bajka* which has been performing for 54 years; with the aid of this theatre children form their relation to their mother tongue.

PCEU publishes the annual *Kalendarz Śląski* (Silesian Calendar) which is a valuable source of information about cultural, social, religious and political life of the Polish minority in the Czech Republic; in addition, it issues publications of its individual professional sections.

Polish Těšín Theatre plays an important role in the life of members of the Polish national minority. Těšín Theatre which has two professional ensembles has been promoted by the District Office in Karviná. From January 2003, due to the reform of public administration, it will be promoted by the Regional Authority for the Moravian-Silesian region.

Roma minority

The Society of Experts and Friends of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno procures large collections and demonstrates the history and present of life of the Roma by documentation. The museum of Roma Culture in Brno disposes of an abundance of books, photo-documents, audio-documents and video-documents, plastic art works, jewellery and textiles. Its library has more than 2,500 volumes, periodicals and individual articles mapping the Roma culture. In addition to museum activities this organisation holds exhibitions, theatre performances and lectures, organises interactive activities for young people and participates in research and scientific projects. The Museum co-operates with other museums and scientific institutes both in this country and abroad.⁵⁴

The main financial sources which cover the activity of this Museum are drawn from the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brno Metropolitan Authority and also from the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, Open Society Fund Prague, Czech-German Future Fund (in 2001 the Museum received a financial grant of 1,600,000 CZK) and the Know-How Fund. In addition, the Museum of Roma Culture was a partner of the Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust/Shoa in the mediation of humanitarian aid for the Roma prisoners of concentration camps.

At the end of 2000 the Museum relocated to reconstructed premises in Bratislavská street 67; for this reconstruction Brno received a grant of 35,000,000 CZK from the State Budget. In 2001 7,000,000 CZK were earmarked from the State budget for equipment and a permanent exposition. In spite of enormous efforts of the Museum's employees these resources were not utilised and, therefore, were transferred to the State Budget for 2002. The Museum of Roma Culture has been successfully presenting Roma culture for many years, even abroad, especially by means of exhibitions. In addition, it represents the Czech Republic abroad in the field of research and documentation of the Roma holocaust. For example it participated in the establishment of the permanent Roma holocaust exposition in Oswiecim (Auschwitz) opened in 2001.

The *Dženo Association* is a civil association focused on the association of Roma citizens who are ready to help the members of their minority. One of the main aims of this Association is the support of development and restoration of Roma traditions and features - independence, liberalism, sense of honour and justice, care of children and mutual solidarity regardless of social position. This organisation supports the fight against racism, observance of human rights, development of democracy and social tolerance. It also assists regional Roma organisations by means of its regional branches in Ostrava and Roudnice nad Labem, and the education of the Roma including the mediation of scholarships for gifted Roma pupils and students and professional training of local Roma activists.

The Association is supported from the State Budget and to a large extent by foreign sponsors: Open Society Fund Prague, Open Society Institute Budapest, Know-How fund, National Lottery Charities Board, EU (PHARE).

The *Democratic Alliance of the Roma* held, in 2001 at Walachia Open-Air Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, the 6th festival of *Roma Song*. The festival attracts visitors from the Roma minority and representatives of state administration and self-administration in Karviná region.

The *Association of the Roma of Northern Moravia* organised the festival of *Roma Song Karviná*. In 2001 the festival took place under the auspices of the Prime Minister. It is an international music festival aimed at the presentation of both traditional and contemporary Roma music. It takes place in a region with a numerous Roma population. This fact reflects in

⁵⁴ The Museum of Roma Culture in Brno issues an annual bulletin on its activities.

the increasing number of visitors. During the festival the workshop “The Development of Social Capital in the Region” was held.

Romano džaniben (Roma Knowledge) is a periodical of Roma studies published by The Association of the Friends of Romano Džaniben. It has ca 100 pages with a *Literary Inset* which is issued occasionally. The articles are published in Czech, Roma, Slovak and, exceptionally, in some of the international languages (German, English, French). The aim of this periodical is to issue specialised studies for experts who deal in some branch of Roma studies (linguistics, sociology, history etc.) and original texts in various Roma dialects. Communication with readers and consultations with the editorial board, including several Roma contributors, resulted gradually in increasing the number of potential readers; in addition to specialised articles there is also information about Roma language, culture and history.

The publication of this periodical is supported by grants provided by the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society and the Open Society Fund Prague or projects supported by the Ministry of Culture.

In addition to the above organisations there are dozens of other cultural Roma organisations in the Czech Republic which organise various cultural activities supported from the State Budget, local budgets and, to a large extent, also the budgets of both inland and foreign non-governmental, non-profit organisations.

The world Roma festival *Khamoro* (Sunshine) is one of the most prestigious activities which are performed in Prague. It is organised by *Word 21 Civil Association*. The festival was founded in 1999. Since that year it has been taking place under the auspices of the President. In 2001 Roma artists from 12 states (even from Egypt, Turkey, Sweden, Italy and Russia) took part in it.

The civil association *Yetti Climbers Club* (Prague) shot in 2001 the TV serials *Amare Roma* (Our Roma). Its aim is to popularise Roma history, culture and tradition as well as Roma artists and famous personalities of Roma origin and teaching Roma languages. Up to the present time Czech TV has shot and presented 26 parts.

Greek minority

Members of the Greek minority consider the preservation of traditional Greek dances to be necessary and irreplaceable for the preservation and development of national identity. That is why the *Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic* holds annual seminars on Greek dances whose aim is the professional preparation of dancers and a methodological aid to ensembles headed by Greek lecturers. The ensembles *Gorgona*, *Akropolis* and *Prometheus* are very active and during a year take part in many festivals. In 2001 also the children ensembles *Gorgona* and *Prometheus* were founded. The main activity of Association of the Greek communities in the Czech Republic concentrates on annual *Important Days of the Greek Culture*.

Slovak minority

The *Club of the Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic*, which is the largest within the Slovak minority with respect to the number of members - ca 2,500 persons -, focuses on publication activity, lectures, seminars, activity of folklore ensembles and professional artists, exhibitions, meetings with prominent personalities of cultural and social life and balls. It pays attention also to the issue of documents on activities of the Slovak minority. In 2001 it participated in the preparation of the first *Week of the Czech-Slovak Cultural Interaction*.

The *Slovak-Czech Club* is the main organiser of *Days of the Slovak Culture* which in 2001 took place in České Budějovice, Moravská Třebová and Prague. In this festival prominent Slovak artists participate. In addition to traditional club evening parties, this civil association

holds also the festival of *Czech-Slovak Theatre*. In its performances Czech and Slovak actors play together in their mother tongue.

The *Slovak Community in the Czech Republic* has its regional branches throughout the whole state. It holds club evening parties and is one of the main organisers of the international festival of Slovak folklore, *Jánošík Ducat*, which takes place in Walachia Open-Air Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm. In the 3rd festival in 2001 more than 20 ensembles from the Czech Republic and abroad performed. The festival has been assuming a multicultural form because ensembles of other national minorities living in the Czech Republic (in 2001 the representatives of Roma, Greek and Polish communities) have taken part in it.

The *Limborá Slovak Folklore Association in the Czech Republic* (Prague) celebrated 15 years of activity in 2001. On this occasion, and on the occasion of 50th anniversary of Slovak folklore in Prague, a gala-concert was held at Vinohrady Theatre. *Limborá* is the main organiser of the international festival *Prague - the Heart of Nations*.

Ukrainian minority

The *Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic* (Prague) implements every year the project *The Preservation of Identity and the Development of the Ukrainian (Ukrainian-Ruthenian) Minority in the Czech Republic*. It consists of the annual activities of this association, i.e. concerts, film projections, exhibitions and meetings.

The *Association of Ukrainian Women in the Czech Republic* (Prague) concentrates on the presentation of the Ukrainian culture and cultural traditions. Its lectures and publications focus on the history of the Ukrainian nation and its minority in the Czech Republic.

The *Association of the Ukrainians and the Friends of Ukraine* (Prague) concentrates its activity on music. It includes the St. Vladimir Choir which holds concerts and participates in Orthodox liturgies.

Jewish minority

One of the most important roles in the field of cultural and educational minority activities is played by the *Jewish Museum in Prague* founded by the Federation of Jewish Communities, Prague Jewish Community and the Ministry of Culture. One of its parts is formed by a Cultural and Educational Centre which holds lectures about the Jewish community and is included among the main organisers of multicultural education in the Czech Republic.

5.3. Multiethnic activities

Domovina (Homeland) - *the Programme of National Minorities Living in the Czech Republic Within the Strážnice International Folklore Festival* is every second year a part of the International Folklore Festival in Strážnice. This festival is organised by *Slovácký krúžek* (Slovak Circle). In 2001 (56th festival) the programme *Domovina* included the performance of following ensembles:

Croatian: Pálavánek (Mikulov)

Hungarian: Tiszavirág (Brno)

German: Hřebeč Dance Ensemble (Moravská Třebová)

Polish: Skotnica (Orlová - Lutyně)

Roma: The Circle of Games and Good Ideas Čhavorikani luma and the band Romane romnija (Neratovice)

Ruthenian: Skejušan (Chomutov)

Greek: Prometheus (Brno), Gorgona (Krnov), Akropolis (Prague)

Slovak: Limbora (Prague)

Ukrainian: Ignis (Prague)

Jewish: The Circle of Jewish Dances Besamim (Prague)

Prague - the Heart of Nations - the international festival. The Slovak folklore association Limbora, along with other organisations of the members of national minorities living in Prague, held in 2001 the third international festival which took place under the auspices of the Minister of Culture. 500 artists of 15 nationalities performed there. The festival meets with a wide reception of visitors and has become a traditional undertaking which enriches exceedingly the cultural life of the capital. It culminates in the Sunday Parade, International Folklore Marathon at Old Town Square and a gala-concert at Vinohrady Theatre.

XXX. Silesian Days in Dolní Lomná - the Folklore festival. In this 30th anniversary folklore festival, local folklore ensembles from Těšín region, which is characterised by the mixture of nationalities, as well as those from the whole republic and foreign countries taking part. The festival is organised by Český Těšín Regional Committee of the Silesian Foundation.

Jackové to Children - the Association of the Ensemble Jackové and the Local Authority of Jablunkov held in 2001 the 3rd international folklore childrens festival in Jablunkov. Its essential aim is to present the traditional folklore of South Silesia and the neighbouring regions of Slovakia and Poland and establish friendly contacts between the Czech people and the Polish minority.

In addition to systematic support of the culture of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic, assistance is also afforded to minority activities within the framework of the tenders of the Ministry of Culture according to factual or thematic purposes.

5.4. The House of National Minorities in Prague

As the activity of organisations of the members of national minorities is concentrated mainly in Prague, Government Resolution N.173 from February 19th, 2001 on the consent to give exception for the tender concerning the transfer of real property from the administration of the Children and Youth Fund for the purposes of the establishment of a House of Nationalities in Prague, took account of the project relating to the establishment of a House of National Minorities in Prague in Vocelova street 602/3, Prague 2. The above project was elaborated by the Commission of the Council of the Capital Prague for National Minorities in co-operation with the secretariat of the Council. The premises intended for the establishment of a House of National Minorities is transferred to the Council of the Capital Prague. Nevertheless, the building is uninhabitable and needs reconstruction, furniture and other equipment in order to serve for the cultural activities of national minorities. It is estimated that expenses on structural and technical reconstruction, equipment and operation of the premises will be equal to 40,807,000 CZK. Estimated annual operating expenses administrated by the Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague will be equal to 1,400,000 – 1,600,000 CZK.

The chairman of the Commission of Council of the Capital Prague for National Minorities asks the Council for a subsidy for the implementation of a project. It is required that the financial contribution to the implementation of the above project is equal to 50%.

6. The financial support of activities of the members of national minorities

In addition to the above forms the financial support of activities of national minorities is provided within the framework a separate grant programme for the Roma community. The government received in April 2002 *Information About the Utilisation of Financial Resources*

*for the Support of Projects Concerning the Integration of the Roma Community in 2001.*⁵⁵ This document sums up individual grants provided by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Although the report does not deal in the programme of integration of the Roma community, it is important that the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs provides non-governmental, non-profit organisations of social services with non-investment grants for projects focused on the affairs of national minorities; as a matter of fact the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs provided in 2001 the non-investment grants of 11,916 000 CZK for these (nineteen) projects.

6.1. The Ministry of Culture

In 2001, 96 submitters of 152 projects asked for a grant from the budget chapter of the Ministry of Culture; the total required amount was more than 34,000,000 CZK (the number of registered projects has been increasing: in the previous year 84 civil associations submitted 134 projects asking in them for more than 28,000,000 CZK).

In the State Budget for 2001 7,000,000 CZK for *the Programme of Support of Activities of National and Ethnic Minorities* were earmarked. In the course of distribution of grants the Ministry extended this programme by a permitted 10% . At the end of the year the Budget Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic approved the extension of the above programme by 500,000 CZK. The government subsidy 8,220,000 CZK was distributed to 76 projects.

6.2. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Polish minority

The Ministry provided in 2001 a grant for the issue of the reports from the conference “The Past and Present of National Minorities in Těšín Region” and the purchase of the publication “The Polish National Minority in Těšín Region”. These publications were distributed to all schools in Těšín and Ostrava regions, pedagogical centres and the Departments of Civics of pedagogical faculties.

In addition, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports supports the issue of two periodicals which serve as additional study material for the pupils of primary schools with Polish as a teaching language: *Jutrzenka* for the first grade and *Ogniwo* for the second one.

Roma minority

Most of the grants were intended for publication and information activities. Thus 14 publications focusing on the education of pedagogues were issued; in addition, these grants were used at schools and educational institutions and for organising 8 seminars on Roma issues.

Informal Meetings with Teachers - Round Tables on Roma Issues: in the informal round table meetings with teachers in selected localities on Roma issues, the employees of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the Office of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Affairs of the Roma Community. These informal meetings were held in Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Ústí nad Labem and České Budějovice. On the basis of final reports of pedagogical centres an information document was elaborated and then sent to the Government Representative for Human Rights.

⁵⁵ The chairman of the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for the Affairs of the Roma Community submitted respective documents for the meeting of the government on April 17th. 2002.

The Ministry, along with universities and the “R-Movement of Co-operating Schools” (according to Government Resolution N.686/97 from October 29th. 1997) organised two seminars for teachers and educators-assistants within the system of further education of pedagogues.

- *The Roma and Social Pedagogy* - (7 - 8 June) along with the J.A. Komenský Museum in Přerov. The second part of this seminar took place in Levoča in Slovakia. The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic provided financial support for the participation of 45 teachers and educators-teacher assistants from the Czech Republic.
- *The Roma and Social Work* - (14 - 15 December) in co-operation with Charles University in Prague.

The seminars included discussions on intolerance and looking for the effective methods of elimination of their manifestation at schools and other educational institutions. Among their participants were also the representatives of the Ministry of Education from the Slovak Republic and the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

The Course of Pedagogical Minimum for Educators-Teacher Assistants: in this course in 2001 (20 - 29 March) 25 participants, and in the November, a course of 27 participants took place. In December it was held in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Schools and Humanitas-Profes Prague.

I. Festive Forum of Educators-Teacher Assistants: this festive meeting was held in the Belvedere Hotel in Prague and attended by school directors, Roma representatives, employees of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, politicians, journalists, editors of Roma periodicals and TV representatives.

The educational project *Equality in Variety* has been taking place at 6 pilot schools since 1998; it is focused on the professional preparation of pupils and their leisure activities, organisation of seminars, publications on partial and final results of pilotage and their distribution to schools.

The project *Equality in Variety* approved by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Schools as a project at 8 pilot and several primary and specialised schools, one apprentice training centre, practical school and high pedagogical school. The project is focused above all on children from the Roma communities in the Czech Republic, teachers, pedagogues, volunteers from non-governmental organisations and students of pedagogic schools. Its aim is to create, at pilot schools, conditions for hobbies developing ethical values - education in human rights, mutual understanding, self-confidence, self-realisation and personal responsibility to assert oneself in society and at work.

The programme *Bridges:* the directors of School Offices were asked to select pedagogues who would be specialized in multicultural issues in their regions.

The seminars for teachers and pedagogues on the evaluation of maturity and readiness of Roma children for study are usually a part of the educational programmes of the Institute for Pedagogic and Psychological Consultancy. In the school year 2000/2001 two seminars took place.

Greek minority

In 2001 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Schools supported an *Educational Project on Teaching Greek Language* submitted by the Association of Greek Communities.

Slovak minority

The Ministry utilised the offer of the Club of Slovak Culture and distributed the audiocassette *Slovak Tails* to individual pedagogical centres.

Jewish Congregation

The grant in 2001 was intended for the issue of two publications on the holocaust and seminars on the multicultural education of teachers.

Other organisations of members of national minorities (Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Ruthenian, Russian and Ukrainian) have not submitted their projects.

The Ministry initiated the organisation of 3 seminars, the issue of 5 information publications for pedagogues and the purchase of 3 publications for the use of the civic authorities (multicultural education, human rights, tolerance, literacy, racism, extremism, education to citizenship and tolerance).

6.3. Grants from the State Budget for the publication of periodicals

In the budget chapter *The General Administration of the State Budget of the Czech Republic in 2001* the amount 30,000,000 CZK was earmarked for the publication of periodicals of national minorities. In October 2001 the Council for Nationalities of the Government of the Czech Republic announced a competitive grant bidding for projects concerning the publication of minority periodicals. During its preparation and implementation the Council co-operated with the Department of Financing the Non-Profit Sector of the Ministry of Finance and the Department of Regional and National Culture of the Ministry of Culture. Their opinion was one of ground materials for the negotiations of the Council which discussed on December 12th. 2001 individual applications and projects of publishers of periodicals of national minorities for 2001. During the competitive grant bidding *The Principles of Economic Guarantee of Publishing Periodicals of National Minorities* (approved by Government Resolution N.771 from December 3rd. 1997). On the basis of analyses of re-calculated planned expenses the Council recommended higher grants for the publication of individual periodicals.

In accordance with the results of the Council's negotiations on December 12th. 2000 the chairman submitted its recommendation to the Ministry of Finance and in his letter of January 3rd. 2001 asked the Minister of Finance to decide on providing non-investment grants from the State Budget to publishers, i.e. civil associations of members of national minorities. According to § 14 of Act n.218/2000 Coll. on budget rules, the Ministry of Finance issued for individual publishers a decision on providing a non-investment grant from the State Budget of the Czech Republic for 2001. The annex of a Decision included conditions for the utilisation of a grant, obligations of its recipient and conditions of its accounts. Respective administration of providing grants was assured by the Department of Financing Non-Profit Sector of the Ministry of Finance. The survey of grants for the publishers of periodicals of national minorities, settlement of grants, control and proposed measures is as follows:

6.3.1 Hungarian minority

(1) *Prágai Tükör - cultural and social magazine* - Prague Mirror (publisher: Union of the Hungarians Living in Bohemia; grant: 1,135,000 CZK; periodicity: five times a year; announced number: 1,100 copies; number of pages: 90 - 100; price: 34 CZK.

This periodical deals in social and cultural issues. It is the only minority Hungarian periodical supported from the State Budget. Its publisher submitted incomplete accounts without requested

explanation. The grant percentage of a project was not observed. While the maximum grant percentage of a project determined in a Decision was 86%, in fact it was 92%. On request additional data to the accounts were submitted; at the same time the civil association asked for a temporary change of the above percentage. In 2001 the workers of the Financial Directorate of the Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague controlled the grants provided to this publisher for the publication of periodicals in 1998 - 2000. No serious insufficiency in the administration of grants from the State Budget were found and no measure proposed.

6.3.2. German minority

(2) *Landes-Zeitung. Zeitung des Deutschen in Böhmen, Mähren und Schlesien* - Provincial Newspaper - The Newspaper of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia (publisher: Assembly of the Germans Living in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia; grant: 2,348,000 CZK; periodicity: fortnightly; announced number: 4,000 – 5,000 copies; number of pages: 8 -12; price: 6.50 CZK - subscribers 6 CZK).

This fortnightly comments on the social and cultural activities of the German minority in the Czech Republic and issues surveys of the activities of regional organisations and articles on political events relating to the situation of the German minority.

Although the settlement of a grant shows the very low marketability (only 15%), distribution expenses exceed planned ones many times. It means that copies are distributed gratis to readers. Nevertheless, a publisher proves in his accounts that the percentage of unsold newspapers is about 50%. In addition, he proves of high overhead expenses (64%) on the activity of his editorial board. In 2001 the workers of the Financial Directorate of the Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague controlled the utilisation of a grant by the above publisher in 1999 - 2000 and found some insufficiencies in the administration of a grant from the State Budget in previous years, especially uneconomical expenses (for example those which do not relate to the publication of a periodical); the 2001 grant was re-evaluated and shortened by 148,000 CZK; its total amount is 2,200,000 CZK. The accounts of a grant were not sufficient. The publisher did not perform conditions determined by a Decision - without any justification he decreased the price of a periodical; in addition, he did not keep the grant percentage of a project and his accounts included some incorrect data. For example data on subscribers did not correspond with subscription income (the accounts mention 1,200 subscribers but respective subscription income do not accord with it). On the basis of an application for explanation the publisher submitted new accounts added by the income from the sale of a periodical abroad and increased expenses on its foreign distribution. After the incorporation of additional income and expenses relating to the foreign sale of a periodical into accounts the grant percentage of a project is observed. The publisher has a very low income which can not cover distribution expenses. In his accounts he proves that the percentage of unsold newspapers is 50%.

The proposal of measures:

It is recommended to the grant recipient to pay more attention to the preparation of his budget and accounts. The publisher submits every year insufficient accounts and as soon as he is advised about it he submits several new ones. In addition, it is recommended to him to decrease the total number of copies due to the high number of unsold ones and focus on their domestic sale. It is necessary to respect the aim of a grant from the State Budget, i.e. to enable the members of national minorities (citizens of the Czech Republic) to disseminate and receive information in their mother tongue.

(3) Prager Volkzeitung. Wochenblatt der deutschen Bürger in der Tschechischen Republik - Prague Folk Newspaper. The Weekly of German Citizens in the Czech Republic (publisher: Cultural Association of the German Citizens of the Czech Republic; grant: 2,100,000 CZK; periodicity: fortnightly; announced number: 3,500 copies; number of pages: 12; price: 8 CZK).

This fortnightly is focused above all on the members of regional organisations of *Cultural Association of the German Citizens in the Czech Republic*. To a limited extent it also gives reports and comments on the position of the German minority in Bohemia. Its approximate marketability is 45%; nevertheless, the ratio between the number of unsold copies and the level of investment expenses is not clear. The grant percentage of a project is about 50%. This percentage was observed, but the accounts did not include all formal elements. Now the Financial Directorate controls grants provided from the State Budget in 1999 - 2001 and the publication of the above periodical. The detailed information on the results of this control will be submitted to the Ministry of Culture which has been a provider of respective grant for the publication of the above periodical since 2002.

The proposal of measures:

The measures will be proposed on the basis of the results of a control implemented by the Financial Directorate of the Capitol City of Prague.

6.3.3. Polish minority

(4) Głos Ludu. Gazeta Polaków w Republice Czeskiej - The Voice of People. The Newspaper of the Poles in the Czech Republic (publisher: Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic; grant: 4,600,00 CZK; periodicity: every other day; announced number: 5,700 – 6,200 copies; number of pages: 8 - 12; price: 4.50 CZK (Extra Edition 12 CZK).

On the basis of an agreement between the publisher and OLZA Publishing House Ltd. which publishes printed papers in Polish language the every other daily is of high quality. It is available in public shops on the territory settled by the Polish minority in Karviná and Frýdek-Místek districts. The grant percentage of total project expenses is 46%; in comparison with all publishers of minority periodicals it is the most acceptable percentage.

The sales cover 39% of total expenses; 15% of these expenses are covered by other resources, i.e. grants from an Employment Agency, sponsor donations from Třinec Ironworks and advertisement income. The publisher asked this year for the Change of a Decision and added the reduced budget of a project. His application was admitted. The grant percentage of a project determined by a Decision was observed; nevertheless, the accounts did not include all formal elements. No measure is proposed.

(5) Zwrot. Miesięcznik społeczno-kulturalny Polskiego Związku Kulturalno-Oświatowego - The Return. Socio-cultural Monthly of Polish Cultural and Educational Union (publisher: Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic; grant: 1,300,000 CZK; periodicity: monthly; announced number: 2,000 copies; number of pages: 80; price: 14 CZK).

This cultural and educational monthly is focused on the history and contemporary professional and non-professional activities of the Polish minority in Těšín Silesia. The production expenses on a periodical increase proportionately to its increasing typographical quality and extent.

The conditions determined by a Decision were performed. The grant covers 74% of project expenses. The publisher is successful in finding other resources for financing the project: in addition to sales which cover 21% of total expenses he obtains resources from advertisement and Polish sponsors. Distribution expenses are not mentioned, because they are covered by resources from Poland. No measure is proposed.

(6) *Nasza Gazetka. Dwutygodnik dla dzieci i młodzieży* - Our Small Newspaper. The Fortnightly for Children and Youth (publisher: Harcerstwo Polskie w Republice Czeskiej; grant: 1,200,000 CZK; periodicity: fortnightly; announced number: 1,000 copies; number of pages. 8 - 12; price: 4.50 CZK; Saturday Edition 6 CZK (Extra Edition 12 CZK).

This fortnightly for children and youth of Polish ethnicity propagates the application of “community” methodology to the activities of children’s collectives. The accounts show its comparatively high marketability (83%). Its distribution, which is not included in expenses, is covered from other resources. The accounts included all formal elements and the grant percentage of the project was observed. The publisher performed conditions mentioned in an agreement on the utilisation of a grant.

The proposal of measures:

Due to the large grant percentage of a project (83%), high expenses on the publication of a periodical and minimal sales it is recommended to increase its price, inter alia because of the fact that it is not comparable with any other children’s periodical issued by a major company. Expenses on one copy are 64 CZK while the price of this periodical is 5 CZK.

(7) *Kurier Praski* - Prague Courier (publisher: Prague Courier Civil Association; grant: 216,000 CZK; periodicity: monthly; announced number: 500 copies; number of pages: 12 - 24; price: 10 CZK).

This monthly is focused above all on the Polish community in Prague, the position of the Poles in the Czech Republic and Czech-Polish relations. It has an unpretentious polygraphic lay-out. The accounts do not enable to find out total expenses on the periodical and the number of unsold copies. The publisher submitted insufficient accounts but on request he complemented them. The grant percentage of a project determined by a Decision was not observed. The publisher explained this situation by problems relating to the sale of the periodical (its price increased by 100%). In spite of these efforts the sales have not increased; the periodical still has only 7 permanent subscribers ; other copies are distributed gratis.

The proposal of measures:

It is recommended to the recipient of the grant to pay more attention to the preparation of his budget and accounts and focus on the marketability of his periodical.

6.3.4. Roma minority

(8) *Amaro gendalos* - Our Mirror. Socio-cultural Monthly (publisher: Association of the Friends of Dženo Foundation); grant: 1,940,000 CZK; periodicity: monthly; announced number: 500 copies; number of pages: 18 - 24; price: 15 CZK).

This periodical has a very inspiring lay-out and content. It presents articles in both Czech and Roma language and an English summary at the end of every number. Like other Roma periodicals, this one suffers from the problem of distribution, marketability and the high percentage of unsold copies. Due to the fact that it is not intended only for members of the Roma community in the Czech Republic, but everybody who is interested in Roma issues all Roma texts are published in parallel in Czech. The publisher submitted incomplete accounts without the real level of expenses and the percentage of unsold copies; the item “Phone Calls” was exceeded by 100%; in addition, the submitted data did not reveal the percentage of overhead expenses.

The publisher exceeded the ratio between overhead and production expenses by 3%. On the basis of an application for the explanation of this situation, he submitted new accounts showing that exceeding the determined amount resulted from a wrong calculation: some items

were not incorporated into the accounts of their respective year. Now the workers of the Financial Directorate for Central Bohemia controls the grants provided in 1999 - 2001 to the civil association *Dženo* from the State Budget for the publication of the above periodical.

The proposal of measures:

The measures will be proposed on the basis of results of a control. The detailed information about them will be submitted to the Ministry of Culture which has been the provider of a grant for the publication of minority periodicals since 2002.

(9) *Kereka* - The Magazine Not Only For the Roma Children. The Circle. (publisher: Democratic Alliance of the Roma in the Czech Republic seated in Valašské Meziříčí; grant: 1,620,000 CZK; periodicity: monthly; announced number: 4,500 copies; number of pages: 32 (plus occasional Extra Edition *Kerečka - Kereka to Children*); price: 10 CZK).

This periodical has an inspiring lay-out. It serves as a methodological aid at schools with Roma pupils; its texts are published both in Czech and Roma language. It is distributed among Roma children and at schools. In the process of education of the Roma youth it plays an important role. The publisher distributes it to the teachers of primary schools in regions with a larger percentage of the Roma population. They utilise them in teaching the Roma pupils and for the purposes of multicultural education.

In his application for a grant the publisher stated that the planned total number of copies was 4,700 pieces; nevertheless, the accounts showed that the real number of them was 3,000 pieces. The positive feature is the decrease of the number of unsold copies (from 1,175 to 26 copies). The accounts also showed that distribution expenses increased, while the sales decreased strikingly. The publisher asked for the change of grant percentage of a project from 70% to 90%. As the expenses, compared with a submitted budget, decreased due to the decrease of overhead expenses, his application was admitted. The absent data which were to be submitted along with the accounts of a grant (Report of the Implementation of a Project) were complemented in an alternative term. In comparison with other publishers of minority periodicals, the ratio between overhead and total expenses is the lowest, i.e. 27% only. Another positive feature is the increasing marketability of a periodical. No measure is proposed.

(10) *Romano hangos* - Roma Voice. The Fortnightly of the Roma in the Czech Republic (publisher: Association of the Roma in Moravia - Brno; grant: 1,420,000 CZK; periodicity: fortnightly; announced number: 3,000 copies; number of pages: 8; price: 4 CZK).

This periodical has been published since 1999 and in comparison with *Romano kurko* has been profiling itself clearly. Articles are published in Czech and partially in Roma language. The planned number of copies was 3,000 pieces, but it has decreased to 2,500 pieces; the number of unsold copies has decreased by 300. The item "Services - Miscellanea" was exceeded many times (approximately by 150,000 CZK). The sales are very low (about 13,000 CZK), distribution expenses are 203,000 CZK.

The grant percentage of total expenses is 71%; in comparison with all publishers of periodicals it is the third lowest percentage. The sales are very low - they cover only 5% of total expenses; the rest of the expenses are covered from other resources, for example from the contribution of the *Foundation for the Development of Civil Society* and other donations. The accounts did not include all formal elements resulting from obligations of the recipient of a grant determined by a Decision; in addition, a report on the implementation of a project has not been submitted as needed. The Ministry of Finance had asked the publisher to complement his report but the letter was returned as undelivered; it will be sent to him once more. No measure is proposed.

(11) *Romano kurko* - The Fortnightly of Roma Topical News and Attractions. Roma Week (publisher: Civil Association for Roma National Press, Czech Republic-Brno; grant: 1,400,000 CZK; periodicity: monthly; announced number: 5,000 copies; number of pages: 8 - 12; price: 5 CZK).

This periodical is focused on commentaries on events in the Roma community. It is distributed gratis; this accords with the specific feature of the distribution of Roma periodicals in the Roma community. The marketability of this periodical is only 1%; the rest of the copies (4,020 pieces in comparison with planned 5,000 pieces) were distributed gratis; nevertheless, distribution expenses are high (133,000 CZK). In comparison with all publishers the grant percentage of the project is the highest (99.73%).

The publisher has proved no income from the publication of his periodical for several years. For the first time he presented it in 2001 as an income from subscription at the level of 2,925 CZK. Other copies are distributed gratis. The publisher asked for the change of a decision, especially the change of level of overhead expenses. Along with this application he submitted the budget of income and expenses. The conditions for the utilisation of a grant were not performed: total overhead expenses were exceeded by 46,000 CZK and expenses on wages by 100,000 CZK.

The proposal of measures.

As essential conditions for the utilisation of a grant determined in a Decision N.2 were not performed, the Financial Directorate was asked for the control of handling grants from the State Budget. Other measures will be taken on the basis of results of this control.

6.3.5 Greek minority

(12) *Kalimera* - Good Morning (publisher: Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic; grant: 230,000 CZK; periodicity. six times a year; announced number: 2,000 copies; number of pages: 16 - 24; price: (?).

The publisher submitted insufficient accounts; he was asked for complemented ones but he has not submitted them yet.

In 2001 a grant from the State Budget for the Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic was approved for the publication of the quarterly *Kalimera* for Greek national minorities at the level 230,000 CZK. The publisher announced in that year that he withdrew from the implementation of the project. Thus the periodical was issued only in the first quarter of 2001. During this time the publisher submitted the accounts of the grant from the State Budget. They were insufficient and did not correspond with the instructions of a Decision N.1 on the provision of a grant. In addition, they did not include sales and a report on the implementation of the project, determined as an obligation of the recipient of a grant by a Decision. Additional source materials showed that conditions for the publication of a periodical mentioned in a Decision were not performed; in addition, the price of the periodical (5 CZK) was not kept ; the periodical was distributed gratis; the grant percentage of the project was 100%.

The proposal of measures:

The Financial Directorate was asked for the control of handling a grant from the State Budget. Other measures will be taken on the basis of results of this control.

6.3.6 Slovak minority

(13) *Listy 2001. Česko - Slovensko - Európa . Politika - Etika – Kultúra* Lists 2001. Bohemia - Slovakia - Europe. Politics - Ethics - Culture (publisher: Club of the Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic; grant: 3,148,000 CZK; periodicity: monthly; announced

number: 4,100 copies; number of pages: 32 (+ Extra Edition *The Monthly Survey of Club of the Slovak Culture* 8 pages); price: 19.90 CZK).

This periodical is of a high professional standard. As the members of the Club of the Slovak Culture are both Czech and Slovak, the periodical is addressed also to the Czech public. Contributions are published in Czech and Slovak languages. The publisher utilised a grant in accordance with the rules of its provision.

He submitted detailed accounts and many informative documents. The level of overhead expenses is 41%. The grant percentage of a project determined by a Decision to be 84% was exceeded by 1.5%. In additional source materials the publisher explained that the difference resulted from the delayed invoice of distribution expenses in November and December. In addition, it was not possible to incorporate this invoice into accounts because A.L.L. Production Company Ltd. was transferred in February 2002. No measures are proposed.

(14) *Slovenské dotyky. Magazín Slovákov v ČR* - Slovak Touches. The Magazine of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic (publisher: Slovak - Czech Club in the Czech Republic; grant: 2,880,000 CZK; periodicity: monthly; announced number: 8,000 copies; number of pages: 24 - 34 (+ Extra Edition *Literárne dotyky* (Literary Touches)); price: 18 CZK).

This periodical is focused both on the Slovak community in the Czech Republic and the Czech public and friends of the Slovak - Czech Club. The accounts of a grant showed that the publisher did not keep the determined grant percentage of a project (75%) because the sales equalled only half of those in the budget. The real percentage was 82%. It was clear from additional data that this difference resulted from the fact that the discounts of distribution companies were not incorporated into distribution expenses. Thus the sales were decreased by this amount. No measure is proposed.

(15) *Korene* - Roots (publisher: The Slovak Community in the Czech Republic; grant: 2,880,000 CZK; periodicity: monthly; announced number: 5,000 copies; number of pages: 26 + 4 (+ *Detská príloha Koráliky* (Extra Edition for Children "Beads")); price: 16 CZK).

This periodical is intended both for laymen and experts. It presents articles on actual issues concerning minority policy in the Czech Republic, especially the Slovaks' position in the Czech Republic, and issues the surveys of activities of local and regional organisations of the Slovak Community in the Czech Republic.

The publisher submitted incomplete accounts without a requested commentary. On request he submitted the required data. The accounts showed that overhead expenses exceed 40%. The grant percentage of a project is 83%; this is in accordance with the percentage determined by a Decision. Now the workers of the Financial Directorate for Central Bohemia control grants provided from State Budget in 1999 - 2001 for the publication of the above periodical. The detailed report on the results of this control will be submitted to the Ministry of Culture which has been the provider of a grant for the publication of minority periodicals since 2002.

The proposal of measures:

Contingent measures will be proposed on the basis of results of the above control.

6.3.7. Ukrainian minority

(16) *Porohy. Časopys dlja Ukrajincyv v Českej respubliki* - Thresholds. The Periodical for the Ukrainians in the Czech Republic (publisher: Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic; grant: 650,000 CZK; periodicity: six times a year; announced number: 600 copies; number of pages: 38; price: 20 CZK).

This periodical is focused on problems of the Ukrainians in the Czech Republic and all over the world. The total number of copies has increased (from 600 pieces to 850 pieces). The publisher submitted incomplete accounts without a requested commentary. The grant percentage of the project was not kept: a Decision determined the maximum grant percentage to be 84%, in fact it was 93.98%. Requested additional data to the accounts have not been submitted yet because of a respective control. Now the workers of the Financial Directorate for Central Bohemia control grants provided from State Budget in 1999 - 2001 for the publication of the above periodical. The detailed report on the results of this control will be submitted to the Ministry of Culture which has been the provider of a grant for the publication of minority periodicals since 2002.

The proposal of measures:
 Contingent measures will be proposed on the basis of the results of the above control.

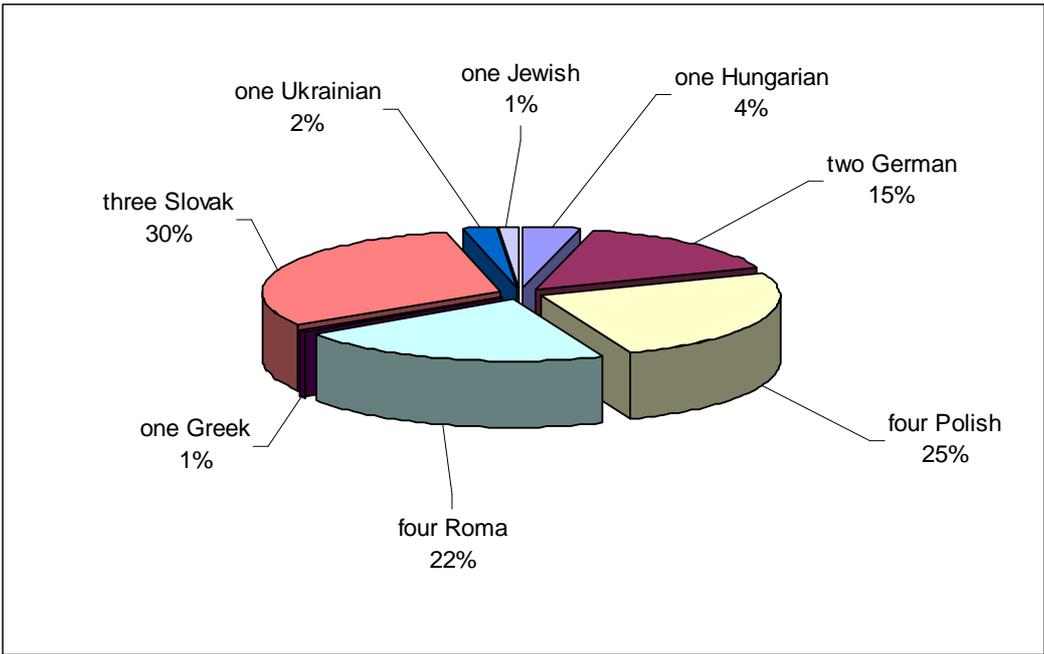
6.3.8. Jewish community

(17) *Hatikva* (publisher: Jewish Liberal Union in the Czech Republic; grant: 400,000 CZK; periodicity: monthly; announced number: 800 copies; number of pages: 16 - 24; price: 20 CZK).

The publisher did not perform conditions for the utilisation of a grant determined by a decision; he did not submit the accounts of the grant in time. These accounts were submitted with one-month delay on the basis of a reminder. The insufficiencies resulted from the change of the management of the civil association concerned. The accounts were insufficient; the real grant percentage of the project was 57% (in comparison with budgetary 60% determined by a Decision), i.e. the second lowest one.

The proposal of measures:
 As the accounts were submitted with a delay it is recommended to dismiss the provision of a grant to this civil association for the next year in accordance with the provisions of Government decree N.98/2002 Coll.

The percentage of grants from the State Budget for the publication of periodicals of national minorities in 2001



7. The introspection of national minorities

The following chapter deals in the self-evaluation of national minorities by their representatives - the members of the Council of the Government for National Minorities. Since the plurality of opinions exists both in a majority society and national minorities, the attitude of their representatives is one of the many views of the situation of these minorities.

The representatives of national minorities present their view of the state policy towards national minorities and express their opinion of the situation of their own minority, the possibilities to develop and assert itself in the society. The opinions are formulated as answers to questions which were put to the representatives of national minorities by the Secretariat of the Council. The text has a unified form without any interference with its content.

7.1. BULGARIAN MINORITY

1. Their own estimation of the numbers of members of the Bulgarian national minority and its settlement

About 4,500 persons of Bulgarian ethnicity and Bulgarian or Czech citizenship older than 18 years live in the Czech Republic. These people have more than 2,000 children. Their settlement is as follows: Prague (app. 1,500 persons), Brno (app. 500 persons), Ostrava (app. 500 persons) Ústí nad Labem and surroundings (app. 200 persons), Pilsen and surroundings (app. 200 persons), Chomutov and surroundings (app. 200 persons), Olomouc and surroundings (app. 100 persons), Kladno and surroundings (app. 100 persons), Most and surroundings (app. 100 persons), Mladá Boleslav and surroundings (100 persons), others (app. 100 persons).

2. The survey of organisations

2a) The types of organisations and their structure

Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Organisation (hereinafter BCEO) - a civil association; the management consists of a chairman, a secretary, 5 members and a 3-member Revision Commission. Bulgarian Cultural Club of St. Cyril and Methodius, Ústí nad Labem - a civil association; the committee consists of 6 persons headed by a chairman.

Bulgarian Cultural Club Ostrava has its own premises.

Bulgarian Cultural Club Brno is supported by a grant from the Metropolitan Authority Brno (in addition there is a dance ensemble managed by young people).

Bulgarian Cultural Klub Mladá Boleslav has its own club.

Bulgarian Cultural and educational Organisation of St. Cyril and St. Methodius is an organisation registered in 1992.

„Vazražďane” - a civil association; an organisation of the Bulgarian minority, registered in 2001; the management of this organisation has about 10 members. The association itself has more than 50 members.

2b) Members

BCEO has about 50 members; the number of their friends recruited from Bulgarian citizens (temporarily living in the Czech Republic) is not specified. Bulgarian Cultural Club Ostrava has 216 members (it is the largest organisation of the Bulgarian minority). Bulgarian Cultural Club of St. Cyril and Methodius has app. 40 members, Bulgarian Cultural Club Brno has 15 members, Bulgarian Cultural Club Mladá Boleslav has 10 members. BCEO of St. Cyril and Methodius has about 10 members and „Vazražďane” has more than 50 members.

2c) Priorities

Broadening and strengthening Czech - Bulgarian relations; organising cultural and social activities for the preservation of Bulgarian culture and language; publishing periodicals for

the Bulgarians living in the Czech Republic; uniting the members of the Bulgarian minority in the Czech Republic on the basis of preservation of traditional Bulgarian values; attracting as many friends of Bulgarian culture and art as possible; the main activity of BCEO is economic (it operates a hotel and a Bulgarian Restaurant in Prague 2). In addition, it organises various activities on the occasion of Bulgarian national days.

2d) Main annual planned activities of the minority's organisations

In accordance with the above priorities the civil association "Vazražďane" organises a cultural programme consisting of 10 activities a year. Some of them are organised on the occasion of Bulgarian national days (March 3, May 24, November 1, December 24), some relate to well-known Czech and Bulgarian personalities who became famous in the field of culture. Other associations organise cultural activities on the occasion of Bulgarian national days. The Bulgarian Cultural Club Mladá Boleslav organises the Czech - Bulgarian Ball which attracts the attention of the Czech public.

2e) The presentation of organisations on the Internet

The Internet address of „Vazražďane”: <http://sweb.cz/vazrazdane>

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

Nowadays there are 3 registered organisations - BCEO, BCEO of St. Cyril and Methodius and "Vazražďane". From 4,500 persons of Bulgarian ethnicity 450 people - i.e. only 10% - are members of the above organisations. Due to the new Minority Act it is expected that the number of members of the organisations of the Bulgarian minority will increase.

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration, the representation of the minority in self-government authorities, committees for national minorities etc.)

A Bulgarian minority representative has been working in the Council of the Government for National Minorities since 2001. The representatives of the Bulgarian minority co-ordinate with the Bulgarian self-administration in Prague, Brno and Ostrava. From 2002 a representative of the Bulgarian Minority will be working on the Advisory Board for Minority Education of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Grants Committee and Self-Administration Committee of the Council of the Government for National Minorities.

3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life

The minority uses its mother tongue within Bulgarian institutions (embassy, school, cultural centre) and associations as well as during private meetings of the Bulgarians except those in which persons who do not speak Bulgarian take part („Vazražďane" will organise a course of Bulgarian language from autumn 2002).

Families use Bulgarian language as follows:

- where both parents speak Bulgarian - all speak Bulgarian;
- where the mother speaks Bulgarian and father does not - children speak Bulgarian and often perfectly;
- where the father speaks Bulgarian and the mother does not - children seldom speak Bulgarian and often with a foreign accent.

3d) The use of name and surname in the language of the national minority

Women who get married to a man of Bulgarian ethnicity often have a problem concerning the change of a woman's surname according to gender (for example Vasileva - Vasilevová).

3e) Education

In Prague there is the Primary and Secondary Petr Beron School attended by 120 pupils. It is operated by the Bulgarian Embassy.

3f) Cultural activities

All Bulgarian organisations organise cultural activities - the celebration of national days, exhibitions, visits to theatres and concerts etc. Bulgarian national days are as follows: March 1 and 3 ("Baba Marta" and the liberation of Bulgaria from Turkish hegemony); May 24 (St. Cyril and Methodius Day - The Day of Bulgarian Education and Culture and Slav Script (the Cyrillic); November 1 (National Revivalists Day); December 24 (Christmas).

In Prague, the Bulgarian Cultural Institute and Cultural Section of the Bulgarian Embassy operate. In activities both the representatives of the Bulgarian minority and Czech institutions - for example Prague Slav Library - take part.

3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the national minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)

Following periodicals are published in Bulgarian language: *Roden glas* (published by BCEO), *Balgary* (published by "Vazraždane") and *Inform*.

4. The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority

For the last five years Czech society's manifestations of xenophobia have been getting infrequent. If any, xenophobia occurs mostly in cases when the Bulgarians look for vacancies. In general, the relation of the Czech society to the Bulgarian minority and its culture is friendly.

5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities

It is necessary to democratise the attitude towards national minorities. State administration authorities try to "over control a situation" and keeps aloof towards them. Most decisions are applied in an authoritative way; such a practice is not typical for developed democracy. Government officers ignore the fact that even the members of a minority are Czech citizens and defend the interest of the Czech state. In addition, small minorities like the Bulgarian one need a specific attitude. One of the concrete examples is financing periodicals. The fact that only 70% of expenses on the publication of minority periodicals are covered by a subsidy means that in fact the implementation of any project is impossible because such small minorities like the Bulgarian one are not able to cover the rest of expenses, i.e. 30% of them, by themselves.

6. Problems in the minority's life

Being a new organisation of the Bulgarian minority the civil association "Vazraždane" had troubles with obtaining the subsidy for 2002 because it did not perform one of the formal conditions (at least one year of activity). Other Bulgarian organisations which operated during the previous regime have never suffered from this formal problem. Nowadays the biggest problem of the Bulgarian minority is the dislocation of its Prague associations.

7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the minority's development and co-operation with the authorities of public administration etc.)

The adaptation of Act N.273/2001 Coll. on the rights of members of national minorities, the change of status of the Council of the Government for National Minorities and the adaptation of rules of providing grants contribute to the development of the Bulgarian minority.

8. Their self-evaluation of the minority's position

The members of the Bulgarian minority are well adapted in Czech society. The last legislative amendments are hopeful for the preservation of traditional Bulgarian values.

7.2. CROATIAN MINORITY

1.Their own estimation of the numbers of members of the Croatian minority and its settlement

In 1947 the number of members of the Croatian minority was 2,275 persons. After February 1948 the Croatian minority became the victim of a criminal communist regime and was evacuated illegally and by force from the South-Moravian villages of Jevišovka, Dobré Pole and Nový Přerov to 118 communities in 34 districts. According to own estimations the number of its members in the Czech Republic now does not exceed 1,000 persons. If the development in this country was normal, the number of its members would be more than 6,000 persons. Nowadays most of the members of the Croatian minority live in the following towns and villages: Prague, Brno, Olomouc, Ostrava, Orlová, Břeclav, Šternberk, Šumperk, Uničov, Hodonín, Hanušovice, Vyškov, Prostějov, Skřípov, Konice, Svitavy, Česká Třebová, Huzová, Moravský Beroun, Zlaté hory, Domašov nad Bystřicí, Jívová, Bohuňovice, Červenka, Vilémov u Litovle, Kojetín, Kuřim, Dvorce u Bruntálu, Radkov u Vítkova, Mikulov, Bystřice pod Pernštejnem, Velké Meziříčí, Rajhradice, Heřmanice u Oder, Vsetín, Havířov, Bedihošť, Drahanovice, Slatinice etc.

2.The survey of organisations

2a) The types of organisations and their structure

Association of the Citizens of Croatian Ethnicity in the Czech Republic - a civil association.

2b) Members

The number of members is not specified.

2c) Priorities

The preservation of habits, folk costumes and Croatian Čakava dialect. This is very difficult because of the dispersed settlement of the minority, its minimum education in mother tongue and the absence of any aid.

2d) Main annual planned activities of the minority 's organisations

Once a year at the beginning of September the festival *Croatian Cultural Day* in Jevišovka is held. It revives Croatian traditions and folklore (for example a Croatian Feast) in one of the largest former Croatian villages in Southern Moravia till 1948. In addition, it enables the members of evacuated families to meet and remember their former home.

2e) The presentation of the organisation on the Internet

The above organisation is not presented on Internet.

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

According to the opinion of members of the minority this is the only thing which is left them after 1989.

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration, the representation of the minority in the authorities of self-government, committees for national minorities etc.)

In the past the affairs were negotiated without the participation of representatives of the Croatian minority because of their small number. Government Resolution N.1163 from November 7th. 2001 nominated a representative of the Croatian minority to be a member of the Council of the Government for National Minorities.

3c) *The use of the minority's language in private and public life*

It is possible to use Croatian language in private life only; according to the opinion of members of the minority they do not dare use their mother tongue in public.

3d) *The use of name and surname in the minority's language*

Names in certificates of birth are Czech; the older population use German ones. Surnames have been both germanised and "czechicised". In private life the members of the minority use them in their Croatian form. The change of women's surnames according to gender (the ending "ová") is possible.

3e) *Education*

The members of the Croatian minority have never been educated in their mother tongue.. The oldest generation is educated in German, the younger one in Czech. Now the Croatians have an opportunity to educate themselves, but not in their language.

3f) *Cultural activities*

Due to the dispersed settlement of the Croatians throughout Moravia according to their opinion it is very difficult - or even impossible - to ensure any cultural activity.

3g) *The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting).*

In the Czech Republic nothing is available for the Croatian minority. The Croatian Gradišćan minority in Burgenland in Austria get the weekly *Hrvatske novine* which has articles on neighbouring minorities living in Hungary, Slovakia and Bohemia.

4) *The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority*

This item is not specified.

5. *Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities*

This item is not specified.

6. *The problems of the minority's life*

This item is not specified.

7. *The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the minority's development and co-operation with the authorities of public administration etc.)*

This item is not specified.

8. *Their own evaluation of the minority's position*

This item is not specified.⁵⁶

7.3. HUNGARIAN MINORITY

1. *Their own estimation of the number of members of the Hungarian minority and its settlement*

The Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic is a specific community which is typified by some features of both autonomous and non-autonomous ethnic minority. The Hungarians came over to former Czechoslovakia either involuntarily (within a so-called change of inhabitants after World War II when they were evacuated to the Sudeten) or voluntarily by

⁵⁶ The absence of responses to questions 4 - 8 can be considered the expression of disagreement with the existing minority policy of the Czech Republic which took only partial measures for the compensation of wrongs done to the South-Moravian Croatians. See Part II of this Report.

migration to socialist Czechoslovakia (mostly to larger towns in order to study or work there). Thus the Hungarians do not represent an integrated ethnic enclave.

<i>Geographic settlement</i>	<i>Number</i>
South-Bohemian region*	ca 800
East-Bohemian region*	ca 1 800
South-Moravian region	ca 1 500
North-Moravian region**	ca 4 000
Moravian-Silesian region**	ca 4 000
West-Bohemia region**	ca 3 200
Prague and surroundings**	ca 4 000
Teplice and surroundings**	Not known yet
Total	ca 19 300

* Data from the publication "The Hungarians in the Czech Republic 1918-1992".

** Data from the individual organisations of the Union of the Hungarians (Brno, Litoměřice, Ostrava, Pilsen, Prague).

2. The survey of organisations

2a) The types of organisations and their structure

The only nation-wide organisation of the Hungarians is the Union of the Hungarians Living in Bohemia. Nowadays it has its basic organisations in Prague, Ostrava, Brno, Litoměřice, Pilsen and Teplice. In addition to this essential type of a civil association there are some communities in the Czech Republic whose organisational structure is more liberal. Student clubs are in the two largest Czech academic centres, i.e. in Prague (Endre Ady Student Club) and Brno (Ferenc Kazinczy Student Club - *Kafedik*).⁵⁷ The reformed Hungarian church has a long tradition in the Czech Republic. Nowadays it has its community in Prague. In addition, Hungarian Catholics have their regular liturgies in their language.

2b) Members

The number of members of the Union of the Hungarians is increasing; many ethnic Hungarians, permanent members, friends and visitors participate in many of its activities.

<i>Members (registered)</i>					
Brno	Litoměřice	Ostrava	Pilsen	Prague	Teplice
222 members	20 members	110 members	52 members	300 members	30 members

2c) Priorities

In accordance with its statutes and programme the main aims of the Union of the Hungarians are to:

- register the citizens of Hungarian nationalities in the Czech Republic and help them to preserve their national identity, culture and traditions and satisfy their cultural, educational and other needs as far as possible;
- contribute to the presentation of the culture and history of the Hungarian nation in Bohemia and thus enrich local cultural life with the culture of another nation;
- contribute to the development of Czech - Hungarian relations (by means of providing services), taking advantage of the knowledge of Czech language;
- perform club activities;
- perform publication activities.

⁵⁷ In addition to these organisations there is also the minority political association Coexistencia - Együttélés in Bohemia.

2d) Main annual planned activities of the minority's organisations

Brno:

- Hungarian Culture Days;
- cultural and educational activities (informal meetings, lectures, exhibitions etc.);
- publishing the magazine HBC (Hungarian Brno Courier).

Litoměřice:

- tourist trips to surrounding towns and visits of cultural monuments;
- children's activities (International Children's Day, St. Nicholas Eve Children's Party)
- acquainting with the culture and customs of individual Hungarian regions;
- visiting performances at regional theatres.

Ostrava:

- the celebrations of national days of Hungarian Republic;
- piety ceremony at the Cemetery of Political Prisoners in Mírov in Count János Esterházi Memorial;
- Hungarian Culture Days.

Pilsen:

- monthly club informal meetings;
- the celebrations of national days in March and October;
- Hungarian Culture Days.

Prague:

- Hungarian Culture Days;
- the international folklore festival "Prague - the Heart of Nations" organised by the folklore ensemble "Limborá" in co-operation with the organisations of other national minorities in Prague;
- The Meeting of Cultures - the common activity of national minorities in Prague; its main organiser takes turns every year;

Teplice:

- merely club activities because the basic organisation is new.

2e) The presentation of the minority's organisations on the Internet

The Union of the Hungarians has the following Internet address: www.csmmsz.cz

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

The basic organisations operate mostly in rented premises. Those in Teplice and Litomeřice still have no permanent seat.

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration, the representation of the minority in the authorities of self-administration, committees for national minorities etc.)

Brno:

- once or twice a year a meeting with the representatives of the Metropolitan and Regional Authority (the Hungarians have no representative on the respective Committee for National Minorities).

Prague:

- the chairwoman of the basic organisation is a member of the Commission for National Minorities of the Council of Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague;
- a member of the basic organisation is a member of the Council of the Government for National Minorities.

The Hungarians in Ostrava, Pilsen, Litoměřice and Teplice have no representatives in the authorities of self-administration and committees for national minorities but they are in contact with the authorities of self-administration and state administration and co-operate with other ethnic minorities in a locality concerned.

3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life

The members of the Union of the Hungarians use their language mostly in privacy and in sporadic cases in public (according to law). Their mother tongue is used also at meetings and within cultural programmes; in case of activities for the larger public it is interpreted to Czech. Some members of the Union of the Hungarians use their language during enterprise in accordance with Trade Act, i.e. as guides, interpreters or translators. The Hungarians in the Czech Republic speak Czech fluently and use this language in everyday life.

3d) The use of name and surname in the minority's language

The use of names is trouble-free. Most of the Hungarians use their first name in its Czech or Slovak form; inside their community they use its Hungarian variant. Some members of the Hungarian minority apply for the substitution of their personal documents in Czech for those in which their names and surnames are registered in Hungarian. Nevertheless, they do not consider an existing situation to be problematic.

3e) Education

The Hungarian minority in the Czech Republic does not have its own education system. Most of its members came from Slovakia and had acquired education in the former Czechoslovakia (on the territory of Slovakia) in their mother tongue. Education activities consist of those of individual basic organisations, teaching Hungarian language or the implementation of educational programmes for children. At present schools do not require education in Hungarian language; it is possible to study it in the courses organised by the Hungarian Cultural Centre in Prague, at State Language School or Berlitz Language School. Pre-school children in Prague can attend a "School of Folk Traditions" whose activity is mediated by the above Hungarian Culture Centre.

University education for the citizens of the Czech Republic in Hungary is enabled by a bilateral agreement but it has exclusively the form of one- semester or two-semester studies. On the other side, it is possible to study Hungarian language at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University in Prague. The research degree of these studies is B.A. or M.A.

3f) Cultural activities

Cultural activities are a part of the activity of all basic organisations (lectures, the performances of individuals or ensembles from Hungary, Slovakia etc.). Within the framework of these activities didactic trips to Hungary and Slovakia are organised. Individual basic organisations are in contact with various artistic ensembles (theatres, Kécskemét Puppet-Theatre, Union of Hungarian Graphic Artists etc.)

The financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic is very important, the authorities of local self-administration (for example Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague), Illyés Foundation and the Ministry of National Cultural Heritage of the Hungarian Republic allocate funds on the basis of grants.

3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)

The Union of the Hungarians now disposes of one nation-wide periodical *Prágai Tükör* (*Prague Mirror*) which has been published for 10 years (five times a year).

The basic organisation in Brno publishes the regional periodical *Brüni Magyar Futár* (*Hungarian Courier in Brno*).

At the regional level it is possible to receive the broadcasting of the Regina Station once per three weeks at 6:00 p.m. The Hungarian minority prefers another broadcasting time.

Since the satellite signal is accessible throughout the Czech Republic it is possible to receive the broadcasting of two Hungarian TV stations - TV Duna and MTV 2 - and five radio stations. Nowadays it is possible to receive the broadcasting of many Hungarian radio and TV stations also by means of the Internet. Most clubs and individual organisations can receive broadcasts via satellite. In addition, many members of the Union use their own apparatus for the reception of signals.

4. The manifestations of intolerance and discrimination towards the ethnicity

The members of the Hungarian national minority have not registered any manifestation of intolerance or discrimination towards them.

5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities

They are not known. Some members of the minority consider the impossibility to obtain two citizenship (not Czech and Slovak - this variant is possible to a certain extent - but Czech - Hungarian) to be a legislative insufficiency (this possibility would be welcomed by both some citizens of the Czech Republic and some citizens of Hungary who live here permanently).

6. The problems of the minority's life

No problems worth special attention. The problems of the Hungarians in Ostrava - as their local organisation points out - do not result from ethnic origin but social and economic situations in the region (for example extreme unemployment). A specific problem consists of the difficulty in incorporating young people into the activities of individual organisations of the Hungarian national minority.

7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the minority's development and co-operation with the authorities of public administration etc.)

Brno:

- the operation of Hungarian Culture and Information Centre (providing services of interpreters, translators and informers) which ensures financing the operation of the organisation as such and contributes to the development of Czech - Hungarian relations;
- the presentation of culture and history of the Hungarian nation in Bohemia aimed at the enrichment of local cultural life with the culture of another nation;
- the financial support provided by the Metropolitan Authority Brno, Regional Authority and the Ministry of Culture which ensures the cultural, educational and information activities of the basic organisation.

Litoměřice:

- good co-operation with the District Office.

Pilsen:

- good co-operation with the Municipal Authority.

Prague:

- the establishment of the Commission for National Minorities of the Council of the Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague and the support of national minorities within the grants of the Metropolitan Authority;
- the establishment of a House of Nationalities in Prague which is expected with high hopes; the Hungarian minority considers the approval of a design and an appropriate area to be a step by which the authorities of state administration will meet its demands.

8. *Their own evaluation of the minority's position*

The members of basic organisations consider the position of the Hungarian minority to be adequate to their number. They agree on an opinion that in spite of the fact that their organisations are not numerous their activities are relatively well-known. In addition, they are satisfied with co-operation with local authorities. Within the framework of regional integration the Hungarian minority supports co-operation between regions in Hungary and Czech Republic. It has not any specific ethnic problem in public relations; this fact results from the high level of domestication of its members.

7.4. GERMAN MINORITY

1. *Their own estimation of the number of members of the German minority and its settlement*

According to the preliminary results of the census in 2001, 38,321 persons acknowledge their membership in the German minority (according to the newest data this minority has 48,500 members). Persons who declared their ethnicity in public were incorporated into this number while those of mixed marriages had an option. Having bad former experiences, the older people, especially in Moravia, were reluctant to declare German ethnicity and preferred a Moravian or Silesian one. Most of the inhabitants of German ethnicity live in industrial regions where they work as experts in the glass industry, costume jewellery, textile industry, mining etc. Less of the Germans live in agricultural areas.

2. *The survey of organisations*

2a) *The types of organisations and their structure*

The German minority is organised in two civil associations: The Assembly of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia and The Cultural Association of the Citizens of German Ethnicity in the Czech Republic (CACGN).

2b) *Members*

The Assembly of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia consists of 21 unions including their 30 regional organisations. Totally the Assembly has about 5,800 members (without children and youth); the most numerous unions are those in Cheb (app. 1,200 members), Liberec (800 members), Šumperk (600 members), Opava (370 members), Silesia (280 members), Chomutov (280 members), Jablonec (260 members), Pilsen (260 members) and Těšín (260 members). Other unions have app. 100 - 180 members. The Cultural Association of the Citizens of German Ethnicity in the Czech Republic has 3,500 members in 30 basic organisations. The number of members of individual organisations oscillates between 40 -350 persons.

2c) *Priorities*

The main aim is the self-realisation of the German national minority by means of:

- satisfying cultural needs;
- publishing newspapers and disseminating information for the purposes of further education;
- keeping and improving the knowledge of the German language;
- preserving its cultural heritage;
- co-operating with other cultural and non-profit institutions.

2d) *Main planned annual activities of the minority's organisations*

Main activities: courses of German languages, seminars for young people and adults on various topics; cultural activities for the preservation of traditions: Shrovetide, Easter, Mothers Day, Advent, Christmas; children's summer camps, children's singing and dancing circles, exhibitions,

Cultural Days; help during the reconstruction of churches, restoration of monuments and social aid to weak and ill persons in co-operation with Czech citizens and compatriots.

The Assembly of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia presents itself in its fortnightly *Landes Zeitung* whose publication is supported by the Ministry of Culture. The Cultural Association of the Citizens of German Ethnicity in the Czech Republic presents its educational activities in the fortnightly *Prager Volkzeitung*. Individual regional unions issue their informative publications and -if needed - they present themselves in regional dailies. In addition, information about the activities of the Association for the public is mediated by Czech Radio. A 20-minute German programme is transmitted on Thursdays and Saturdays on Czech Radio.

2e) The presentation of the minority's organisations on the Internet

Newer unions and the periodical *Landes Zeitung* are presented on the Internet. The web address of the periodical is as follows: www.landeszeitung.cz/index.htm.

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

Up till 1989 only one German union (CACGN) was permitted. This association functioned in Northwest Bohemia, Prague and Brno. After 1989 new associations with more German citizens have been founded in other regions without any trouble.

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration, the representation of the minority in the authorities of self-administration, committees for national minorities etc.)

Two representatives of the German minority are members of the Council of the Government for National Minorities and one of them is a member of the Advisory Board for National Minorities of the Ministry of Culture. The German minority also has its representative on the Advisory Board for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Co-operation with the authorities of self-administration is variable. If there is a Commission for Nationalities in a region, the German minority has its representative there (Brno, Ostrava, Prague, Liberec, Krnov and Nové Město pod Smrkem).

3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life

In privacy the Germans usually speak their language (in mixed families they speak mostly Czech because partners respect each other). During various minority activities, negotiations with the associations of compatriots or general meetings they speak German. In communication with authorities Czech language or services of interpreters are used.

3d) The use of name and surname in the minority's language

After 1945 first names were "czechised" and women's surnames changed according to gender (by the suffix "ová"). Nowadays it is no problem for young people to keep German names. The change of a name concerning older generations is rather expensive because it necessitates a change to personal documents of all members of a family. One of the insufficiencies of this procedure is a copy of an entry in the births, deaths and marriages register which is translated to Czech regardless of the authenticity of a German original.

3e) Education

After 1945 the children of the German minority were expelled from compulsory school attendance and they were included in it again much later. Some of them were not allowed to graduate. In addition, the validity of research degrees and general certificates of education

was not acknowledged. Gradually all schools have been opened for the German minority. The minority asks for education in German language but the dispersed settlement of the Germans in the Czech Republic makes meeting this requirement very difficult. The interest of the majority population in German language could be satisfied by bilingual education from the first grade. Nevertheless, this proposal has not been approved yet. It is possible to complete education by study in Centres for Czech - German Understanding and by postgraduate study of Germanistics or seminars in Goethe Institute.

3f) Cultural activities

Cultural activities are focused on the preservation of cultural heritage and mother tongue. The main annual activities of individual associations are similar: Shrovetide, Easter, Mothers Day, Solstice, summer activities, visits of cultural monuments, autumn village fairs, Christmas.

The active representative choir twice took part in the Strážnice Festival. Local organisations have their singing, reciting and music ensembles. Various lectures are organised. Some organisations have their dancing ensembles. *Hřebeč Folklore Dancing Ensemble* represented the German minority in the above Strážnice Festival and several times performed abroad.

Local organisations have their "Circles of Skilful Hands" where the traditions of knitting, crocheting, embroidering and bobbin-lace making have been preserved. The Cultural Association of the Citizens of German Ethnicity has its circles of photographers and wood-carvers.

Nevertheless, most of members of the German minority are growing old. There are no theatre performances and concerts in German. There are even no German TV programmes and therefore the minority has to rely on foreign broadcasts. Border regions are the only ones where singing and dancing ensembles organise exchange performances.

3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)

The source of the dissemination and reception of information for both associations is periodical press. CACGN has been publishing its periodical (originally *Aufbau und Frieden*) since 1952. The minority considers periodicals the most valuable source of information and a connecting link because their members are dispersed all over the republic. They connect and inform them about domestic and foreign events and activities of clubs as well as complement their knowledge in various branches - painting, literature, customs, history etc. The press brings culture, complements vocabulary and broadens the horizons of education.

The same role is played by the fortnightly periodical of the Assembly of the Germans in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia *Landes Zeitung*. The unions included in the Assembly issue their own information publications in Krnov, Opava, Šumperk (for children and youth), Hřebeč (for young people and members), Pilsen, Liberec, Cheb and Chomutov.

Radio programmes in German language are transmitted twice a week - on Thursdays and Saturdays app. 20 minutes. They consist of congratulations and information about the events concerning the German minority. The members of the German minority also listen to other radio stations and watch German TV channels. The Czech Television does not broadcast any minority programme. It is a pity because these programmes would enable the majority of society to learn foreign languages.

4. The demonstrations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority

Due to long-term and intentional anti-German propaganda during the last 50 years, even today the German minority faces the opinion that it is not loyal and friendly to the Czech state and therefore intolerance is demonstrated frequently, especially by leftist citizens, politicians and journalists. The German minority is often attacked by the mass media and politicians due to

the problem of the Sudeten lands. Nevertheless, during the last few years such demonstrations of intolerance are more and more sporadic because the members of the German minority are old and their behaviour is restrained and tactful.

The German minority feels discrimination especially in the field of the Law of Inheritance. In the opinion of our politicians the evacuation of the Germans after World War II was a necessary pay back for the war actions of Germany. Nevertheless, it was carried out collectively, regardless of whether people were guilty or not. This pay back action also afflicted Jews, German anti-fascists who suffered in concentration camps, social democrats who contributed to the fight against the Hitler regime and even people who were exempted from evacuation. The Germans who were exempted from evacuation and stayed in Czechoslovakia obtained Czechoslovak citizenship. They should have become citizens with equal rights but in fact they did not. Even now they feel they are second-rate people. They could not study and perform any qualified job for which they would get better old-age pension; in addition, they lost their whole property. In property disputes - i.e. restitution ones - they are not allowed to claim any family property because the Restitution Act relates to the period after 1948 and the German minority was expropriated between 1945 and 1948.

These problems burden the German minority although it contributed actively to the renewal of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic - to say nothing of the fact that contacts between German compatriots and municipal authorities enabled the renovation and preservation of many rare monuments, churches, chapels etc.

5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities

This item is not specified.

6. The problems of the minority's life

The problem of the German minority is its dispersed settlement in the Czech Republic. Due to this fact it is impossible to establish minority schools. Other problem consists of the old age of members and the absence of two generations of intelligentsia due to the post-war and totality eras. The members of the older German population are afraid to assert themselves (this fact results in the small number of members of minority associations).

The relation of the Czechs to the German minority is determined to a large extent by the problem of the Sudeten. It must be said that it is not possible to sever ties with relatives because one member of a family suddenly finds himself "on the other side"; at the same time it is not possible to sever ties with relatives from the majority society which resulted from mixed marriages. It is necessary to take account of conditions of the German minority which has been living and developing here in a different way for centuries.

7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with the authorities of public administration etc.)

The German minority participates fully in social activities. Individuals represent it in many organisations. They deal in cultural activities, co-operate with local and municipal authorities, German organisations and enable their members to acquaint with the activities of other organisations. German organisations co-operate with *Czech - German Future Fund* and along with their Czech colleagues organise various projects and activities. In addition, they mediate cultural exchange with compatriots and help various towns in entering into partnership contacts. Thanks to its position the German minority is something like a bridge for creating friendly relations with our neighbours because its members speak both languages and know the mentality of both sides. Along with other minorities it represents an important and enriching part of the multicultural society and contributes to a large extent to the development of the cultural values of our country.

8. Their own evaluation of the minority's position

The German minority - i.e. citizens of the Czech Republic - have been living on this territory for more than 800 years along with the Czechs, Slovaks, Jews or other minorities. In peaceful eras people lived with each other and did not think of the question who was who. Everybody lived his own life and took care of his own family. The coexistence has not always been easy and friendly - once it was better once it was worse. The German minority paid for the expansiveness of Germany and the failures of its leaders. It was enticed into a political fight which resulted in a tragedy even for it. Now, sixty years after the war it is assimilated to a large extent due to its dispersed settlement and efforts of the previous regime (as well as mixed marriages). At the beginning of the new millennium we all want to believe that in spite of the fact that people do not love each other, they are able to respect and trust in one another and co-operate. We want to believe that our common efforts can remove all barriers and create a Europe in which common sense, justice and peace will prevail.

If we want to change this into reality, we have to make one another's acquaintance, break away from previous mistakes and create something new, useful and meaningful in order not to feel ashamed in the presence of our descendants.

7.5. POLISH MINORITY

1. Their own estimation of the number of members of the Polish minority and its settlement

According to the preliminary results of the census in 2001, 25,095 citizens of Polish ethnicity live in the Czech Republic. Most of them, i.e. app. 80%, live on the territory of Těšín Silesia and Prague. In addition, about 20,000 citizens of Poland live here. According to their own estimation, which includes Polish citizens living permanently in the Czech Republic and a part of the citizens of the Czech Republic who declare their Silesian ethnicity and believe that they have all minority rights, the number of members of the Polish minority is about 70,000 persons in total.

2. The survey of organisations

2a) The types of organisations and their structure

The Polish national minority is represented by *Kongres Polaków v RC* (Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic) which associates more than 26 organisations (*Harcerstwo Polskie w Republice Czeskiej, Klub Polski v Praze, Koło Polskich Kombatantów, Macierz Szkolna, MK PZKO Karwina Nowe Miasto, Polski Związek Byłych Więźniów Politycznych, Polskie Towarzystwo Medyczne, "Ars Musica", Polskie Towarzystwo Śpiewacze Collegium Cantorum, Polskie Towarzystwo Turystyczne "Beskid Śląski", Stowarzyszenia Dziennikarzy Polskich, Stowarzyszenie Emerytów Polskich, Stowarzyszenie Młodzieży Polskiej, Stowarzyszenie Osób Uczących się i Pracujących za Granicą, Stowarzyszenie Rodzina Katyńska, Stowarzyszenie Szkoła Polonijna w Pradze, Towarzystwo Nauczycieli Polskich, Zrzeszenie Literatów Polskich, Zrzeszenie Śpiewaczo-Muzyczne Przyjaźń, Stowarzyszenie Przyjaciół Polskiej Książki*). These organisations are very variable, not only by their activities, but also by their structure and number of members.

The largest organisation is *Polski Związek Kulturalno-Oświatowy v RC* (Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic, PCEU) which now has 16,000 members associated in 93 local organisations in individual communities within Těšín region. The Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic makes an effort to function as an umbrella organisation of the others. The participants in the General Assembly of Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic on April 6th. 2002 decided on it by resolution.

2b) Members

The largest organisations are PCEU (app. 16,000 members) and *Macierz Szkolna* (School Foundation, about 5,000 members). The smallest organisation have tens of members only.

2c) Priorities

The main priority of all organisations is the preservation and development of mother tongue, culture and traditions of ancestors. According to priorities it is possible to divide the activities and purposes of individual organisations into the following items:

- the development of culture, traditions and education;
- the upbringing of children and youth;
- sport and tourism;
- activities according to individual branches (unions of Polish teachers, doctors, health service officers, journalists, photographers, electro-technicians etc.).

2d) Main planned annual activities of the minority's organisations

Gorol Festival, *Těrlice Film Summer*, Olympiads for pupils in skiing and light athletics, festivals of PCEU, shows and competitions of folklore ensembles, festivals of children's songs, children's competitions in painting, recitation and reading, exhibitions of artistic works and handiwork, collection of public records and documents, historical conferences, publishing etc.

The specific feature of Prague organisations, especially the *Polish Club in Prague*, is co-operation with other minority organisations and participation in organising the activities which present national minorities in the Czech Republic (for example the folklore festival Prague - the Heart of Nations and The Rendezvous of Cultures).

2e) The presentation of the minority's organisations on the Internet

These web pages are known: www.polonica.cz (Union of the Poles in the Czech Republic), www.pzko.cz (Polish Cultural and Educational Union in the Czech Republic), www.moucha.cz (a regional information server for Northern Moravia and Silesia) and www.czechy.cz (a Czech-Polish information server for entrepreneurs, travellers and traders).

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

The conditions are very good. There are no obstacles for association.

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration, the representation of the minority in the authorities of self-administration, committees for national minorities etc.)

In most of the community councils in the territory of Těšín Silesia the Polish minority has its representatives, especially candidates of the political movement Coexistencia, political parties and independent ones. In 38 community councils there are 90 representatives of the Polish minority. The Poles work also in community councils and as community mayors or their deputies. The establishment of committees for national minorities in communities is also considered to be a very positive step.

In the Council for the Moravian-Silesian Region the Polish minority has two representatives; in addition, the committee for national minorities was established there; its vice-chairman is a member of the Council of the Poles, the executive body of the Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic.

One of the members of the Congress of the Poles in the Czech Republic is a member of the Commission for National Minorities of the Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague.

The Polish minority is represented also in the Parliament of the Czech Republic by one senator, but nowadays it has no representative in the Chamber of Deputies. There is still no

authority which would ensure national minorities their participation in the solution of problems relating to them.

In the government and some ministries some consultative bodies were established; the Polish minority has its representatives there. Also the activity of the Council of the Government for national Minorities can be evaluated very positively.

Co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration is not optimum; nevertheless it can be said that it is not bad.

3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life

In privacy the members of the Polish minority use their language or Těšín dialect without any inhibition and limitation. Unfortunately, in public life and communication with authorities there is not a favourable atmosphere for the trouble-free use of the mother tongue in spite of the right to do it. A large part of the government officers do not speak Polish. When taking new workers into service the authorities do not require any knowledge of the Polish language; in addition, computers are not adapted to the Polish alphabet. Since the 1990s the authorities have been refraining from previous practice i.e. the issue of regulations, instructions, announcements, forms or questionnaires in Polish or in a bilingual form. In fact the possibility to use the minority's language in communities where the citizens of Polish ethnicity represent 20-40% of inhabitants is limited.

3d) The use of name and surname in the minority's language

Although the new Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths Act gives the possibility to use names and surnames in Polish language, the authorities still tend to "czechicise" them; this fact is often justified by the absence of an equipment which would be able to print Polish names. If a first name of is not entered into the document of a register in Polish, the authorities can not meet an applicant's requirement to issue the certificate of birth with the first name of a child in his mother tongue. The only way is to apply for the change of a name; the administrative charge for this procedure is 1,000 CZK.

3e) Education

Minority education in Těšín Silesia is concentrated at schools with Polish as a teaching language. These schools are included in the system of state schools. They are situated in Frýdek-Místek and Karviná districts.

For the school year 2001/2002 there are 17 primary schools and 15 kindergartens with Polish as a teaching language in Frýdek-Místek district. 7 schools are complete (i.e. all 9 grades) and 10 incomplete (grades 1 - 5). Schools are attended by 1,422 pupils who are taught by 150 teachers. 15 kindergartens are attended by 421 children who are taught by 37 teachers.

In Karviná district there are 11 primary schools with Polish as a teaching language; 6 schools are complete and 4 schools are incomplete. In Stonava there is a combined school (with some classes with Polish as a teaching language). Primary schools are attended by 925 pupils; 14 kindergartens are attended by 281 children. 100 teachers work at primary schools. Most of the pre-school education institutions are independent, some of them are attached to primary schools. Since only some schools meet the requirement of the minimum average number of pupils per class, as determined by the School Act, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports can allow exceptions.

In Frýdek-Místek district there is no secondary school; in Karviná district there is a Grammar School Český Těšín (467 students and 24 pedagogues), a Commercial Academy Český Těšín (102 students, 4 grades with Polish as a teaching language), a Health Service High School Karviná (54 students, 4 grades with Polish as a teaching language), and a Technical School Karviná (62 students and 4 grades with Polish as a teaching language). It means that secondary

schools are attended by 685 students who pass a GCE examination in Polish language. All these schools perform many cultural and sporting activities. During the school year children present the results of their study. The typical feature of minority education is the spontaneous participation of children from schools with Polish as a teaching language in all activities. Not only children but also pedagogues and other workers participate in them. The above institutions co-operate with schools in Poland; this co-operation is based on a well-elaborated and stable system.

The important connection link is *Centrum Pedagogiczne dla polskiego Szkolnictwa Narodowościowego* (Pedagogical Centre for Polish Minority Education) which operates as other centres but it is more linked with schools. This Centre prepares linguistic and professional training for Polish pedagogues, assures trans-border education, and prepares textbooks in Polish language where their procurement necessitates much efforts.

The Centre also includes the editorial board of the periodicals *Jutrzenka* and *Ogniwo* intended for the pupils of the first and second grades of primary schools with Polish as a teaching language.

Nevertheless, the existence of small schools in villages is jeopardised because they are evaluated on the basis of criteria valid for majority schools. The School Act does not solve this problem sufficiently because it does not specify conditions under which it is not permitted to cancel a minority school. The establishment and cancellation of minority schools fall into the competence of local authorities. Thus the state evades the responsibility for the correction of wrong decisions of the authorities of local self-administration; in addition it does not contribute to covering the expenses on the operation of minority schools.

3f) Cultural activities

The cultural activities of the Polish minority are numerous and varied thanks to PCEU. Nevertheless, the implementation of large cultural projects is more and more difficult because of decreasing subsidies. The big contribution to these activities is Polish Těšín Theatre sponsored by the Regional Authority; its preservation is very important for the cultural life of the Polish minority in the Czech Republic. The same importance is ascribed to the preservation of the Polish puppet-theatre "Bajka" which deserves the same support as Polish Těšín Theatre.

3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)

Thanks to subsidies for the minority press, 4 periodicals are published in the Polish language, i.e. the every-other daily *Głos Ludu*, the fortnightly for young people *Nasza Gazetka* and the monthlies *Zwrot* and *Kurier Praski*. Every year also several non-periodicals (for example *Kalendarz Śląski*) and publications from Těšín Silesia are issued. Some of them are issued thanks to the grants of the Ministry of Culture or the financial support provided by Polish sponsors or donors.

Daily 15-minute broadcasting in Polish language is assured by Czech Radio Ostrava. Private radio stations do not broadcast in Polish. The only station situated out of the territory of Těšín and Ostrava region is Regina Prague which transmitted the 15-minute programme "Club of Understanding" in Polish within the broadcasting for national minorities. Due to the alleged lack of listeners this programme was terminated. In our opinion the above programme implemented by amateurs recruited from national minorities without any technical, professional and financial guarantee is only alibistic complying with a legal obligation.

The Czech Television does not broadcast any programme to the Polish minority or for its members. Thus it does not perform the provisions of § 4 of Czech Television Act. Neither private televisions broadcast in Polish. Only two local TV stations broadcast irregularly fragmentary information in it. In this field the Czech Republic does not perform its internationally acknowledged obligations towards the Polish minority.

4. The demonstrations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority

The public and evident demonstrations of intolerance and discrimination towards the Polish minority are rare. Last year some anonymous leaflets against a representative of the Polish minority occurred in Třinec. The police have not found their author and the case was postponed. One case when a Czech citizen assaulted another one for his ethnicity during the public meeting of a local council was resolved by the hearing of an administrative delict. The cases of latent and unprovable intolerance and discrimination are more frequent - even in the authorities of public administration - and they are not usually announced to a body responsible for criminal proceedings. The attempts to limit the long-term bilingual Czech-Polish practice occurred recently in one Roman Catholic parish in Těrlice.

The problem of the Polish minority is that most of its members believe that their rights will be guaranteed "from above" and the majority society will execute them automatically. People cope hardly and slowly with the fact that they have to seek their minority rights by themselves because the majority society represented by the Parliament of the Czech Republic grudges them.

5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities

The most problematic legal measure with regard to the Polish minority is the provision of § 29 of the Act on communities which asks the members of this minority to require, by means of a petition, the presentation of name of a community, the buildings of government bodies etc. also in Polish. This provision is discriminating. It can result in inciting national emotions and the procurement of lists of "undesirable members of a minority". There are justified concerns that petition sheets with personal data could be misused for defaming the undersigned persons during the proceedings in respective authorities.

The Polish minority considers the Act on national minorities to be insufficient. It is only a declaration of rights adopted within international conventions and a Charter of Rights and Freedoms. There are still no statutory instruments.

Also the amendment of a minority educational system, long preparations of Education Act and unwillingness to solve this problem are considered to be negative. Both the existing and the proposed version of a new Education Act does not solve this problem sufficiently and does not specify cases when it is possible to abolish a minority school. The establishment and abolition of primary schools falls within the competence of communities and the state avoids the correction of wrong decisions of the authorities of community self-administration to abolish or not to establish a minority school. The state does not provide minorities with subsidies for covering increased expenses on the operation of minority schools.

After World War II the first names of members of the Polish population have been recorded in registers in the form corresponding with the rules of Czech grammar. The amendment of the Act on registers does not enable a natural person to ask for recording his first name in his mother tongue in a copy of an entry in the births, deaths and marriages register, if this name is recorded in Czech language. Too much powers of government officers resulting from insufficient legislation and statutory instruments give a lot of possibilities for assimilation pressures.

6. The problems in the minority's life

The Polish minority feels that one of the biggest problems is the superficial knowledge of the alumni and pupils of Czech schools about the history of the Polish Minority in Czieczyn Silesia. Due to this ignorance the Poles are considered to be "immigrants" (even in Czech newspapers they are often called on: "If you are not satisfied here, go back to Poland!")

Except the above problems there are no other serious ones in the life of the Polish minority. On the contrary, the long-term omission of the problem of national minorities in the Czech

Republic resulted in stronger and deeper co-ordination and co-operation within the Polish minority in the Czech Republic. It is evident from the co-operation of the Congress of the Poles, PCEU and Coexistencia before the first elections to the Regional Councils.

7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public authorities etc.)

No doubt that a positive feature is the establishment of committees for national minorities within Local and Regional Authorities. The contemporary government executes positive personal policy because it appoints persons with a positive attitude towards the problem of national minorities and interest in listening to minorities and co-operating with them in the solution of the above problems to serve as important government officers.

8. Their own evaluation of the minority's position

The Polish minority is still very active in the field of cultural activities which are concentrated in the local organisations of PCEU and *Macierz Szkolna*. The Polish schools are the natural focus of meetings, cultural and social activities. Their keeping is therefore important both with regard to the right to education in mother tongue and the preservation of the cultural traditions of original inhabitants of Czieczyn Silesia.

7.6. ROMA MINORITY

1. Their own estimation of the number of members of the Roma minority and its settlement

Their own gross estimation is 150,000-300,000 persons. Settlement: Northern Moravia (especially Ostrava, Karviná), Northern Bohemia (Děčín, Ústí nad Labem). Many Roma do not declare their ethnicity for various reasons; in addition, in the Czech Republic the number of mixed marriages is increasing. Neither persons from those marriages would usually declare their Roma ethnicity.

2. The survey of organisations

2a) The types of organisations and their structure

Most of the 290 Roma organisations (or those which associate citizens of Roma ethnicity) are civil associations; the rest of them are beneficiary associations. According to information available there is no Roma foundation in the Czech Republic (they were here but because of the compulsory level of property they were transformed). The independent organisation is *Roma Civil Initiative (RCI)*. At least 20% of Roma organisations are so-called dead ones, i.e. organisations which do not exist in fact. In addition to Roma associations there are organisations which prepare projects for the Roma - for example "Man in Need" - a TV beneficiary association - or New School Foundation.

Organisational structure: chairman, executive board, annual general meeting, revision commission.

2b) Members

The exact number of members of the community is not known because in fact it is not possible to organise a "questionnaire action" for app. 200 Roma organisations. Some representatives of the minority estimate that the number of members of individual civil associations can oscillate between 4 and 1,000 members or more (for example *Democratic Alliance of the Roma Seated in Valašské Meziříčí*, *Association of the Roma in Moravia*, *Democratic Union of the Roma*, *Association of the Vlach Roma*). Important organisations are also the associations *Dženo* and *R-Bridges (Roma Bridges)*.

2c) Priorities

Most of the Roma organisations deal in leisure activities focused above all on children and young people and lay stress on cultural development. In addition, they organise large cultural activities (for example *Romfest*), education of children and adults, social assistance, development of Roma mass media (mostly periodicals), political engagement (RCI), activities concerning Roma history (*Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno*). The most important Roma organisations (*RCI, Association of the Roma in Moravia, Democratic Alliance of the Roma Seated in Valašské Meziříčí, Dženo, Drom - Brno*) focus on projects which help to improve the situation of the Roma in the field of education (for example *Dženo* organised the course for young Roma people on mass media; some of them now work in them or execute the function of social workers; *Association of the Roma in Moravia* participates in the selection and training of pedagogical assistants). Specific topics are Roma history and media. Roma history is mapped by *Museum of the Roma Culture in Brno*, media are the centre of attention of the association *Dženo* (the monthly *Amaro Gendalos* has been published for 6 years) *D.A.R* (the Children monthly *Kereka*) *Association of the Roma in Moravia* (the fortnightly *Romano Hangos*) and *Civil Association for the Roma Minority Press* (the monthly *Romano kurko*).

2d) Main annual planned activities of the minority's organisations

The detailed survey is not elaborated. The most important activities are *Romfest* (music festival), *International Roma Day*, *Miss Roma*, *Kali Sara* (celebrations of the Roma Patroness), Programme of Social Assistance, Programme for the Roma Pedagogical Assistants, pilgrimage to Svatý Kopeček (in Olomouc) etc.

2e) The presentation of the minority's organisations on the Internet

<http://www.roi-cr.cz/> (RCI), <http://romove.osf.cz/> (Association of the Roma Children and Youth in the Czech Republic), <http://www.dzeno.cz/Amarogendalos> (the periodical *Amaro Gendalos*), <http://czechia.com/hcaroma> (Museum of Roma Culture), <http://www.volny.cz/dzaniben> (*Romano Džaniben*).

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

There is no obstacle for the association of the Roma.

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration, the representation of the minority in the authorities of self-administration, committees for national minorities etc.)

The members of the Roma minority now have one representative in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic (she is a member of the Union of Freedom - Democratic Union). One Roma consultant works in the Ministry of the Interior and one in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Roma have their representatives also on the consultative bodies of the government:

1. The Council of the Government for the Affairs of the Roma Community - from 26 members 14 are Roma (representatives of individual regions) and 12 execute the function of deputies. The vice-chairman of the Council is also a Roma.
2. The Council of the Government for Nationalities - the Roma minority is represented by three persons.

Roma consultants work in District Offices; at some secondary schools there are Roma pedagogical assistants. Some representatives of the Roma minority consider the fact that the Roma can execute functions only in consultative bodies to be insufficient.

3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life

Up to 1989 Roma language had not been rehabilitated; on the contrary, its use in public (even during intervals at schools) had been prohibited and even punished. Due to a bad educational system, which was not able to deal with minorities, refugees' children etc., Roma language was used as a reason for placing the Roma children in special schools ("children do not speak Czech well because of Roma"). Thus the Roma himself considered his language to be non-perspective and usable only in privacy. Many Roma admit that they do not teach their children the mother tongue because they want to protect them from problems at school. They do not comprehend that the problem does not consist of refusing to speak Roma, but in speaking Czech badly. Since 1989 the situation has not been improved as far as the use of Roma at home, but it has improved as far as it is used in the media and publications (books on Roma topics, the translation of some books in to Roma - Little Prince, New Testament etc.).

3d) The use of name and surname in the minority's language

Roma surnames are still preserved, although more and more persons adopt the Czech names of their partners (especially men; in the case of women it is a normal process). Roma first names have never been used in the Czech Republic and now they are gradually disappearing. They are replaced by foreign ones, mostly Italian (even in Italy it is fashionable to give children the names of film heroes).

3e) Education

Education is the biggest problem of the Roma and the society as a whole. Only 2% of the Roma are graduates and 13% of them secondary school-leavers. Most of the Roma attended primary school only. Roma children often attend special schools; this phenomenon is the inheritance of their previous segregation. Recently the Roma exerted efforts to educate themselves, even in advanced age, and to motivate their children to learn. In addition, even the state tries to take positive measures in this field. Integration policy towards the Roma in the Czech Republic has been developing since the 1990s. Due to the pressure of the public the state has been abandoning the traditional segregation of the Roma children at special schools, and it has been taking many "compensatory" measures for the sake of the Roma children.

One such example is opening preparatory schools and establishing the function of Roma pedagogical assistants at schools, scholarships for Roma students at secondary schools, the possibility to transfer Roma children from a special school to a primary one, the possibility for Roma children to pass an entrance examination at any secondary school after passing out of a special school etc. Recently the number of pupils of special schools - and consequently the number of these schools - decreased, but the function of a Roma pedagogical assistant is not utilised too much. Although the situation is being improved and some books on Roma topics (Roma History) are being published (even in Children's Readers there are some poems written by Roma poets) we still owe the Roma a lot in this field. It is beyond comprehension that there are still gaps in Czech history, lacking information about the history of various ethnic groups and minorities which have been living on this territory for ages.

3f) Cultural activities

The cultural activities of the Roma minority are all-round, but music production prevails. Recently the Roma music plays an important role in the mode genre "World Music". In addition, the public is being acquainted with Roma art, literature and traditional handicrafts. The above activities still face a technical problem consisting of certain duplicity and the absence of co-ordination among their organisers.

3g) *The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)*

Four Roma periodicals - partly in Roma language - are being published: *Amaro Gendalos*, *Kereka* (for children), the newspaper *Romano Hangos* and *Romano kurko*. Due to the absence, or an insufficient number of Roma journalists, no marked progress has been registered in this field for the last 12 years. Nevertheless, Roma periodicals are comparable with the others and some of them are even better.

The Czech Radio broadcasts the programme “*O Roma vakeren*” in Roma. The situation there has been improving for the last 5 years; its management is ready to give change to Roma programmes. At the beginning of 1990s the situation was bad: the Roma had to “screw” their broadcasting out of the management because nobody was interested in it. Nevertheless, in comparison with Czech Television, communication with Czech Radio on one hand, and its accommodation on the other are much better. Although Czech Television broadcasts programmes focused on the Roma population it minimises the participation of its members in their production. For example, it is normal that a document on 50-year history is shouted by a student of the Film Academy who has never dealt in this issue; in addition, no member of the national minorities participates in the preparation of the minority magazine; on the contrary, it is a very good “business” for those who often acquaint with this topic either by chance or even for the first time. Although Roma topics are now more and more fashionable, the management of Czech Television is not ready to discuss the problem of minority broadcasting: the response of the Director- General of Czech TV to the last initiative of members of the Council for Nationalities, supported by the letter of the Deputy Prime Minister and many reminders, as absolutely improper and signifies that Czech TV does not intend to change anything.

4. *The demonstrations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority*

Intolerance and discrimination are demonstrated at school, in disco-parties, restaurants, at work and even in the streets (not only verbal attacks but even the humiliating way in which Roma women have to carry their handbags etc.). In addition, there are many writings on the walls condemning the Roma to gas or to India. Even government officers, policemen and politicians feel latent racism (see the results of public opinion polls showing the very high percentage of people who refuse the Roma as their neighbours, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and even fair people). Also physical racial attacks are still numerous (see many deaths and assaults).

5. *Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities*

In fact, it is impossible to punish those who refuse to serve the Roma at restaurants or let them enter inside. The laws that punish those who demonstrate racism are not utilised sufficiently. There are no regulations imposing on the Radio and Television the duty to provide minorities with conditions and time for their broadcasting; this enables them to deal with minorities at will. Some representatives of minorities point out to the lack of the law on the liquidation of all forms of discrimination.

6. *The problems of the minority's life*

See above (4). In addition, the members of this minority feel that they are not popular and have a bad reputation. This leads to the feeling of shame and unwillingness to acknowledge membership in the community (see the results of public opinion polls, the complexes of Roma children and adults etc.). The big problem is unemployment, resulting in social and economic troubles, children's absence at school and preferring work over study after passing out of primary school and so forth.

Positive discrimination leads to a negative one (for example Czech TV enables the Roma to take part in programmes only to such an extent which its management considers acceptable. Within “compensatory measures” they admit a newscaster and moderator of Roma ethnicity but as soon as another one comes he has no chance to show his faces on the screen because “it is not in the interest of visitors”).

In the opinion of some representatives of the minority it is inevitable to change the social system in our country. As long as it is more advantageous for the Roma not to work, they remain unprofessional and unemployed and represent a “time bomb” in the society.

7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public authorities etc.)

The preparatory classes of primary schools, Roma consultants in District Offices, co-ordinators (now they work in 5 regions but the results of their activities are not known because they have been performing these activities since January of this year only), the project “The Preparation of Citizens of National Minorities for their Recruitment as Officers of the Police of the Czech Republic”, the activities of Roma pedagogical assistants and street-workers, support of important activities.

8. Their own evaluation of the minority’s position

The position of the Roma does not accord with the position of members of a democratic society. This is the very field where the incapability of the society to take in the Roma as individuals comes to light in the most marked way.

7.7. RUTHENIAN MINORITY

1. Their own estimation of the number of members of the Ruthenian minority and its settlement

According to their own estimation about 10,000 Ruthenians in the Czech Republic declare their ethnicity (as opposed to the results of the census in 2001 which registered 1,109 persons of this ethnicity). In the former Czechoslovak Republic most of the Ruthenians lived in Eastern Slovakia. Many Ruthenian families and individuals quitted, after 1944, the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine for Czechoslovakia, for political reasons, especially after the Soviet occupation of this region, and were reluctant to acknowledge their membership in this minority because of their fear of persecution. Organised Ruthenians live above all in Prague, Brno, Český Těšín and Jindřichův Hradec as well as in Northern Bohemia and the Moravian-Silesian region.

2. The survey of organisations

2a) The types of organisations and their structure

The Society of Friends of Sub-Carpathian Ukraine with its Ruthenian section was founded in 1990, and by its name followed up with the tradition of the same organisation from the 1930s in the Czechoslovak Republic. The Society is a member of the World Council of the Ruthenians and has its representatives on its governing body. The Council convenes every year for its general meeting, where contemporary problems are discussed and an Executive Committee elected.

2b) Members

The Society has 950 members in Prague, Brno, Český Těšín and Jindřichův Hradec. The members are recruited also from Ruthenians living abroad; they participate in its activities inter alia by donations, which the Society utilises for the support of needy citizens of the Sub-Carpathian Ukraine.

2c) Priorities

The priorities are the renewal of the minority's identity and cultural and club activities. The Society tries to fulfil its specific mission by increasing the number of both older and younger members who can assure its existence and further development.

2d) Main planned annual activities of the minority's organisations

The main activities consist of exhibitions which document the past and present life in Sub-Carpathian Ukraine, lectures, publications and professional conferences. Another important activity is co-operation with Ruthenian organisations in Europe, U.S.A and Canada co-ordinated by the World Council of the Ruthenians and the VI. World Congress of the Ruthenians in October 2001. In addition, the representatives of the Ruthenian minority concluded an agreement on co-operation with the National Museum and its Department for Contemporary History; on the occasion of the above Congress the exhibition of photographs by R. Štursa was organised there.

The minority's activities also concentrate on the publication of professional literature in the edition *Documents*. In addition, the edition *Vrchovina* was founded; up till now 4 books of belles lettres, short stories and poetry have been published. One of the most important common activities with Ruthenian organisations in Sub-Carpathian Ukraine is the issue of an annual Czech - Ruthenian Calendar, placing the bust of president Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk in Užhorod (author: Josef Vaice; the bust was officially unveiled on March 29th. 2002; in this ceremony the Chairman of the Senate, Petr Pithart, and other politicians took part).

In addition, regular trips to Sub-Carpathian Ukraine along with humanitarian aid to its inhabitants (afflicted by floods and landslide) are organised.

2e) The presentation of the minority's organisations on the Internet

None.

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

The members of the minority are dispersed throughout the whole republic, and, therefore, it is difficult to establish new organisations (branches).

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration, the representation of the minority in the authorities of self-administration, committees for national minorities etc.)

Somewhere the minority co-operates well with the authorities of self-administration and state administration (in Prague with Metropolitan Authority, the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Brno and Karviná with the authorities of self-administration).

3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life

This item is not specified.

3d) The use of names and surnames in the minority's language

This item is not specified.

3e) Education

The cycle of lectures on the Ruthenians in Sub-Carpathian Ukraine was organised in co-operation with the National Museum. The last one took place in spring 2001.

3f) Cultural activities

See above.

3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)

The Society issues its periodical *Sub-Carpathian Ukraine* and prepares the publication of articles on Ruthenian topics. Since 1990 it has been providing the public with information on the problems concerning Sub-Carpathian Ukraine.

4. The demonstrations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority

The members of this minority have never faced any demonstration of intolerance or discrimination. On the contrary, during various meetings attention is paid to them and they are supported. They have ever stressed tolerance and co-operation in Middle Europe. At the same time they point out that it is not possible to solve the problems of this region by the revision of results of World War II.

5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities

This item is not specified.

6. The problems of the minority's life

Larger and continuous co-operation with the organisations of the Ukrainian minority in the Czech Republic is recommended.

7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with the authorities of public administration etc).

This item is not specified.

8. Their own evaluation of the minority's position

This item is not specified.

7. 8. RUSSIAN MINORITY

1. Their own estimation of the number of members of the Russian minority and its settlement

The number of members of this minority is app. 12,000 persons. Settlement: Prague, Pardubice region, Karlovy Vary, Olomouc, Brno, Ústí nad Labem, Jičín.

2. The survey of organisations.

2a) The types of organisations and their structure

Civil associations: *Russian Institute, Russian Občina, Russian Initiative, Očag* (dissolved).

2b) Members

The Russian Institute has 1,200 members, Russian Občina 200 members.

2c) Priorities

The application of Russian at school as the second or third teaching language; publishing textbooks and videocassettes of Russian, consultancy (in social and legal affairs); the establishment of a Documentation and Information Centre (a library with Russian literature and the literature of national minorities); seminars, training, conferences, lectures on various topics

according to the needs of the Russian minority and the public as a whole; the publication of the news magazine *Vesti* focused on human rights and integration processes in the society.

2d) Main planned annual activities of the minority's organisations

The main activity consists in the publication of periodicals.

2e) The presentation of the minority's organisations on the Internet

www.hyperlink.cz/ruskyinstitut/

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of minorities

3a) Association

Yes.

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration, the representation in the authorities of self-administration, committees for national minorities etc.)

The main organisation submitted in Pardubice region an application for its participation in the solution of problems of the Russian minority. It has its representative (with the status of a guest) in the Commission for National Minorities of the Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague (for 2 years) and it has been co-operating with the Metropolitan Authority of Pardubice (for 1 year).

3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life

The members of the minority do not use Russian in public but they use it in privacy; they consider the existing situation to be problematic.

3d) The use of name and surname in the minority's language

The names and surnames are not used in Russian. The minority had to adopt Czech grammar rules.

3e) Education

The organisation submitted a project for 2001 to the Ministry of Culture; its aim is to establish a cultural centre (Czech - Russian courses, library). The project was dismissed because the Russian Institute was registered one day before the deadline and because the project itself falls within the competence of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Russian is taught as an obligatory subject; at secondary schools its teaching is marginal. The representative of the Russian Institute is negotiating now with the employees of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports on the establishment of a grammar school with extensive teaching of the Russian language (up till now with no results; the matter remains at the level of the Ministry's promises).

3f) Cultural activities

The project "Russian Culture in Prague" was dismissed; at the same time the project "Multicultural Prague 2002" was submitted. No cultural co-operation is developed with other organisations. Support from the Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague is desirable.

3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)

The periodical *Vesti* is published. Its publishers tried to co-operate with the Radio and the Television, but they were refused.

4. The demonstrations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority

In the opinion of the members of this community such demonstrations exist at all level: on the labour market and in communication with ministries and other authorities the members of the Russian minority still feel the reminders of socialism; most people keep a big distance from them.

5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities

It is necessary to enable Russian scholars of both Czech and Russian ethnicity to give lectures in the Departments of Russian Studies of Czech universities. Too large a self-administration of universities does not enable the admission of native graduated teachers (in spite of the fact that they often have not needed expertise).⁵⁸

6. The problems of the minority's life

The members of the Russian minority are afraid to express their own opinions because recent Czech-Russian relations do not develop positively (in comparison with the situation before 1989).

7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with the authorities of public administration etc.)

The Council of the Government for National Minorities supported the minority's project concerning the publication of its own periodical (which it has never had). The Metropolitan Authority of Pardubice provided the minority with premises and financial support.

8. Their own evaluation of the minority's position

This evaluation is negative. There are many items which should be improved. The minority wants its own school and cultural centre; in addition, it wants to improve relations to authorities and broadcast its programmes on Czech Radio and Czech Television. Its members believe that their plans will be realised in the foreseeable future because they feel sufficient support from the secretariat of the Council of the Government for National Minorities, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

7.9. GREEK MINORITY

1. Their own estimation of the number of members of the Greek minority and its settlement

The Greek community is dispersed throughout the Czech Republic, especially in these towns and villages: Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Jeseník, Krnov, Třinec, Karviná, Šumperk, Vrbno pod Pradědem, Havířov a Bohumín (smaller communities or separate families are situated in following localities: Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Hradec Králové, Jihlava, Vyškov, Olomouc, Strážnice, Znojmo, Mikulov. In these areas the Greeks are not organised and they are fully integrated into Czech society). It is estimated that the total number of members of the Greek minority is about 7,000 persons.

2. The survey of organisations

2a) The types of organisations and their structure

Civil associations: *Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic (AGC CR), Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic, Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies, Society of the Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis, Club of the Friends of Greece, Hellenika Foundation Fund.*

⁵⁸ According to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports the native lecturers work at the Departments of Russian Studies or Departments of Slav Languages of Czech universities. Nevertheless, such a selection is applied exclusively at these schools.

AGC CR fulfils its tasks by means of organisational units (i.e. 12 Greek communities) which are independent legal persons authorised to act and acquire rights and duties on behalf of themselves. Lycée for the Greeks was founded in Greece in 1910. Nowadays it has 66 branches (47 in Greece, 19 abroad). Lycée for the Greeks in the Czech Republic was registered as the 10th foreign branch.

The Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies is a member of the European Society of Modern Greek Studies seated in Strasbourg and has 22 branches. In addition, the Society is a member of the Council of Czech Scientific Societies of the Academy of Sciences and keeps up contacts with partner organisations, for example those in Bratislava, Vienna, Zagreb, Warsaw etc.

2b) Members

The Association of Greek Communities in the Czech Republic: 697 members in 12 communities (Prague 110 members, Krnov 100, Ostrava 72, Třinec 61, Brno 60, Krnov 54, Bohumín 50, Šumperk 48, Jeseník 44, Karviná 44, Havířov 36, Vrbno pod Pradědem 18).

Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic: 43 members; The Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies: 46 members; The Society of the Friends of Nikos Katantzakis: 52 members; The Club of the Friends of Greece: 135 members.

2c) Priorities

The aim of Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic is to deepen and develop friendly relations between the Greeks living in the Czech Republic and the Czech Republic, especially in social and cultural field, to support and develop the Greek identity by means of cultural and educational activities, preserve and develop Greek language, preserve and develop relations with the mother land including the social and material aid provided by Greek and other authorities and institutions; its further aim is to disseminate the Greek cultural heritage by means of educational institutions, organise lectures and seminars, acquaint with contemporary Greek culture, organise folklore and dance festivals, sportive and publication activities and work with children and youth.

The aim of Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic is to preserve Greek customs and traditions, develop folklore art and provide women and especially mothers with aid and moral support. The Lycée is focused on the study and preservation of folk costumes and organising their parades, the study of folk songs and their recording and presentation by means of dancing and music performances, organising exhibitions of Greek folk art and taking care of its preservation, organising educational programmes, seminars and lectures, publishing books and issue of video and audio-visual cassettes.

The aim of the Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies is to support scientific study and teaching Modern Greek language, literature, history and culture.

The Society of the Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis deals in the support of publishing works by Nikos Kazantzakis, the Greek writer and poet.

The aim of the Club of the Friends of Greece is to deepen relations between the Czech Republic and Greece in all fields of culture and ancient and modern history.

The aim of the Hellenika Foundation Fund is to support the culture of the Greek minority living in Brno and adjacent regions, especially the preservation and development of Greek language, the development of traditions and folklore art as well as the preservation of Greek cultural consciousness.

2d) Main planned annual activities of the minority's organisations

The main activities of the Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic are as follows: teaching Greek language and dances, cultural and social activities on the occasion of national days and anniversaries of Greece (the coming of the apostles Cyril and Methodius,

Easter (Pascha), New-Year Cake Cutting (Vasilopita), Greek festivals in the Czech Republic, seminars on Greek dances in Brno and Krnov, organising dance evening parties with Greek folk music, the dissemination of information in Greek (the periodical *Kalimera*), the seminar for the teachers of Greek language in Jeseník, the children's summer camp with teaching Greek language organised by the Greek organisation in Krnov, children's weekends with teaching Greek language organised by the Greek organisation in Třinec, educational competitions for children organised by the Greek organisation in Krnov, the children's theatre performance of Greek mythology organised by the Greek organisation in Brno, the exhibitions of documents on the life of the Greeks living in the Czech Republic, presentation of Greek artists, the commemoration of dead Greek fellow-citizens in Těchonín, the meeting of children and parents on the occasion of "Agios Nikolaos" with St. Nicholas Eve's presents, informal meetings with pensioners, the chess and soccer tournament, trips.

The main activities of the Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic: teaching of traditional Greek dances, organising seminars on Greek dances for children and youth of the Czech Republic, the presentation of traditional Greek dances and the performance of the Lycée ensemble on the occasion of important cultural and social events, for example the celebrations of national days of Greece, Greek festivals in the Czech Republic, meetings of the representatives of the Greek and the Czech nations, the presentation of traditional Greek handicrafts and meals within international folklore festivals (for example Prague - the Heart of Nations, Tolerance, Coloured World of Children, Strážnice, "Jánošík Ducat" etc.), the project "Greek National Folk Costumes" and "The Greek Year of Traditions", lectures on Greek anniversary customs and important cultural events (for example "Traditions of Spring and Easter" and "Interesting Artefacts of Ancient Collections of the National Museum, Prague"), informal meetings on various topics (for example "The Preservation of Family Traditions", "Greek Meals of Green Market Square", "Brno Variations of Greek Cuisine", the courses of Greek cuisine, the publication of Greek recipes, the festival of Lycée ensembles, the procurement of exhibits for the Museum of Greek Culture and Traditions.

The main activities of the Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies: lectures (for example "Orthodox Priests Travelling through the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy", "Greek Studies in Slovakia", "Prince Alexandros Ypsilantis and His Stay in Brno", "The Influence of Greek Folk Architecture on New Classicism (Adolf Loos)", "100th. Anniversary of the Birth of Nobel Prize Winner Georgios Seferis", seminars; publishing the miscellany of lectures, audio-visual programmes, theatre performances, films, excursions.

The main activities of the Club of the Friends of Greece: lectures on Greek literature, the evenings of Greek poetry with the recitations of passages of works by famous poets, trips to the localities of Czech Republic linked with Greek history, common spectacles of Greek films or theatre performances, support of the ensemble Akropolis and the operation of the Greek Library.

The Hellenika Foundation Fund plays an important role in creating, organising and financing many projects whose importance goes beyond the boundaries of Brno region and function on the whole territory of the Czech Republic: "Teaching Greek language", "Teaching of Traditional Greek Dances", "National Folk Costumes for the Dancing Ensemble Prometheus of Lycée of the Greeks in Athens", "Seminars on Greek Traditional Dances with the Lector from Lycée of the Greeks Kalamaty" "Outstanding Days of the Greek and Cyprian Nations" "Vasilopita - the Tradition of Orthodox Christmas", "V. Greek Festival", "Hellas Olympiad 1996", "Let us Learn About Greece", "Greek Days in Brno 1998 - 2000", "The Beneficiary Performance of Prometheus", "The Greek Year of Traditions", "Greek Library and Videotheque".

Since 1994 till 2000 Hellenika has been the only guarantee and party of the dancing and music ensembles Prométheus from Brno, Akropolis from Prague and Gorgony from Krnov in

important international folklore festivals. The ensemble *Prométheus* from Brno is a laureate of Strážnice International Folklore Festival. Actual and very important long-term projects are the Greek Cultural, Educational and Social Centre in Brno, The Protection of Rights of the Greek Minority Living on the Territory of the Czech Republic, Prince Alexandros Ypsilantis and Brno, Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic, Greek Days in the Czech Republic 2003 and Hellas Olympiad 2004.

2e) The presentation of the minority's organisations on the Internet

www.dialogos-kpr.cz (Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic, Greek Organisation Prague, Club of the Friends of Greece) www.sweb.cz/hellenika (Hellenika Foundation Fund, Greek Organisation Brno, Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic, Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies) www.rokm.aktualne.cz (Greek Organisation Krnov), <http://mujweb.cz/www.csspnk/index.htm> (Society of the Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis).

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

Persons of Greek ethnicity and the members of their families associate themselves voluntarily in 2 civil associations i.e. Association of the Greek Communities in the Czech Republic and Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic. Other civil associations i.e. Club of the Friends of Greece, Society of the Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis and Czech Society of Modern Greek Studies are not direct representatives of the minority but they co-operate with other Greek organisations both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the right of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration, the representation of the minority in the authorities of self-administration, committees for national minorities etc.)

The minority has been participating in the solution of problems concerning its rights in democratic conditions since the end of 1999, when its representative was nominated for a membership on the Council of the Government for National Minorities. One of the actual tasks which are being fulfilled is the proposal of nomination of the minority's candidates for the new consultative body of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for the affairs of national minorities and the advisory board of Deputy Minister of Culture for the affairs of minority culture.

3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life

The use of Greek language in privacy depends on how the individuals know it. In public it is not used; in the case of elderly fellow-citizens, or those who came from Greece to the Czech Republic recently, it results in the problem of communication. It is resolved by Czech interpreters who graduated from the Philosophical Faculty Brno (branch of study: Modern Greek Studies) or attended the courses of Modern Greece there. There are still some government bodies which are not aware of this possibility.

3d) The use of name and surname in the minority's language

The Greek minority insists on its right to enter women's surnames into registers without the change according to gender.

3e) Education

At Masaryk University in Brno and in the Institute of Classical Studies, both Modern and Ancient Greek are taught.

Since 1991 afternoon courses of Greek language have been organised for the pupils of primary and secondary schools in localities where Greek communities are concentrated. The pupils from several schools are divided according to their knowledge of Greek into classes for beginners and advanced learners. The courses of Greek language for children of pre-school age are organised by the Greek communities in Prague and Šumperk.

The inseparable part of Greek nature and national identity is Greek dance. The study and courses of Greek dances are assured by Lycée of the Greeks in the Czech Republic.

Teaching is financed from various resources: exceptionally from the budget of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, from the budget of towns and communities, from private donations and grants provided by the Greek Republic.

3f) Cultural activities

Professional cultural activity is performed by singers Martha and Tena Elefteriadu and Froso Tarasidu. Art is represented by sculptors Nikos Armutidis and Lefteris Joanidis. Amateur dancing ensembles perform in Prague, Brno and Zlaté Hory.

The ensembles of traditional Greek dances were founded in Brno, Prague and Krnov.

The main activities of Greek communities in the Czech Republic are those focused on culture, national days, outstanding days, anniversaries of the Greek Republic (March 25th. 1821, October 28th. 1940), the coming of the apostles Cyril and Methodius, Easter (Pascha), New-Year Cake Cutting (Vasilopita) and Greek Festivals in the Czech Republic.

The culture of the Greek community is preserved and developed thanks to everyday voluntary activity of their members who perform it gratis but at a high professional level.

3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)

The acquaintance with the minority's affairs has been assured for the last ten years by various periodicals; the most important of them are *Dialogos*, *Kalimera*, *Mantatoforos tou Brno*, *Angelioforos* etc.

4. The demonstrations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority

In the Greek community no demonstration of xenophobia, racism, discrimination or intolerance has been registered.

5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities

Contemporary Greeks, who have been living on the territory of the Czech Republic for more than 50 years, either have Czech citizenship and declare Greek ethnicity or dispose of a permission for foreigners to permanent residence. Most of the old citizens disposing of a permission to permanent residence could not apply for Greek or Czech citizenship for political, personal or family reasons. On the other hand, the amended Act on Foreigners puts them back to the long queue of applicants for permanent residence in the Czech Republic. Charges and penalties for the delayed prolongation of a residence are high. In addition, these fellow-citizens cannot own any real estate and have no statutory guarantee that they will not end without a roof over their head.

6. The problems of the minority's life

The members of the minority need non-residential premises for their activity but they are not available. The promises on the establishment of Houses of Nationalities in Brno and Ostrava have not been kept. Non-residential premises are very important for minorities as such. Therefore they suggested the establishment of multicultural centres where needy minorities can develop their activities.

7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public authorities etc.)

A good decision of government authorities and institutions is the creation of the programme “A Homeland for the Members of National Minorities” which was incorporated into the programme of International Folklore festival Strážnice in 1995. The first performance of this programme reflected efforts to preserve traditional Greek dances in the Diaspora as a necessary and irreplaceable part on national identity on one hand and to present traditional Greek culture to the public and enrich cultural activities in the Czech Republic on the other. The support and development of these activities result in increasing interest in teaching Greek dances in localities of the Czech Republic where the Greek live.

8. Their own evaluation of the minority's position

The Greek community living on the territory of the Czech Republic still preserves its Greek national consciousness but at the same time it is fully integrated into the Czech Society. Its role in economic, social and cultural life is active and evident.

7.10. SLOVAK MINORITY

1. Their own estimation of the number of members of the Slovak minority and its settlement

Most of the Slovaks live in the Moravian - Silesian, Ústí, South - Moravian, Middle - Bohemian regions and in Prague. The medial campaign before the census in March 2001 affected its results because the mass media expressed their anxiety from the infringement of protection of personal data and pointed out that filling the columns “National Identity” and “Religion” in the census sheets would not be compulsory. The real estimation of the number of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic is 350 – 400,000 persons.

2-The survey of organisations

2a) The types of organisations and their structure

There are 10⁵⁹ civil associations which present themselves as the associations of the Slovak minority. They are as follows: *Czech - Slovak Stage, Democratic Alliance of the Slovaks, Púčík Folklore Association, Limbora Folklore Association, Club of the Slovak Culture, Community of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic, Slovak - Czech Club, Detvan Club, Club of the Friends of Slovak Theatre, Union of the Slovaks.*

In the activities of the Slovak minority also *Historical Group of the Participants in the Slovak National Uprising* (without legal personality, as a part of Union of the Fighters for Freedom) and *Slovak Orthodox Church in the Czech Republic.*

2b) Members

The total number of organised members of the minority in individual associations is estimated to be 4,000 – 5,000 persons. The most numerous of them are the Club of the Slovak Culture and the Community of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic. The Czech - Slovak Club has a specific position. The members of the folklore associations Púčík and Limbora are both children and adults. Other associations are less numerous.

The Club of the Slovak Culture (2,500 members including the members of the majority society); The Association of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic (1,020 members in 9 regional communities);

The Slovak - Czech Club (400 members: Prague, České Budějovice, Brno, Moravská Třebová).

⁵⁹ Ministry of the Interior registers 14 organisations. This number includes also regional organisations (branches).

Limbora folklore Association and Púčik Folklore Association (200 members, especially in Prague and Brno).

2c) Priorities

The priorities vary according to individual programmes and concrete activities; the common feature is an effort to present the values of Slovak culture and emancipate the Slovak minority. These efforts aim at the preservation of Slovak culture and language within the majority society. All organisations support Czech - Slovak solidarity.

2d) Main planned annual activities of the minority's organisation

There are hundreds of activities organised by individual associations every year. The main activities are those that are addressed to the largest number of members of organisations and other citizens of the Czech Republic, i.e. Slovak - Czech cultural festivals, international folklore festivals, theatre performances, balls, sport competitions, seminars, publication activities of individual associations, the official appraisals of well-known personalities for their work for the sake of good relations between the Czechs and the Slovaks (Matej Hrebenda Prize).

2e) The presentation of the minority's organisations on the Internet

The activity of Slovak minority organisations and their point of view are presented at two addresses: www.czsk.net (or www.cz-sk.net) of Slovak - Czech Club and www.slovak.sk (or www.slovaci.cz) of Community of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic. On both addresses the periodicals (Slovak Touches and Roots) and the activities of individual associations are presented. In addition, the Czech - Slovak Club presents on the address www.svet.czsk.net an Internet daily of the compatriots "Czech and Slovak World" which is updated every day. This daily is intended for the Czechs and the Slovaks who live all over the world including the Slovak minority in the Czech Republic and the Czech one in Slovakia. Its publication is supported by government bodies in the Czech and Slovak Republics and it exceeds to a large extent the framework of problems concerning exclusively the Slovak minority in the Czech Republic. Since it is issued by the minority organisation it reflects the problems of nationalities.

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

Conditions for the association of members of the Slovak minority comply with the Act on the Association of Citizens. In the opinion of some organisations of the Slovak minority an insufficiency of this Act is that it does not specify an association of a national minority and its definition does not include an act on the rights of members of national minorities. The contemporary amendment enables that even those subjects which according to some members represent neither a minority nor its part can consider themselves to be minority associations. The only condition is to choose a name of such an association. During grant proceedings some government officers interpret the Act on the Association of Citizens to the effect that there is no difference among associations as such (for example the association of gardeners and the association of a national minority "are equal"). In the minority's opinion it is not right for many reasons. While in the opinion of some organisations of the Slovak minority a different position of associations of national minorities should be reflected by law or respective standard, in the opinion of others an existing form of civil associations is acceptable and problems are exclusively practical - the government officers are ill-informed about the real activities of individual organisations.

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of the minority (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration, the representation of the minority in the authorities of self-administration, committees for national minorities etc.)

Co-operation with the authorities of self-administration in Prague, České Budějovice, Moravská Třebová or Brno is perfect, because they support the minority and participate in organising Days of the Slovak Culture. In towns where regional Communities of the Slovaks or Clubs of “Slovak Touches” operate such a co-operation is very good (including economic support provided by municipal authorities). These towns are Karviná, Kroměříž, Pilsen, Karlovy Vary and Sokolov. First contacts are being established also in new regions (Pilsen, Ostrava, Zlín, Karlovy Vary, Central Bohemia). The Slovaks work in commissions for national minorities in Prague, Brno and Karviná.

3c) The use of the minority’s language in private and public life

Slovak language is used without limitation. Certain problems can come at post-offices and banks where some forms must be filled in Czech. Slovak is used and presented sporadically in some programmes of Czech Television. In this respect more positive role is played by Czech Radio.

3d) The use of name and surname in the language of the minority

There are no problems with the use of names and surnames in Slovak language.

3e) Education

Nowadays there is no school in the Czech Republic for the Slovak minority. Because of a small interest of children and parents a school with Slovak as a teaching language in Karviná - Mizerov was abolished. For the same reason also the project of M.R. Štefánik Grammar School failed. In addition, there is no programme of teaching Slovak. Slovak - Czech Club along with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Charles University and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic organised in 1999 the conference “Summer School of Tolerance” where it broached a problem concerning the absence of Slovak language and realia in the Czech education system. On the basis of speeches of the Ministers of Education of both republics an agreement was concluded on correctional measures which will have been taken till 2004 and the introduction of Slovak language as a voluntary subject at primary schools in localities where larger numbers of Slovaks are concentrated.

3f) Cultural activities

The organisations of the Slovak minority co-operate with each other in organising many Slovak cultural activities on the territory of the Czech Republic. The main activities are the cycle of festivals *Days of the Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic* (organised by Slovak - Czech Club in individual towns and districts in co-operation with local town halls, cultural clubs and Club of the Slovak Culture), the performances of the café-theatre *Black Swan* of Czech - Slovak Theatre (organised by Czech - Slovak Theatre, Chamber Prague Production and Czech - Slovak Club), theatre and folklore festivals “The Best of Slovak Humour” (organised by Club of the Slovak Culture) “Jánošík Ducat” (co-organised by Community of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic, Půčik and Limbora), “Slovak Ball in Prague” (organised by all Slovak clubs) and awarding the Matej Hrebenda Prize (organised by Community of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic). Other important activities are the festival “Slovak Theatre in Prague” (organised by Railings-Free Theatre and the civil association Adria) and many other festivals. Cultural activities are performed also by regional Communities of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic and clubs of “Slovak Touches” (a common member of Slovak - Czech club). Slovak culture -including minority one - is developed especially in large towns (Prague, Brno, České Budějovice, Moravská Třebová, Pilsen, Karviná, Karlovy Vary and Sokolov).

3g) *The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)*

The Slovak minority issues in the Czech Republic three monthlies. The most numerous (app. 8,000 copies) is the periodical *Slovak Touches* with its Extra Edition *Literary Touches* published by Slovak - Czech Club. The most extensive is the periodical *Listy 2001* published by Club of the Slovak Culture along with Democratic Alliance of the Slovaks. Community of the Slovaks in the Czech republic issues the periodical *Roots* which addresses even the youngest generation by means of its Children's Extra Edition *Breads*. In 2001 also one copy of the quarterly *Slovak Views* was published by the Union of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic. In addition, the Slovak - Czech Club issues one Internet magazine *Czech and Slovak Sport* intended for compatriots.

Since 1993 the Czech Radio has been broadcasting for Slovak fellow-citizens. The permanently criticised fact is that Czech Television does not meet its duty towards the Slovak minority in the Czech Republic in the field of Czech - Slovak relations.

The Slovak minority issues more and more non-periodical publications; the most active organisations in this respect are the Slovak - Czech Club and the Union of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic. In addition, publication activity is performed also by the Club of Slovak Culture, the Democratic Alliance of the Slovaks and the Community of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic. Their interests are specific. For example Community of the Slovaks in the Czech Republic issues publications focused on the scientific activity of the Slovak minority in the Czech republic and the perspectives of its development (up till now 2 publications "Quo Vadis, Slovak Minority?" and "Slovak Features in the Multicultural World" have been published). Also the Slovak - Czech club deals in literature (in 2001 it issued the publication "Prague Inspirations of Slovak Writers"). The Union of the Slovaks and the Club of the Slovak Culture focuses on history. The above publications were received very well by scientists. The most reputable publication in 2001 was the book "Slovak - Czech Destinies (100 + 1 Personalities of the Czech Society in Slovakia)" issued by the Slovak - Czech club.

4. *The demonstrations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority*

According to researches, the Czech majority society is the most tolerant of the Slovak minority. The demonstrations of intolerance are rare, mostly in less developed socio-cultural environment or among children. Some Slovak applicants for jobs complain of their alleged discrimination, resulting from a prior assumption that they would have problems with Czech in spite of the fact that they speak it fluently. Other members of the Slovak minority complain that sometimes they are not allowed to use Slovak in cases guaranteed by law, for example in filling in legal documents. In addition, the attitude of Czech Television which still refuses Slovak language without any factual or legal reason can be considered discriminating.

5. *Insufficiencies in legislation and the activity of public authorities*

The Slovak minority considers the fact that Czech Television does not keep its obligation to deal in programmes which satisfy the needs of national minorities to be a legislative problem. The same problem relates to the obligation of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic to initiate the interest of children (or parents) in teaching the languages of minorities, for example in the form of voluntary subjects. In addition, this obligation is not included in the School Act which the government submits to the Chamber of Deputies for approval. The biggest problem is the effort to change the conditions for the residence of Slovak citizens on the Czech - Slovak borders.

6. *The problems of the minority's life*

In addition to the above problems, others are insufficient financing of projects, covering the overhead expenses of minority organisations and the lack of Slovak press and books (mainly out of Prague). After 1993 Czech public libraries set aside books in Slovak language. There is only one (in Karviná) which has a Department of Slovak Literature.

7. *Examples of good practice(the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with the public authorities)*

The positive example of creating conditions for the development of a minority is the co-operation of the minority's associations with some towns, especially Prague, České Budějovice, Moravská Třebová, Brno etc. These towns support the minority's associations by means of grants, organising individual activities, providing premises for various activities free of charge etc. In Prague the minority co-operates with the authorities of some districts, especially Prague 6, 2, 1 and 13.

8. *Their own evaluation of the minority's position*

The Slovaks are the largest and most specific national minority living on the territory of the Czech Republic. The Slovak minority crystallised to be a firm and active community playing an important role in the cultural and social life of the Czech Republic. Among national minorities in the Czech Republic and compatriots communities abroad it has a specific position (except the Slovak Community in the U.S.A., which is the most numerous one with a very strong language and cultural identity). The weak point of its existence here is the educational system and co-operation with TV.

7.11. UKRAINIAN MINORITY

1. *Their own estimation of the number of members of the Ukrainian minority and its settlement*

Historical immigration: about 10,000 persons; new immigration: about 15 – 20,000 persons (foreign workers: app. 50,000 persons). The main towns of its settlements are Prague, Karlovy Vary, Děčín, Brno, Přerov and Ostrava.

2. *The survey of the minority's organisations*

2a) *The types of organisations and their structure*

The Ukrainian minority is represented by three civil associations: *Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic* (hereinafter UICR), *Club of Ukrainian Women*, *Association of The Ukrainians and the Friends of Ukraine* and *Forum of the Ukrainians*; their activity exceeds the framework of minority associations.

UICR is headed by the Executive Council (7 members) and 3 chairmen of regional organisations. In addition, it has its Revision Commission.

During the preparation of the Report the Executive Council of UICR responded to the article *Elections in Ukraine - The Ukrainians Utilise Votes At Will (an Interview with Boris Kameljuk, the Member of the Association "Forum of the Ukrainians in the Czech Republic")* from March 27th. 2002 which was issued at the Internet address www.infoservis.net and raised an objection to a statement that this organisation was managed by the Ukrainian Embassy in the Czech Republic. It lays stress on the fact that it is an organisation functioning on the minority principle. Its members are recruited mostly from the citizens of the Czech Republic, members of the Ukrainian national minority from a historical Diaspora and also the Ukrainians who represent a new migration wave to the Czech Republic. It publishes the cultural - political quarterly *Porohy* which is available for the public and provides the members of the Ukrainian minority in the

Czech Republic with information about the Ukrainians' life in the Czech Republic, their social activities, the activity of Ukrainian Club, its library and fonothèque.

2b) Members

The Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic has 800 members, the Club of Ukrainian Women has 50 members, the Association of the Ukrainians and the Friends of Ukraine has almost 100 members and the Forum of the Ukrainians 20 members.

2c) Main planned annual activities of the minority's organisations

The main association - Ukrainian Initiative - assures the issue of the quarterly *Porohy* and contributes to the Ukrainian broadcasting at the Regional Station of Czech Radio. In addition, it assures contacts with the authorities of government bodies of the Czech Republic (the Council of the Government for National Minorities, the Sub-Committee for Nationalities of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, the Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague, the Consultative Body of the Ministry of Culture) and world Ukrainian organisations /World Congress of the Ukrainians - Toronto, European Congress of the Ukrainians - London, World Ukrainian Co-ordination Council - Kiev). In addition, it co-operates with the Council of Humanitarian Aid, is in contact with the Helsinki Committee and the Embassy of Ukraine in the Czech Republic, and co-ordinates active contacts with other minority organisations in the Czech Republic.

The Club of the Ukrainian Women organises, above all, literary and cultural discussions and lectures. Its main activities are Mothers Day and an informal meeting dedicated to Taras Ševčenko and famine in Ukraine. The Club are in good contact with the World Federation of Ukrainian Women Organisations.

The Association of the Ukrainians and the Friends of Ukraine is not focused on minority affairs. One of its activities is organising concerts of St. Kliment Choir (twice or three-times a year).

The Forum of the Ukrainians is an organisation which was registered recently. Its members are not the citizens of the Czech Republic. It associates enthusiastic people who want to inform the Ukrainian community about events in Ukraine. Up till now this organisation has been organised 3 protest activities (in front of the Embassy of Ukraine and at Wenceslas Square in Prague). It has not been performing any cultural activity.

2e) The presentation of the minority's organisations on the Internet

The Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic is preparing its presentation on the Internet. The Forum of the Ukrainians has its own Internet address: (<http://www.ukrainians.cz/>).

3. Conditions for the exercise of rights of national minorities

3a) Association

The conditions for association comply with the principles of democracy and civil freedoms (Act N.116/1985 Coll. and Act N.83/1990 Coll. which have been applied seem to be an anachronism).

3b) Participation in the solution of problems concerning the rights of minorities (co-operation with the authorities of self-administration and state administration, the representation of the minority in the authorities of self-administration, committees for national minorities etc.)

The exercise of rights of the minority in this field is considered sufficient.

3c) The use of the minority's language in private and public life

In privacy (and non-mixed marriages) it is used regularly, in public it is replaced by Czech.

3d) The use of name and surname in the minority's language

It is possible to raise an objection to conditions under which a husband's surname without the suffix "ová" can be used. In this case a woman has to elaborate an affidavit on the change of

ethnicity, otherwise the change in a register is not possible. This procedure can be held unconstitutional: a citizen is forced by circumstances (or the state) to “choose” another ethnicity.

3e) Education

Due to the number of the Ukrainians in individual regions there is only a Summer School for the children of compatriots. It has been functioning for several years without any subsidy; it is supported only by the Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic.

3g) Cultural Activities

No doubts that the minority performs large and rich cultural activities (including multicultural ones) under the financial support of the state or Metropolitan Authority of the Capital Prague (the level of these subsidies can be discussed). The fact is that without these subsidies the cultural activities of all minorities would be very limited.

3g) The dissemination and reception of information in the language of the minority (periodicals, non-periodicals, radio and television broadcasting)

The main activity in this field is the issue of the periodical *Porohy* (with the subsidy). The compatriots evaluate it very positively. For the last ten years the Ukrainian Initiative in the Czech Republic has been assuring the programme in Ukrainian language at the Regina Station of Czech Radio. The name of this programme is “The Club of Understanding”.

4. The demonstrations of intolerance and discrimination towards the minority

It can be said that there is no minority to which no objection has ever been raised. For example extremely negative attitudes towards the Ukrainian minority are still the result of historical events in 1945 - 1947; nowadays the negative attitudes are intensified by the inflow of a cheap labour force and criminals from the Ukraine, or former Soviet Union, who found in the Czech Republic their nursery. Foreign workers often suffer from the demonstrations of discrimination from so-called clients, entrepreneurs and various Mafia.

5. Insufficiencies in legislation and the activities of public authorities

See above (3a), (3d). The Minority Act has mostly a declarative character (for example Hungary, Poland and Slovakia resolve this problem in another way - and in some aspects in a better one).

6. The problems in the minority's life

In spite of the efforts of activists it is not easy to assure the operation of organisations and the implementation of all cultural and educational programmes; individual organisations suffer from the lack of a new labour force and the wear of an existing one; this weakens its potential.

7. The examples of good practice (the positive examples of creating conditions for the development of the minority, co-operation with public authorities etc.)

The Ukrainian minority in the Czech Republic has good experience with all authorities of state administration and self-administration with which it has been co-operating since the 1990s. It must be said that the state takes measures in favour of all national minorities living on the territory of the Czech Republic.

8. The own estimation of the minority's position

The Ukrainian minority lives fully and existing organisations contribute to the assurance of its vitality. Nevertheless, problems mentioned in the point 6 could affect it at any time. This results inter alia from the fact that before 1989 this minority had no chance to associate and had to start in fact from the zero point.