

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sixth State Report on the Implementation of the Principles Laid Down in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Submitted Pursuant to Article 25, Paragraph 2 of the Convention

Contents

Introduction.....	6
National minorities in the Czech Republic.....	6
PART I - Measures taken to raise awareness of the results of the fifth monitoring cycle and of the Framework Convention.....	14
I.1 On which website(s) have the fifth cycle opinion and the related Committee of Ministers Resolution been published and in which language(s), including minority languages? Please provide relevant links.	14
I.2 Which domestic follow-up activities were organised, including activities organised jointly with the Council of Europe, and what were their outcomes?.....	14
I.3 How were minority organisations and other non-governmental organisations involved in the preparation of the sixth state report?.....	15
I.4 Which other measures were taken to promote awareness of the Framework Convention among persons belonging to national minorities, public officials, local and regional authorities, and the general public?	15
II. Measures taken to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention and to implement fifth cycle recommendations.....	16
II.3 Article 3.....	16
II.4 Article 4.....	17
II.5 Article 5.....	20
II.6 Article 6.....	25
II.7 Article 7.....	38
II.8 Article 8.....	38
II.9 Article 9.....	39
II.10 Article 10.....	42
II.11 Article 11.....	43
II.12 Article 12.....	47
II.13 Article 13.....	48
II.14 Article 14.....	49
II.15 Article 15.....	68
II.16 Article 16.....	75
II.10 Article 17.....	75
II.18 Article 18.....	75

List of tables

Table 1 Czechia population by selected minorities (2021 population and housing census)	6
Table 2 Overview of the amount of funding in CZK provided under the grant programme to support cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic	22
Table 3 Overview of the funding provided under the grant programme to support the integration of the Roma minority members	23
Table 4 Overview of the funding provided under the grant programme Support for Regional Cultural Traditions.....	23
Table 5 Summary of the number of grants provided to library operators 2019 – 2022.....	24
Table 6 Overview of the grants provided by the Separate Unit of Museums under grant programmes	24
Table 7 Funds provided to support the dissemination and reception of information in the languages of national minorities	39
Table 8 Funding programme for implementing the Charter in the reporting period.....	45
Table 9 Grants from the funding programme for implementing the Charter, used for the installation of bilingual signs (in municipalities, total for the duration of the programme).....	46
Table 10 Funds in the programme Support for Educational Activities of National Minorities in 2017 – 2021.....	49
Table 11 List of nursery schools teaching in Polish (2021/2022 school year).....	50

Table 12 List of primary schools teaching in Polish (2021/2022 school year) (incomplete=only lower or only upper primary school, complete=both lower and upper primary school)	51
Table 13 List of secondary schools teaching in Polish (2021/2022 school year)	52
Table 14 Polish higher education institutions (2019-2022)	52
Table 15 Number of pupils learning German in the 2021/22 school year (by Region):.....	53
Table 16 German higher education institutions (2017-2022)	54
Table 17 Several new training programmes for further education of teachers as well as for education of Roma children and pupils with a different mother tongue were accredited in 2020.	56
Table 18 Qualified estimate of the number of Roma children in nursery schools and in preparatory classes of primary schools	61
Table 19 The transfer of pupils from FEP PE LMD to FEP PE MO enabled the development of the maximum learning potential of each pupil in key areas in mainstream primary schools.	63
Table 20 Numbers of pupils educated under FEP PE MO	64
Table 21 Numbers of schools and pupils in educational programmes	64
Table 22 Romani/Roma studies and higher education (2017-2022)	65
Table 23 Other minority languages and higher education (2017-2022)	65
Table 24 Committees, commissions and working groups in the regions (2019-2022)	71
Table 25 Committees, commissions and working groups in statutory cities	72
Table 26 Committees for national minorities or other advisory bodies at municipal level.....	73

List of maps

Map 1 Slovak National Minority	7
Map 2 Ukrainian National Minority.....	7
Map 3 Vietnamese National Minority	8
Map 4 Polish National Minority	8
Map 5 Russian National Minority	9
Map 6 German National Minority	9
Map 7 Roma National Minority.....	10
Map 8 Hungarian National Minority	10
Map 9 Bulgarian National Minority	11
Map 10 Belarusian National Minority	11
Map 11 Serbian National Minority.....	12
Map 12 Greek National Minority	12
Map 13 Croatian National Minority (including so-called Moravian Croats)	13
Map 14 Rusyn National Minority	13

Introduction

The Czech Republic submits the Sixth State Report (the “state report”) on Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (the “Framework Convention”) pursuant to Article 25 par. 2 of the Convention. The state report follows the outline approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and covers the period from 2019 to 2022. Part I describes the measures taken to raise awareness of the results of the fifth monitoring cycle and of the Framework Convention. Part II describes the measures taken to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention and implementation of the recommendations arisen from the fifth cycle.

National minorities in the Czech Republic

The term “national minority” is defined in the Czech Republic by Act No 273/2001, on the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and amending certain laws, as amended (the “Minorities Act”). The definition in the above Act is as follows: *“A national minority is a community of citizens of the Czech Republic who live on the territory of the present Czech Republic and, as a rule, differ from other citizens by their common ethnic origin, language, culture and traditions; they represent a minority of citizens and at the same time they show their will to be considered a national minority for the purpose of common efforts to preserve and develop their own identity, language and culture, as well as to express and protect the interests of their community which has been formed during history. The member of a national minority is a citizen of the Czech Republic who professes other than Czech ethnic origin and wishes to be considered a member of a national minority together with others who profess the same ethnic origin.”*

There are 14 national minorities represented in the Government Council for National Minorities (the Council), as set out in its Statute: the Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Rusyn, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

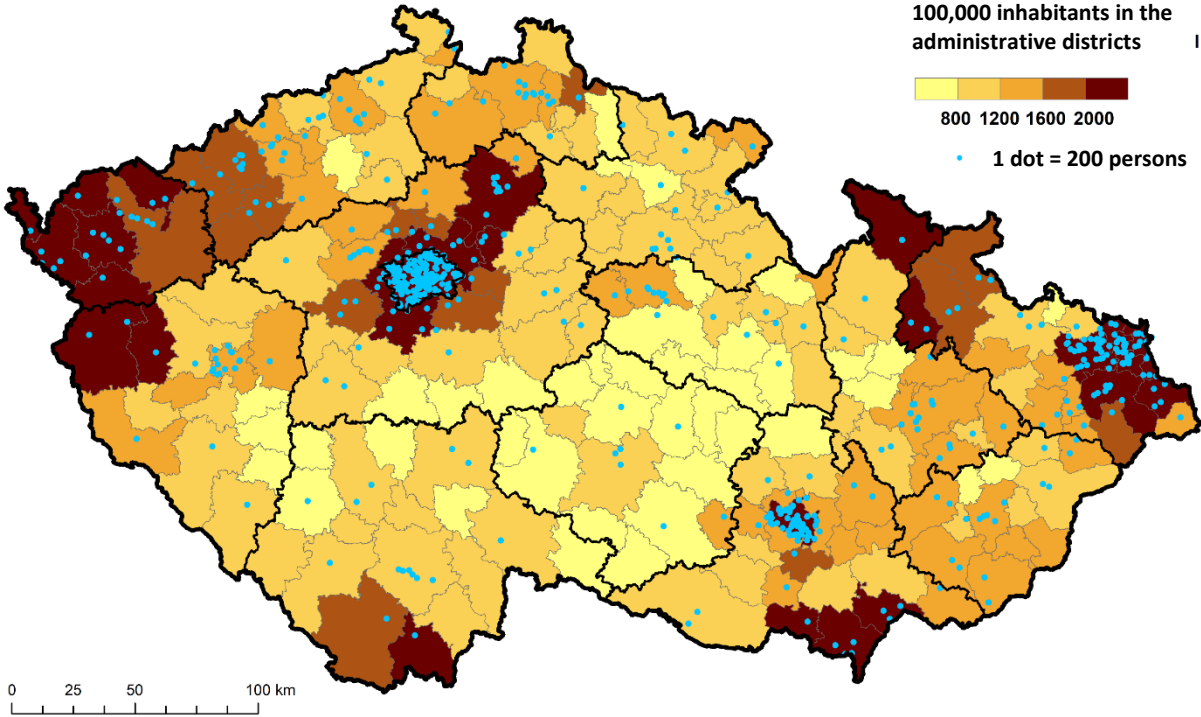
A population and housing census took place in the Czech Republic in 2021. The Czech Statistical Office provided to the Office of the Government maps showing the spatial distribution of the members of the national minorities. The maps are available on the following website. However, there are some citizens who did not declare any nationality in the public census. Still, the sample of members of national minorities is representative enough so as not to distort the results in terms of the shares of the minorities in the various areas in the maps. The maps are sorted by the population size of the national minority in the census. Please note that in the case of the Roma national minority, there is a substantial discrepancy between the number of its members who indicated their Roma nationality in the 2021 public census (21,691) and the qualified estimates (around 250,000).

Table 1 Czechia population by selected minorities (2021 population and housing census)

national minority	one nationality	in combination with a second nationality	total
Slovak	96,041	66,537	162,578
Ukrainian	78,068	14,824	92,892
Vietnamese	31,469	7,254	38,723
Polish	26,802	11,416	38,218
Russian	25,296	9,210	34,506
German	9,128	15,504	24,632
Roma	4,458	17,233	21,691
Hungarian	5,969	5,284	11,253
Bulgarian	6,073	1,606	7,679
Belarusian	4,030	1,099	5,129
Serbian	2,914	1,187	4,101
Greek	2,069	2,008	4,077
Croatian	1,167	1,247	2,414
Rusyn	608	1,296	1,904

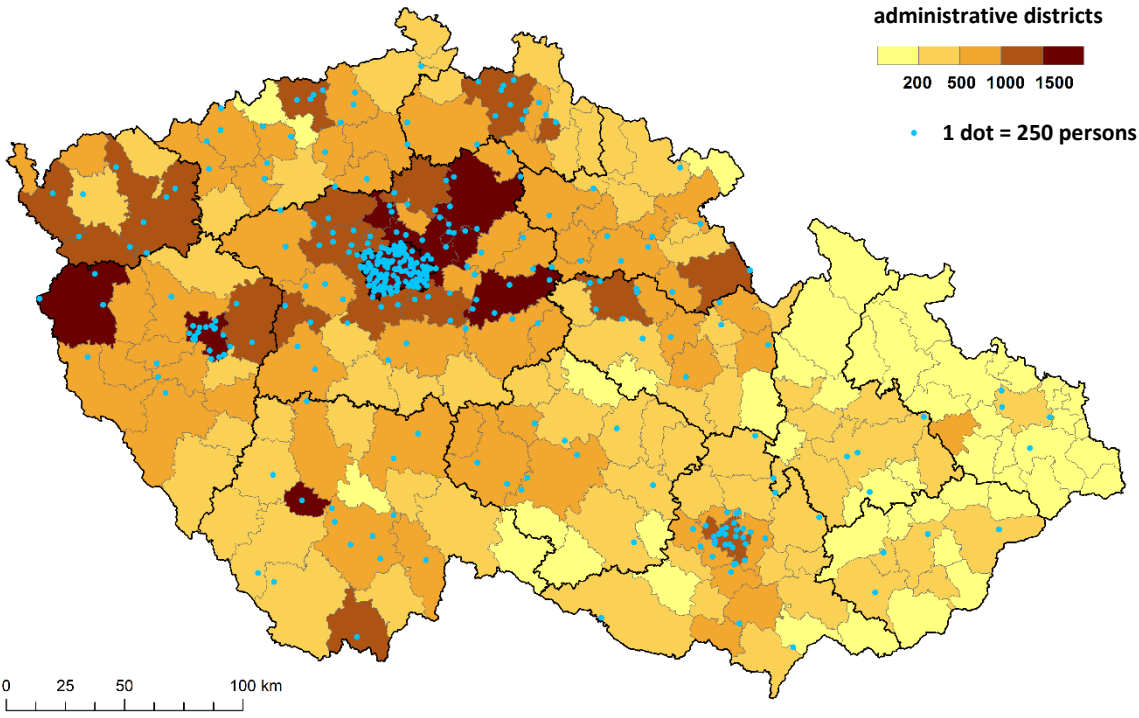
Map 1 Slovak National Minority

Population of Slovak nationality according to the 2021 census

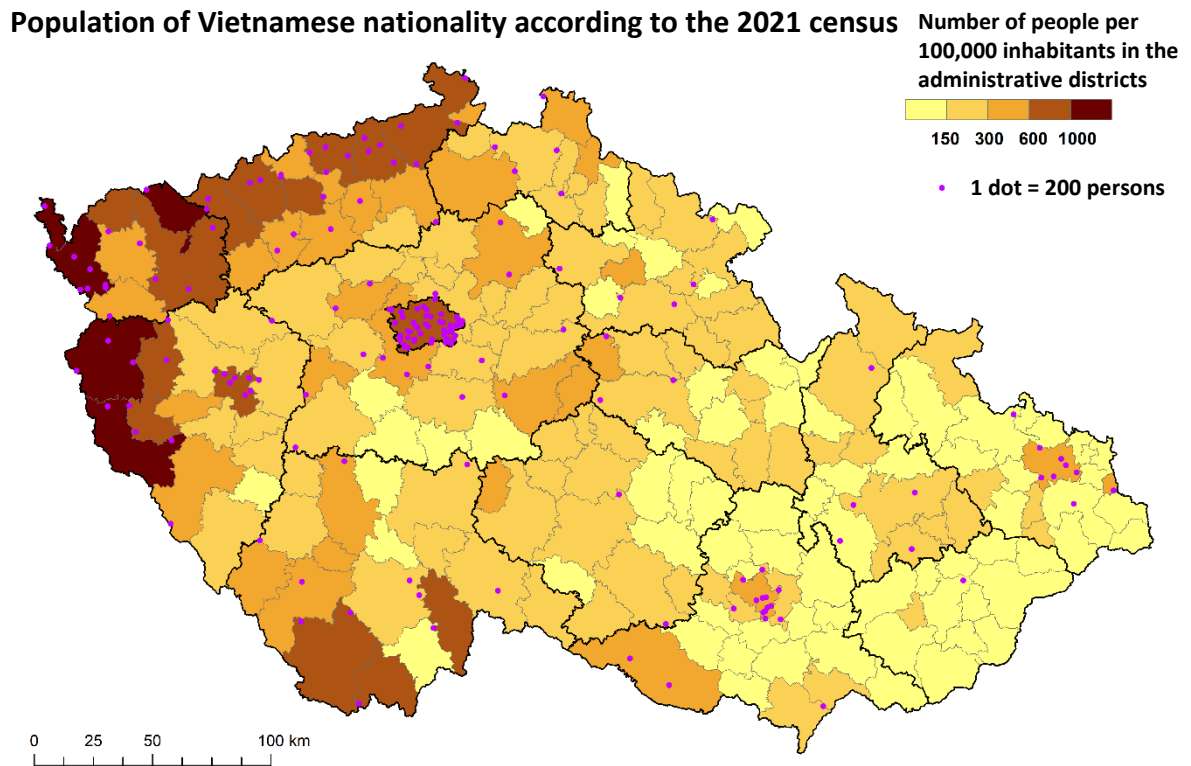


Map 2 Ukrainian National Minority

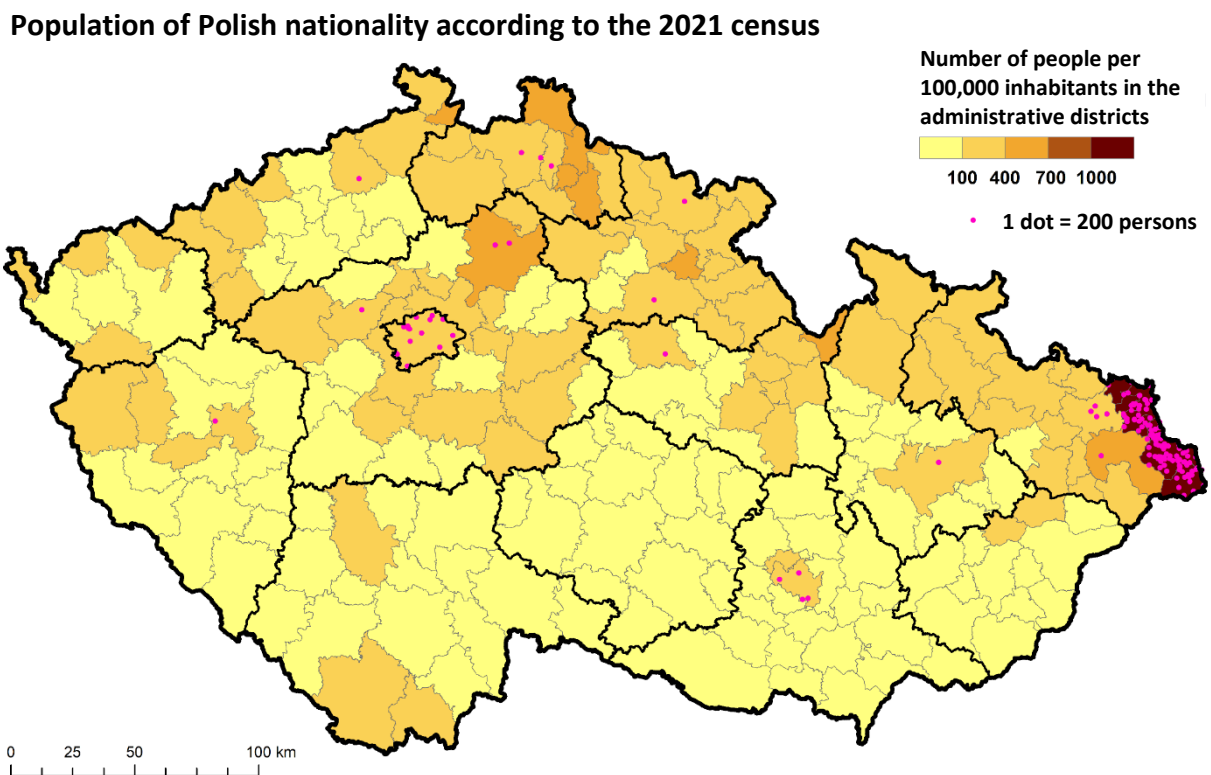
Population of Ukrainian nationality according to the 2021 census



Map 3 Vietnamese National Minority

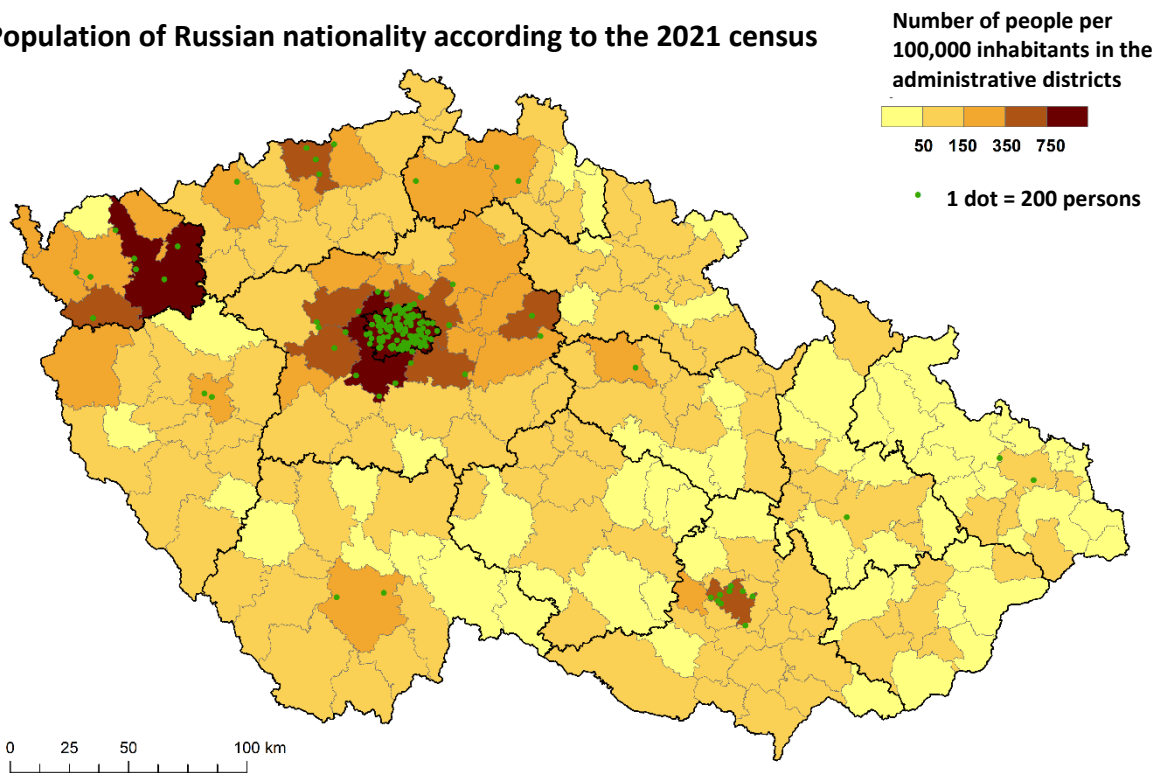


Map 4 Polish National Minority



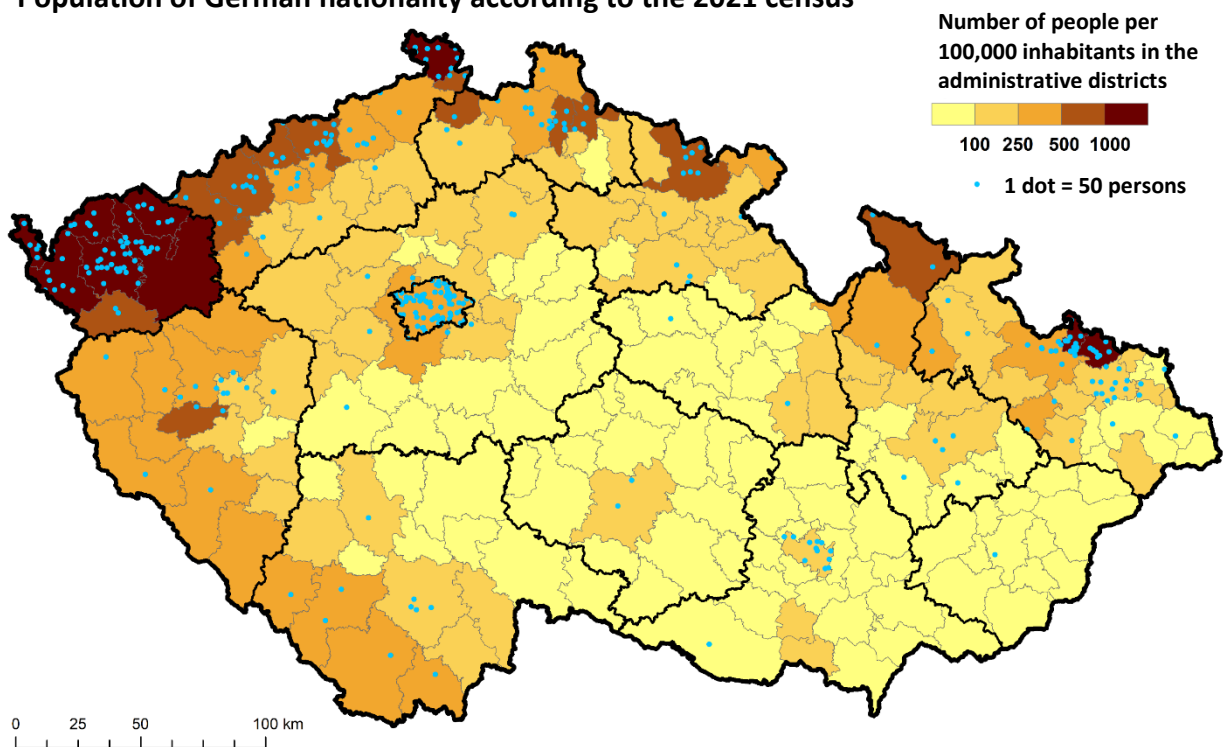
Map 5 Russian National Minority

Population of Russian nationality according to the 2021 census



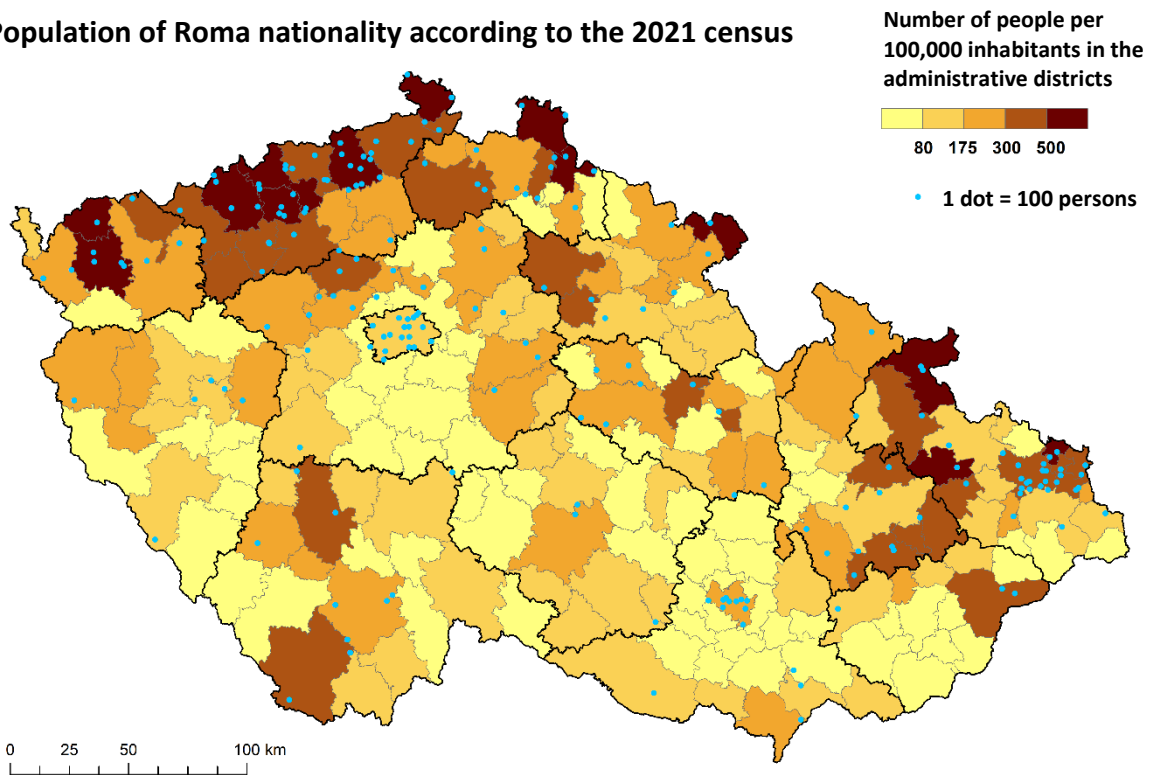
Map 6 German National Minority

Population of German nationality according to the 2021 census



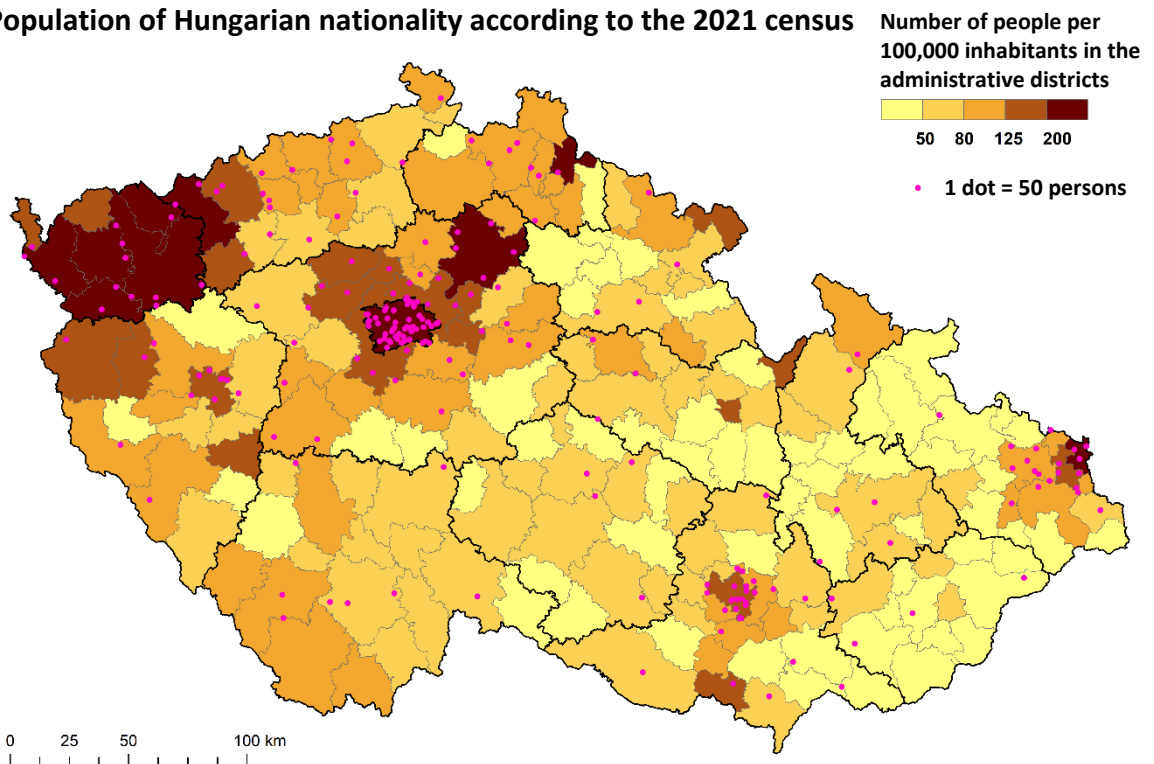
Map 7 Roma National Minority

Population of Roma nationality according to the 2021 census



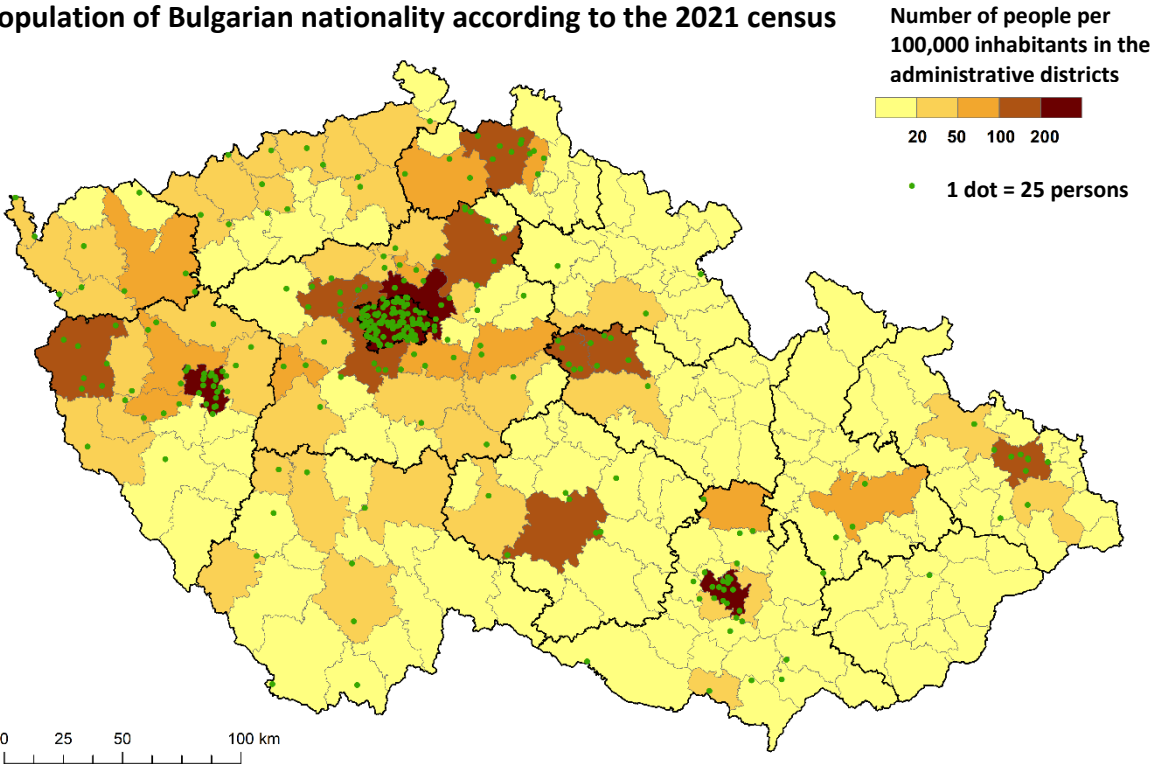
Map 8 Hungarian National Minority

Population of Hungarian nationality according to the 2021 census



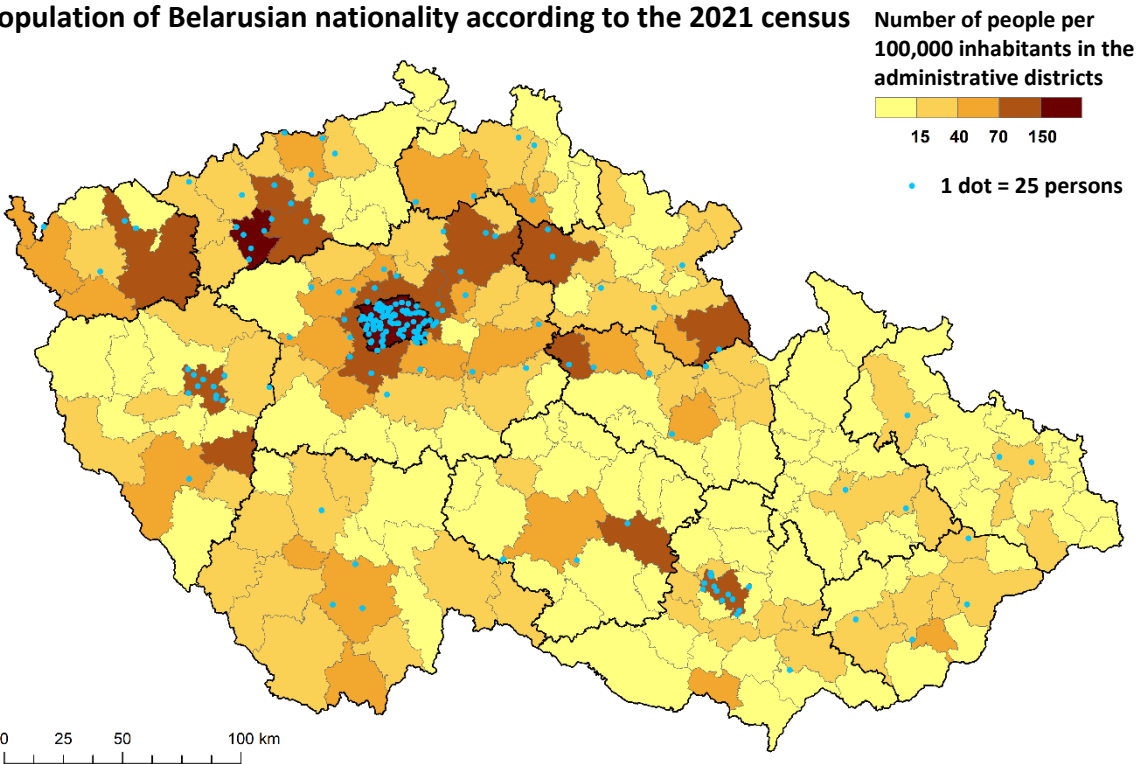
Map 9 Bulgarian National Minority

Population of Bulgarian nationality according to the 2021 census



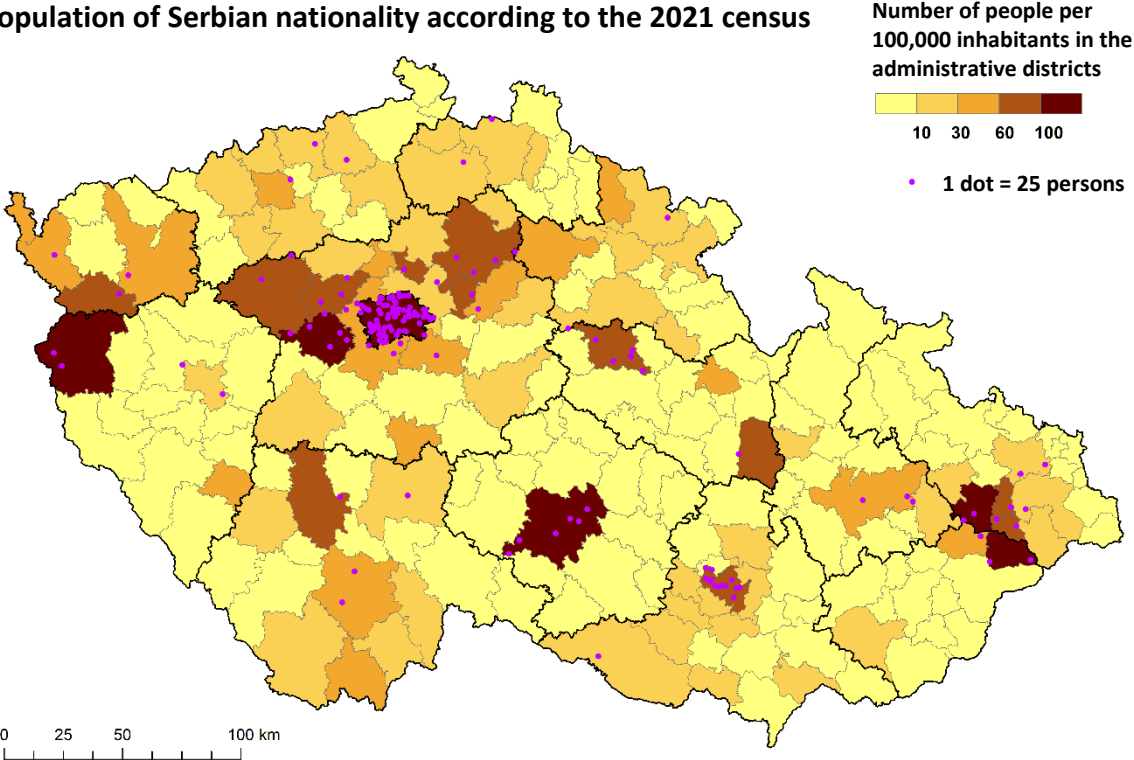
Map 10 Belarusian National Minority

Population of Belarusian nationality according to the 2021 census



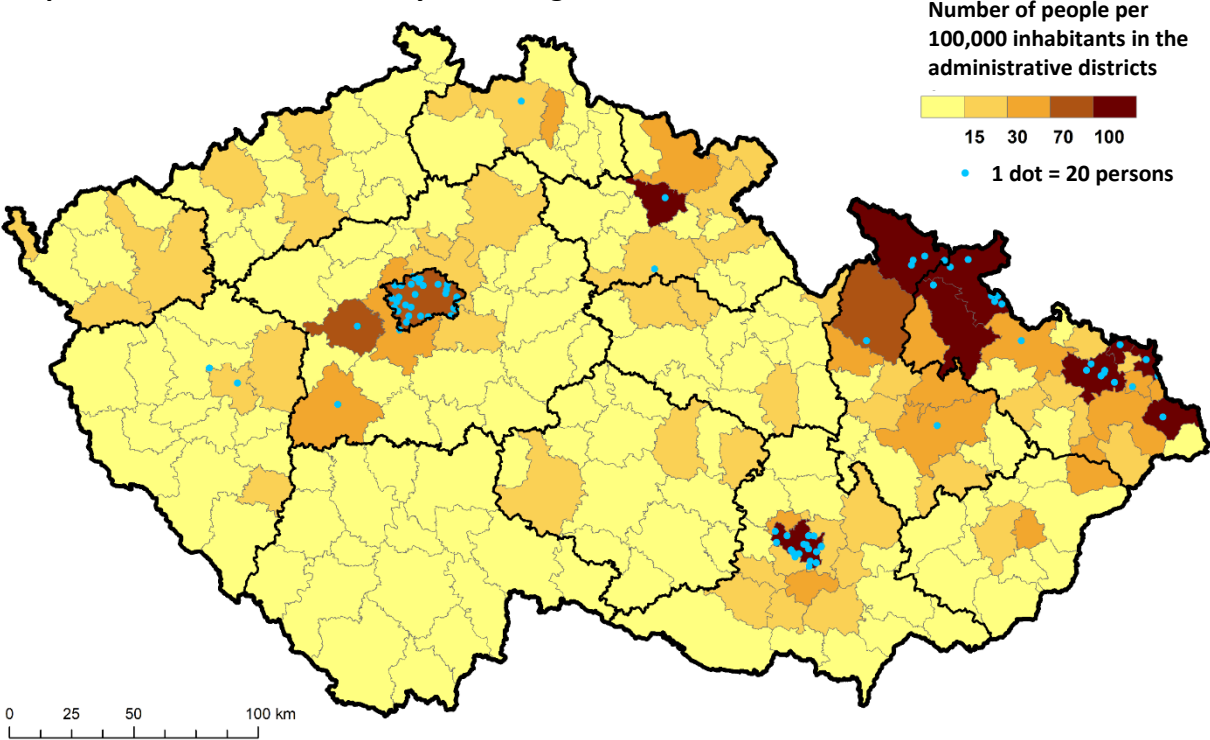
Map 11 Serbian National Minority

Population of Serbian nationality according to the 2021 census



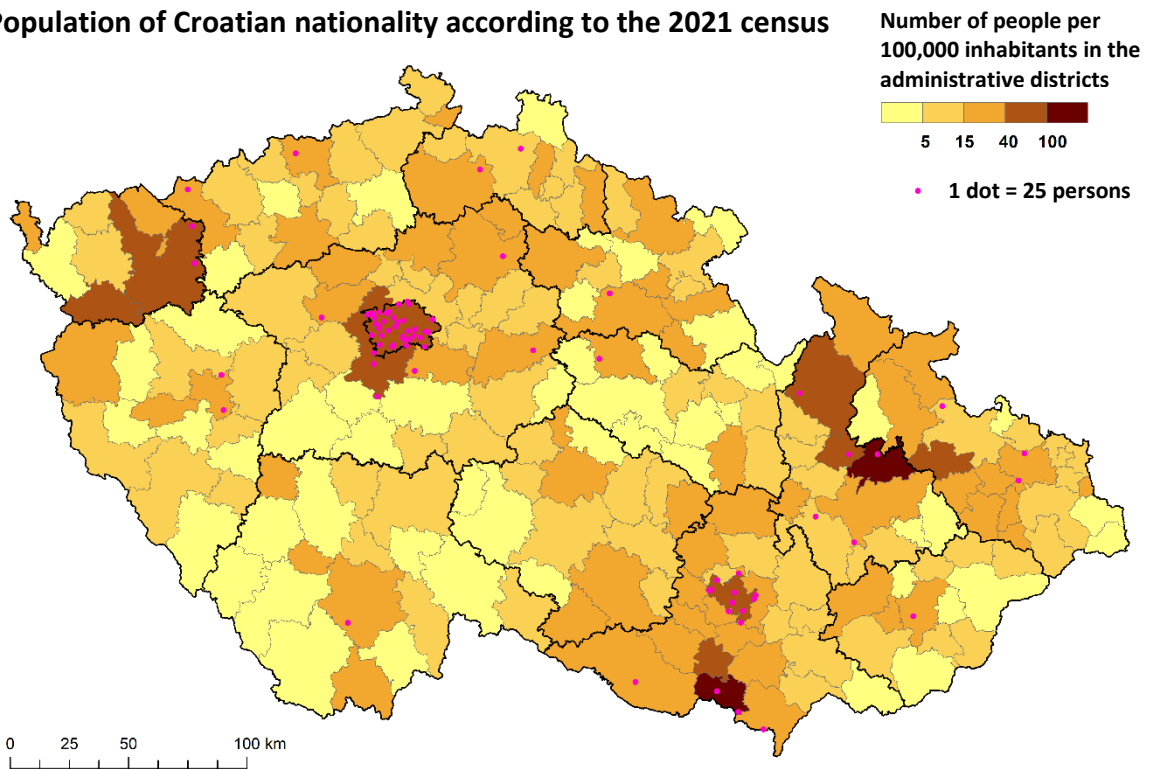
Map 12 Greek National Minority

Population of Greek nationality according to the 2021 census



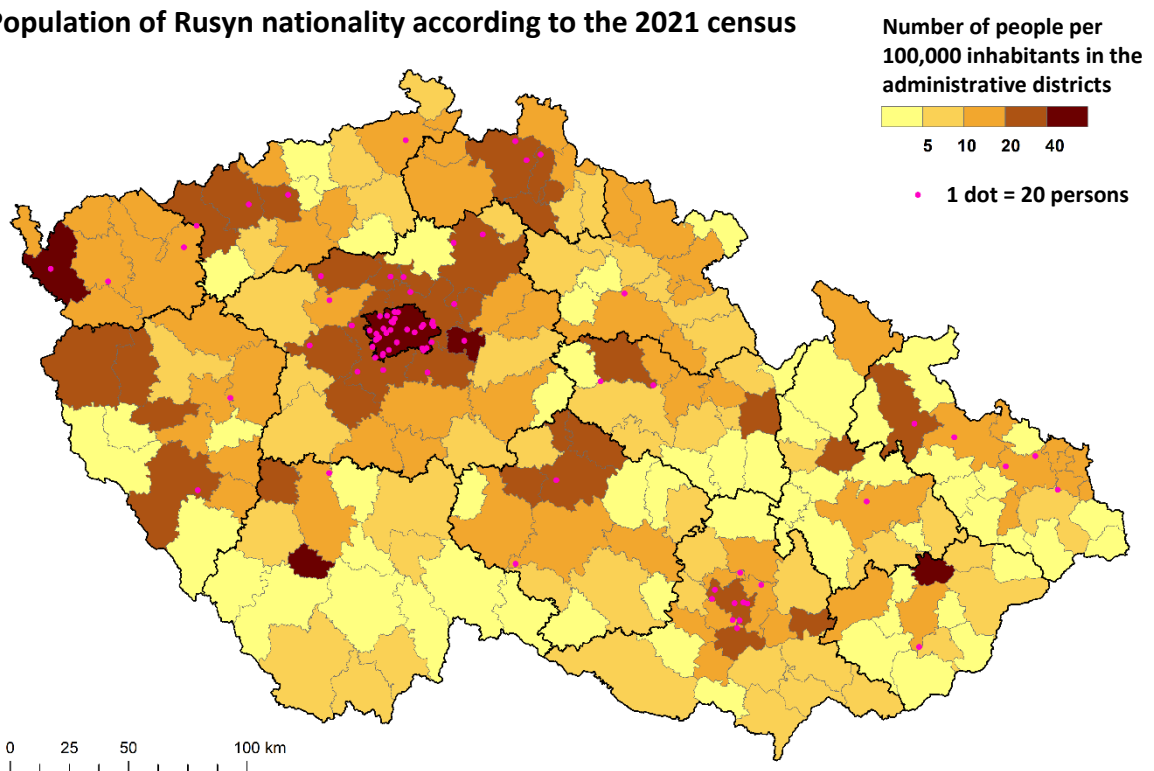
Map 13 Croatian National Minority (including so-called Moravian Croats)

Population of Croatian nationality according to the 2021 census



Map 14 Rusyn National Minority

Population of Rusyn nationality according to the 2021 census



PART I - Measures taken to raise awareness of the results of the fifth monitoring cycle and of the Framework Convention

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

All documents from the monitoring cycles of the Framework Convention are published on the website of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.¹ The documents are published in Czech and English.

The Minorities Act, the key legal act on the protection and development of national minorities in the Czech Republic, is also published on the website in the languages of all national minorities represented in the Council. To inform the general and professional public of the national minority policy in the Czech Republic, the Council and the Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities (the “Secretariat”) also uses its web page on the Office of the Government website vlada.cz².

The Secretariat prepares annually a monitoring Report on the situation of national minorities in the Czech Republic (the Report). The obligation to submit the Report arises also from the Minorities Act. The Reports are regularly discussed by the Czech Government and published on the Council website.³ Information on the discussion of the Report, including the resolution adopted by the Czech Government, is provided also in the Czech Government Gazette for Regional and Municipal Bodies, issued by the Ministry of the Interior (“Mol”). The Reports are annually distributed in printed form to members of the Council, public administration bodies, NGOs (mainly associations of national minorities), representatives of local and regional authorities, universities, and interested members of the professional and lay public. The Reports are freely available to anyone at the Secretariat office.

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

A visit of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee (the “Advisory Committee”) took place on 21 April 2022 to discuss the implementation of the Framework Convention (a Follow-up Meeting). The working meeting was attended by representatives of the Advisory Committee, of the Czech state administration responsible for implementing the selected recommendations, of public service media, universities, municipalities, regions, the professional public as well as of national minorities.

The selected recommendations discussed at the meeting included:

- Organising an awareness campaign focused on national minorities.
- Ensuring that the curricula, teacher training and teaching materials in the mainstream education provide specific information on national minorities.
- Combating stereotypes and prejudices against certain national minorities, as part of the content and goals of media worker training.
- Collecting data on citizens’ ethnicity (nationality) and language from various sources.
- Evaluating continuously the adequacy of the offer of public service broadcasters in minority languages.

¹<http://www.vlada.cz/cz/pracovni-a-poradni-organy-vlady/rnm/dokumenty/mezinarodni-dokumenty/ramcova-umluva-o-ochrane-narodnostnich-mensin-6912/>

² <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/pracovni-a-poradni-organy-vlady/rnm/historie-a-soucasnost-rady-15074/>

³ <https://www.vlada.cz/scripts/detail.php?pgid=125>

- Facilitating the oral and written use of minority languages in the contact with administrative and self-governing authorities.
- Place name signs in minority languages.

The ministries concerned presented the ways the recommendations would be implemented. Most of the recommendations are being implemented, will be or are partially implemented. A more detailed description of how each of the recommendations are implemented is provided in Part II under the specific articles of the Framework Convention.

I.3 How were minority organisations and other non-governmental organisations involved in the preparation of the sixth state report?

National minority organisations and other non-governmental organisations are involved in the preparation of the state report as follows.

The Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities draws up the state report based on background materials from ministries and on the annual Reports on the Situation of National Minorities. Those Reports are prepared with important contribution from representatives of the national minorities who provide background material for the chapters of the Reports and who then comment on the Reports. Therefore, the Reports build on documents in which minority representatives participated.

In terms of the state reports, the minority representatives have an opportunity to comment on the final report. Minority representatives were also asked for cooperation in updating the contact details of the associations of national minorities, as required in part IV of the outline. Other information.

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

Persons belonging to national minorities, public officials, local and regional authorities and the general public are informed about the Framework Convention in various ways. The basic communication channel continues to be the communication of the Council Secretariat, either through e-mail with representatives of national minorities in the Council, or through the Council website, see point I.1. The Framework Convention is also talked about at the meetings of the Council and its working bodies.

At its meeting on 18 October 2022, the Council discussed the item “Establishing a working group for implementation of recommendations arising from international obligations (the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages)”. That requirement arises from a recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Framework Convention in the Czech Republic from the fifth cycle. It was stated at the meeting that the Council itself is such a body that also deals with those issues. Nevertheless, specific newly emerging problems could be addressed in a working group that would be convened ad hoc, and not as a formalised committee (that has a statute and strictly given dates of meetings). The vice-chairs of the Council, Klára Šimáčková Laurenčíková (Human Rights Commissioner of the Government) and Martin Herbert Dzingel (German minority) agreed that it would be redundant to establish another formal committee and it would be better to convene a more flexible ad hoc working group on the given topic.

II. Measures taken to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention and to implement fifth cycle recommendations

II.3 Article 3

1. *Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.*
2. *Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention individually as well as in community with others.*

The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (the “Charter”) declares respect for everyone's right to freely choose whether or not to be considered a member of a national minority. According to Art. 3 par. 2 of the Charter, “Everybody has the right to choose freely his/her nationality. It is prohibited to influence this choice in any way, just as is any form of pressure aimed at suppressing a person’s national identity.” According to Art. 24 of the Charter, “Membership in a national or ethnic minority may not be to anyone’s detriment.” The rights of persons belonging to national minorities are also regulated in the Minorities Act and are respected in other legislative and non-legislative documents of the Czech Republic. Over the monitoring period, the legal framework in this area has not changed significantly.

The Czech Republic does not keep any database to monitor data on the nationality of citizens. The question on nationality is included in the public census carried out at ten-year intervals. The question is *voluntary and open*, there is not a list to choose from. The nationality is not paired in any way with the respondents and the records are destroyed after the census. Since 2011, the form has enabled respondents to choose up to two nationalities. Every decade, the number of people who do not declare any nationality increases. The reasons may vary, most often this topic seems *irrelevant* to the respondents in the present day, for another group it is so *sensitive* that they do not fill it in.

Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers for immediate action

To collect more accurate data about the number of persons belonging to national minorities by raising their awareness about the importance to declare ethnic affiliation in the census. In addition, (the authorities) should support other data collection exercises, including independent research, in cooperation with representatives of national minorities and use these sources of information for policy making and in granting access to minority rights.

The need for such research has been identified mainly in the case of the Roma national minority, in which there is the greatest discrepancy between the number of its members who indicated their Roma nationality in the 2021 public census (21,691) and the qualified estimates (around 250,000). The Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs is implementing a project mapping the Roma population. The project is primarily focused on identifying the socio-economic position of persons belonging to the Roma population. Nevertheless, the questionnaire includes questions on nationality and ethnic group; and whether the persons professed it in the last census, and how they assess their own knowledge of Romani (the Roma language). The results are expected to provide only information on the share of the persons in the population.

At present, the Office of the Government is seeking other ways to improve, in cooperation with the academia and higher education institutions, the methods of identifying the number of minority members, in particular by supporting research in the area. If the steps are successful, information on them will be provided in the next state report.

Further recommendations of the Committee of Ministers

To include declarations of two ethnicities in the context of the 2021 census in the calculation of thresholds required for gaining access to specific rights (of minorities).

The choice of two ethnicities was included in the calculation of thresholds required for gaining access to specific rights. To that end, the Ministry of the Interior issued the *Methodology for establishing committees for national minorities in municipalities and regions and place name signs in the languages of national minorities*.⁴ The preparation of the methodology and its distribution was initiated by the Government Council for National Minorities. In Resolution of the Council No 11/2021 of 18 June 2021, the MoI was asked to draw up, following the 2021 Population and Housing Census, an opinion on a methodology for municipalities to assess the number of citizens professing other than Czech nationality in connection with establishing assembly committees for national minorities pursuant to the acts on territorial self-governing units, and with street signs in the languages of national minorities pursuant to Act No 128/2000, on municipalities, as amended. MoI sent the methodology to all municipalities concerned in the Czech Republic.

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee urges the authorities to collect more accurate data about the number of persons belonging to national minorities by raising their awareness about the importance to declare ethnic affiliation in the census. In addition, they should support other data collection exercises, including independent research, in co-operation with representatives of national minorities and use these sources of information for policy making and in granting access to minority rights.

The Czech Statistical Office carried out an awareness-raising campaign before the 2021 public census, involving the Office of the Government and representatives of national minorities. The campaign was successful mainly among persons professing the German and Roma nationalities, in which the younger and middle-aged persons were activated to a greater degree. Supplementation of the public census results with independent surveys is not currently possible because the method of calculating the national minority members in a municipality is based on legislation (Act No 128/2000, on municipalities, and Act No 129/2000, on regions).

II.4 Article 4

- 1. The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.*
- 2. The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.*
- 3. The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.*

In accordance with Section 2 par. 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the law enforcement authorities conduct proceedings and draw up their decisions in the Czech language. However, anyone who declares not having a command of the Czech language, has a right to use *their mother tongue or a language they*

⁴ <https://www.mvcr.cz/odk2/clanek/informace-ke-zrizovani-vyboru-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-a-oznacovani-ulic-v-jazyce-narodnostni-mensiny-v-souvislosti-se-scitanim-lidu-domu-a-bytu-2021.aspx>

indicate as one they have a command of before the law enforcement authorities. For that, it is sufficient for the person to declare not having a command of the Czech language. That right is guaranteed by the Code of Criminal Procedure to all persons participating in criminal proceedings (such as a witness or an injured party), not only to the accused.

The choice of the language to be used by the accused person in the criminal proceedings is up to the accused person. In principle, it is sufficient to declare that they do not have a command of the Czech language, the accused is not obliged to prove their lack of command in any way and the relevant law enforcement authority is not authorised to examine the level of their knowledge of the Czech language. The declaration can be made at any stage of the criminal proceedings, even after the accused declared they had a command of the Czech language.

With regard to the requirements of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention, the proposal for a new Code of Criminal Procedure is considering *expanding the right of persons belonging to national minorities that have lived traditionally and for a long time in the Czech Republic, to use the language of their national minority in criminal proceedings*. According to the proposed legal act, (not only) the accused will have the right to file petitions and conduct proceedings in the language of their national minority, if they declare *they wish to use that language*. Newly, the accused who belongs to a national minority will be able to use the language of the minority in criminal proceedings even if the accused has a command of the Czech language. The proposed legal act will, therefore, better fit the meaning and purpose of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Framework Convention and the Minorities Act.

The submission of documents in minority languages regardless of the declaration pursuant to Section 2 par. 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is possible for documentary evidence, as, under Section 89 par. 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, evidence can be “anything that can contribute to clarifying the case, mainly statements of the accused and witnesses, expert opinions, items and documents important for the criminal proceedings and examination. Each of the parties may seek evidence, submit it or propose to take it. The Czech legal order does not condition the acceptability of documents related to criminal proceedings by providing a translation of the document into Czech. In its decision-making, the law enforcement authority must take into account any evidence, regardless of its form or language, in line with the principle of substantive truth, and must deal with the evidence, same as with any other evidence. That conclusion is confirmed by recent case law of the Constitutional Court, specifically a finding of 15 February 2016, file Ref I. ÚS 368/15, in which the Constitutional Court stated that “*law enforcement authorities must always carefully assess whether the means of proof, producing affirmative proof, has been gained in a way that does not put into question the reliability of information contained in it, and in the case of doubt as to the reliability of evidence obtained that way, they must verify the evidence objectively. For assessing the reliability of evidence, it is essential that the means of proof be secured and stored in a way that does not allow the possibility of modifying, amending or replacing the means of proof in any way, intentionally, negligently or by mere chance (maintaining the integrity of evidence). Finally, the law enforcement authorities must assess whether the means of proof used is adequate to the nature of the information obtained, or whether, with regard to the nature of the fact being proven, it is necessary to carry out qualified (e.g. expert) examination, or capture the information in interrogation or other special methods of taking evidence, while fully respecting the requirements placed on measures of inquiry by the Code of Criminal Procedure. Only such procedure can be viewed as compliant with the adversarial principle of criminal proceedings, which conditions a full exercise of the right to defence (see Art. 6 par. 3 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms). If serious doubts arise in the taking and assessment of evidence as to the reliability of the means of proof used as a basis for proving the defendant’s guilt of the prosecuted act, it is the obligation of the court to deal with the means reliably and conclusively in the grounds of the conviction.*”

Section 28 par. 1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure provides that *“if a document, oral testimony or other procedural act needs to be interpreted or if the accused uses their right under Section 2 par. 14, an interpreter shall be called in; the same applies to appointing an interpreter for a person with whom it is only possible to communicate through a communication system for deaf and deaf-blind persons. The interpreter may also serve as the recorder. If the accused does not indicate a language he/she masters, or indicates a language or dialect that is not the language of his/her nationality or the official language of the state of which he/she is a citizen, and no person is registered on the list of interpreters for such language or dialect, the law enforcement authority shall appoint an interpreter for the language of his/her nationality or the official language of the state of which he/she is citizen. If the person is stateless, the state shall be the state in which he/she is resident or the state of his/her origin. If the accused exercises their right under Section 2 par. 14, the interpreter called in will interpret, upon the accused’s request, also their consultation with a defence attorney in direct connection with the procedural acts, and consultation during the procedural acts.”*

The right to act before the court in one’s mother tongue that is included in the Czech Republic among regional or minority languages within the meaning of the European Charter and the Framework Convention arises already from Art. 25 par. 2 letter b) of the Charter stating that citizens belonging to a national or ethnic minority have a right to use their language in official communication, and from Art. 37 par. 3 and 4 of the Charter (equality of parties, right to an interpreter). For the purposes of civil proceedings, the key regulation is Section 18 par. 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure providing that the court will appoint an interpreter for a party whose mother tongue is not Czech as soon as such need arises during the proceeding. That provision is interpreted so that the right to an interpreter belongs to anyone who asks for an interpreter, regardless of whether the person also has a command of the Czech language or not. The court can call in an interpreter upon the court’s initiative, if needed during the proceedings. The parties can also make submissions to the court in their mother tongue. With regard to Section 118 par. 4 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the court must inform the parties of their right to use their mother tongue as soon as the court finds during the proceedings (e.g. from the content of the file or a direct contact with the parties at a hearing) that the mother tongue of the parties is a language other than Czech.

General information on the regulation of interpretation activities in the Czech Republic

New legislation has been adopted under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, taking effect on 1 January 2021:

1. Act No 354/2019, on court interpreters and court translators, as amended by Act No 166/2020.
2. Decree No 506/2020, on interpretation and translation activities.
3. Decree No 507/2020, on remuneration and compensation of court interpreters and court translators.

Also Decree No 608/2020 entered into force on 1 January 2021, regulating the level of language knowledge and language tests for performing the interpretation activity (issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, “MEYS”).

The new regulation (same as the previous regulation⁵) defines the conditions for performing the interpretation and translation activity⁶, i.e. who can become a court interpreter or court translator, what conditions they must meet, how the authorisation for interpretation or translation activity can be issued,

⁵ Act No 36/1967, on court experts and interpreters, as amended, and Decree No 37/1967 implementing the Act on court experts and interpreters, as amended.

⁶ The new regulation makes a terminological distinction between interpretation and translation activity, court interpreters and court translators etc.

suspended or withdrawn, the list of court interpreters and court translators, their rights and duties, their ad hoc appointment, their remuneration, the act of interpretation and translation (its formalities, its records), the supervision and misconduct.

Ministry of the Interior

In terms of fulfilling the obligations of the Framework Convention, the MoI is responsible mainly for crime prevention measures, in particular the Government-approved *Czech Republic's Crime Prevention Strategy 2022-2027* (the "Strategy"). The Strategy, including annexes, is available on the MoI website.⁷

The Strategy implementation plan defines strategic goals also for the area of national minorities, seeking a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing situations in risk localities based on partner cooperation of the bodies responsible, with indicators for the strategic goals and implementation results for each year.

MoI publishes calls under subsidy schemes as part of the prevention programme at the local level. The subsidy schemes are not primarily designed only for minorities but minorities can be a target group. The subsidy applicants are regions, municipalities and voluntary associations of municipalities. Based on the rules of the subsidy scheme, the applicants draw up projects that also respond to the need for protection of national minorities, mainly the Roma minority, but at present also the Ukrainian minority. The projects create new jobs in the labour market (crime prevention assistants, caretakers-preventive operators), leisure activities for target groups (weekend stay events, children's camps, sports grounds etc.) or various educational activities (e.g. issuing information brochures for minorities in the regions, conferences, work meetings) immediately responding to potential new threats.

In the reporting period, MoI continued to perform tasks defined in the Concept for Combating Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred 2021-2026 and the Action Plan for Combating Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred 2021-2022. Those government strategic documents mainly seek to improve the protection of potential victims of hate speech. Emphasis is placed on the punishment of hate crimes on the internet.

A crucial step will be the establishment of a new national police body that will deal with extremism, terrorism and cybercrime. The body should employ 150 experienced detectives. The body is supported by the Minister of the Interior and the Prosecutor General. It should start operating in 2023. It should be able to respond to current challenges, address newly emerged problems and be a methodological authority for other members of the Czech Police.

II.5 Article 5

1. The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

2. Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.

The Ministry of Culture ("MoC") is tasked to annually implement subsidy programmes to support cultural activities of persons belonging to national minorities living in the Czech Republic and, in the Roma Minority Integration programme, it builds on the *State Cultural Policy of the Czech Republic 2009-2014, the State Cultural Policy 2015-2020 (with an outlook till 2025)* approved by Czech Government

⁷ See <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/strategie-prevence-kriminality-v-ceske-republice-na-leta-2022-az-2027.aspx>.

Resolution No 266 of 15 April 2015, and the State Cultural Policy 2021-2025+, noted by the Government in Resolution No 843/2021 of 27 September 2021.

The legal framework did not change notably over the reporting period in this area, only partial amendments were adopted, e.g. to Act No 242/2022, on video-sharing platform services and amending some related acts (the Act on Video-Sharing Platform Services), effective since 15 September 2022. The Act imposes a duty on the video-sharing platform providers to take measures to protect the general public from programmes, user-generated videos and commercial communications containing incitement to violence or hatred directed against a group of persons or a member of a group on grounds of sex, race, colour, *ethnic* or social *origin*, genetic features, nationality, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation, and also from programmes, user-generated videos and commercial communications with content the dissemination of which is a criminal offence, namely public provocation to commit a terrorist offence, offences concerning child pornography and offences concerning racism and xenophobia. Act No 242/2022 also amended several related acts, e.g. Act No 231/2001, on radio and television broadcasting (not extending the licence of a broadcaster who has repeatedly seriously breached the prohibition of broadcasting also programmes which incite violence or hatred against a group of persons or a member of a group on the grounds of sex, race, colour, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, membership of a national minority, property, birth, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or other status), or Act No 132/2010, on on-demand audiovisual media services (an on-demand audiovisual media service shall not incite violence or hatred against a group of persons or a member of a group on grounds of sex, race, colour, language, religious or other belief, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, nationality, membership of a national minority, property, birth, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or other status).

Equal access to learning about and using movable cultural heritage in museums and galleries in the Czech Republic is ensured by Act No 122/2000, on protection of collections of a museum nature and amending some other acts, as amended, laying down in Section 2 par. 4 that *A museum is an institution that ... enables the use and access to (its collections) in a way guaranteeing equal access to all without distinction by providing public services, and the purpose of the activities is usually not to make a profit.* In Section 10a, the Act defines the standards of public services: *The standard of time accessibility is the provision of standardized public services by providers in the following set scope and structure:... b) annual organising of museum programmes utilising the collection items from the collection administered by the provider, or from collection items borrowed, or from knowledge about nature or history, obtained by examining the collection items or similar items, or by researching the environment from which the items are obtained, for the general public including specific groups of visitors, such as children and youth, disabled persons, elderly persons, national minorities.*

Through its Separate Unit of Museums, the MoC implements Government Resolution No 797 of 28 July 1999 that instructs the Minister of Culture to ensure support for studying and educational activities in the area of holocaust. All materials, studies and other activities in this topic mention the holocaust of the Roma together with the holocaust of Jews. The topic is a major part of the agenda of the Terezín Memorial, the Lidice Memorial and the Museum of Romani Culture.

The issue of national minorities is one of the core activities of a part of the organisations under the responsibility of the Separate Unit of Museums, e.g. the Terezín Memorial and the Museum of Romani Culture. Other organisations are involved in the issue within the scope of the above-mentioned Act.

Subsidies granted in 2019-2022

Annually, MoC announces a grant award procedure under the programme supporting cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic and under the programme Support for Integration of the Roma Minority Members.

Both grant programmes are announced by MoC pursuant to Act No 218/2000, on budgetary rules and amending some related acts (the budgetary rules), as amended, and in line with Czech Government Resolution No 122 of 21 February 2007 on Government regulation amending Government Regulation No 98/2002 laying down the conditions and method of providing state budget subsidies to activities of national minority members and to support the integration of the Roma community members, as amended by Government Regulation No 262/2005.

The programme to support the cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic receives projects focussed on artistic, cultural and educational activities, on the study and analysis of national culture and folk traditions, on multi-ethnic events (aimed, inter alia, at combating negative manifestations of extremism, racial and national intolerance and xenophobia), on editorial activities (non-periodical publications) and on documenting national culture.

Table 2 Overview of the amount of funding in CZK provided under the grant programme to support cultural activities of members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic

National minority	2019	2020	2021	2022
Belarusian	0	0	0	0
Bulgarian	545,000	335,000	368,000	467,250
Croatian	358,000	325,000	308,000	315,000
Hungarian	845,000	880,000	859,000	898,000
German	450,000	448,000	342,000	242,000
Polish	2,756,000	2,184,000	2,313,000	1,935,000
Roma	1,250,000	1,255,000	1,265,000	1,250,000
Rusyn	0	0	0	0
Russian	275,000	288,000	288,000	245,000
Greek	1,105,000	955,000	713,000	600,000
Slovak	1,506,000	2,600,000	2,515,000	2,608,000
Serbian	70,000	75,000	80,000	0
Ukrainian	360,000	377,000	362,000	345,000
Vietnamese	245,000	189,000	192,000	100,000
Other associations + multi-ethnic events	232,000	184,000	256,000	196,200
other bodies (excluding associations)	245,900	55,000	148,000	0
TOTAL	10,242,900	10,150,000	10,009,000	9,201,950

Increased attention is paid to the Roma minority in the grant programme to support the integration of the Roma minority members. Projects supported under that grant programme may be focussed on artistic, cultural and educational activities, on expert studies expanding knowledge and supporting research in Roma culture, traditions and history, editorial activities (non-periodical publications), on cultural events leading to combating negative manifestations of extremism, racial and national intolerance and xenophobia.

Table 3 Overview of the funding provided under the grant programme to support the integration of the Roma minority members

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Amount (in CZK)	2,282,700	1,748,500	2,400,880	1,903,000
Total (in CZK)				8,335,080

In the funding programme Support for Regional Cultural Traditions, the following bodies of national minorities were selected for a grant:

Table 4 Overview of the funding provided under the grant programme Support for Regional Cultural Traditions

Year	Beneficiary	Project	Grant
2019	Slovensko-český klub, z. s., Praha (<i>The Slovak-Czech Club Prague</i>)	Ladislav Mňáčko 100 – a Czech-Slovak upstream swimmer	CZK 58,000
2020	Slovensko-český klub, z. s., Praha (<i>The Slovak-Czech Club Prague</i>)	Božena Němcová and Slovaks – 200th anniversary of her birth	CZK 98,000
2021	Slovensko-český klub, z. s., Praha (<i>The Slovak-Czech Club Prague</i>)	100 years since the birth of the Czech Slavist and Slovakist Zdeňka Sojková	CZK 50,000
2022	Slovensko-český klub, z. s., Praha (<i>The Slovak-Czech Club Prague</i>)	Conference on 150 years since the birth of Ivan Hálék	CZK 30,000
		Total	CZK 236,000

The National Institute of Folk Culture in Strážnice, a contributory organisation of MoC, under the responsibility of the MoC Department of Regional and National Culture, also took part in the implementation of the above Article.

The International Folklore Festival Strážnice in 2019 included the programme “Homeland” presenting the folklore of national minorities of the Czech Republic. The programme puts emphasis on the presentation of songs and the spoken word. The festival is also regularly attended by foreign ensembles that present the intangible cultural heritage including songs and oral presentations of their countries in the programme *From lands beyond the horizon*.

The HOMELAND programme 2019 - performers

- Akropolis, Prague (Greek national minority)
- Bengale Manusha (čhave), Tanvald (Roma national minority)
- Folklore ensemble Skejušan, Chomutov (Rusyn national minority)
- Folklore ensemble Sudaruška of the Folklore Association of Friends of Russian and Ukrainian Culture, Brno
- Folklore ensemble Šmykňa, Ostrava (Slovak folklore)
- Haeri, Prague (Georgian national minority)
- Hřebeč dance ensemble, Moravská Třebová (German national minority)
- The ethnographic society Pálava, dulcimer band Píšťalenka and seniors, Mikulov (folklore of Moravian Croats)
- Ensemble of Bulgarian folk dances Pirin, Brno
- Yocheved ensemble under the Basic Arts School, Třebíč (Jewish folklore)

- Suszanie dance ensemble under the Local Association of Polish Cultural and Educational Union, Horní Suchá (Polish national minority)
- Tiszavirág / Association of Hungarians, Brno

Under Government Regulation No 288/2002, laying down rules for the provision of subsidies to support libraries, as amended, the Concept for Library Development in the Czech Republic for 2017-2020 and the Concept for Library Development in the Czech Republic for 2021-2027), the MoC Literature and Libraries Unit announced calls in the period 2019-2022 under the grant scheme entitled 21st Century Library, intended for libraries registered under the Library Act. One of the themes is "Support for work with national minorities and the integration of foreigners". The grants were provided for the purchase of literature in national minority languages and for organising events presenting other cultures.

Table 5 Summary of the number of grants provided to library operators 2019 – 2022

YEAR	Total number of grant beneficiaries	Total grant in CZK
2019	4	95,000
2020	3	50,000
2021	4	88,000
2022	5	104,000

Under grant programmes in the reporting period, the MoC Separate Unit of Museums supported projects that are not primarily based on activities of national minority members but are related to national minority members in the territory of today's Czech Republic.

Table 6 Overview of the grants provided by the Separate Unit of Museums under grant programmes

Year	Name of the grant programme	Name of the grant beneficiary	Name of the project	Grant provided (in CZK)
2019	Support for educational activities in museums	Museum of the Boskovice Region	Stories and legends of the Jewish quarter in Boskovice	68,000
2019	Support for exposition and exhibition projects	South-Moravian Art in Znojmo	Znaim/Znojmo 1809	79,000
2019	Support for exposition and exhibition projects	Museum of Southeast Moravia in Zlín	Czech Made Western	99,000
2019	Support for exposition and exhibition projects	District Museum in Most	Ulrika von Levetzow. An angel in the glitter of vapour	1,400,000
2019	Support for projects on providing standardised public services of museums and galleries	District Museum in Děčín	"Memories returned" catalogue (the work of German artists 1919-1945)	67,620
2020	Support for exposition and exhibition projects	Ústí nad Labem Region	The story of the old town of Most	110,000
2020	Support for exposition and exhibition projects	North-Bohemian Museum in Liberec	Inaugural exhibitions of the North-Bohemian Museum	580,000
2020	Support for exposition and exhibition projects	Prague City Museum	Adolf Loos, a cosmopolitan	543,000

2020	Support for educational activities in museums	District Gallery of Liberec	Open up! An educational accompanying programme for the permanent exposition of the District Gallery of Liberec	90,069
2021	Support for educational activities in museums	Municipal Museum of Františkovy Lázně	Egerland wedding - a folk tradition and symbols of the Cheb rural area	71,190
2021	Support for educational activities in museums	Museum and Gallery of the Orlické Mountains in Rychnov nad Kněžnou	The synagogue speaks	13,125
2021	Support for educational activities in museums	Museum of Cheb	Traditional architecture and customs of the Cheb countryside	79,440
2021	Support for educational activities in museums	Kroměříž District Museum	Kroměříž in the clockwork of history 1848-1948, part 1	20,000
2021	Support for exposition and exhibition projects	Municipal Gallery of Litomyšl	The stories from Josef Voleský's paintings	144,000
2021	Support for exposition and exhibition projects	Prague Shoah Memorial	Made in Šumperk - The industrial face of the town of Šumperk yesterday and today	42,000
2021	Support for exposition and exhibition projects	Local History Museum in Šumperk	Pavel Dias, memories of the future	20,000

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

The authorities continue to support activities and institutions dealing with the culture of national minorities. Some national minorities rely on further financial support from the “affinity state”. The grant scheme for minority cultures should be revised so that the minority associations can apply for grants for multi-year projects and, if needed, have access to long-term basic financing.

Over the monitoring period, the legal framework in this area has not changed. The state budget subsidies continue to have the form of one-year grants.

II.6 Article 6

- 1. The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.*

2. *The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.*

Act No 40/2009, the Criminal Code, as amended (the Criminal Code), contains several crimes in the area of incitement to violence and discrimination, namely crimes of violence against a group of population and against an individual (Section 352 of the Criminal Code), defamation of a national, racial, ethnic, or other group of persons (Section 355 of the Criminal Code) and instigation of hatred towards a group of people or of suppression of their rights and freedom (Section 356 of the Criminal Code). With effect from 1 January 2022, Act No 220/2021 introduced into the Criminal Code a new crime of dissemination of a work to promote a movement leading to the suppression of human rights and freedoms (Section 403a of the Criminal Code⁸). This provision expands the criminal sanctions to acts such as various forms of handling (sale, production, acquisition etc.) of a work that depicts, captures or otherwise portrays symbols, slogans, representatives etc. of a movement leading to the suppression of human rights and freedoms, or advocating racial, ethnic, national, religious or social-class hatred or hatred against another group of persons.

In some cases, the hate motive is also a circumstance that justifies the use of a higher penalty rate (for example, in the case of murder, bodily harm or restriction of personal freedom). If the hate motive is not a direct characteristic of the facts of the case (whether fundamental or qualified), it is a general aggravating circumstance which allows a higher penalty to be imposed on the perpetrator of any crime.

The issue of the right to freedom of expression and its limitations was repeatedly addressed in the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court (see Resolution of the Supreme Court of 6 December 2017 file ref. 4 Tdo 1324/2017, Resolution of the Supreme Court of 24 July 2019 file ref. 6 Tdo 674/2019, Resolution of the Supreme Court of 12 February 2020 file ref. 8 Tdo 81/2020, Resolution of the Constitutional Court of 7 December 2021 file ref. III. ÚS 2696/21, and other). Also the case law of the European Court of Human Rights stresses that the freedom of expression is not unlimited - protection of the freedom of expression pursuant to Art. 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is generally not granted to expressions inciting or justifying violence, hatred or intolerance. Although not referring to national minorities, we can also mention Resolution of the Supreme Court of 27 April 2022 file ref. 8Tdo 233/2022.

At all levels of public prosecution, there are public prosecutors specialised in crimes committed out of racial, national or other hatred. Based on internal normative instructions, public prosecutors are instructed to pay increased attention to performing all steps needed to identify the motivation of the perpetrator in cases of crimes committed out of hatred. The lower levels of public prosecution are

⁸Section 403a – Dissemination of a work to promote a movement leading to the suppression of human rights and freedoms

(1) Any person who produces, imports, exports, transports, offers, provides public access to, mediates, circulates, sells or otherwise supplies to another person or creates on behalf of another person, a work that displays, captures or otherwise depicts symbols, in particular logos, flags, badges, uniforms and parts thereof, slogans, statements, declarations, and forms of greetings, representatives or speeches of representatives of the movement under Section 403 par. 1, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment of up to three years, a fine or forfeiture.

(2) An offender shall be punished by a prison sentence of one to five years or a monetary penalty if they commit an act referred to in paragraph 1

(a) as a member of an organised group,

(b) through the press, film, radio, television, publicly accessible computer network or other channel to a similar effect, or

(c) with the intention of obtaining a significant benefit for oneself or another person.

(3) An offender shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of two to six years or by a fine if he/she commits an act referred to in paragraph 1 with the intention of obtaining a substantial benefit for oneself or for another person.

obligated to inform the General Prosecutor's Office of new crimes committed out of hatred, so that the Office can verify and subsequently provide methodological guidance for their persecution.

According to Act No 45/2013, on crime victims, the victims of hate crimes are specially vulnerable victims if, in a specific case, there is an increased risk of secondary injury, and as such they can ask for assistance from psychological and social counselling, legal assistance, legal information or restorative programmes from entities listed in the register of providers of assistance to crime victims.

The case law includes a high-profile case of hate comments on the Facebook under a photo of first-grade pupils who were mostly Roma. In that case, the Supreme Court decided in June 2021 (file ref. 3 Tdo 564/2021) confirming a sentence for the author of one of the comments on the grounds that "such statements are unacceptable in a democratic state ruled by law and founded on respect for the constitutionally guaranteed rights of citizens and human beings and they must be penalised".

In 2019, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Judicial Academy and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) under the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) concluded a memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the programme Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT Programme). In October 2021, a specialised seminar on hate crime was organised for judges and public prosecutors, and three more trainings are planned for 2022.

The 2021 Report on the Public Prosecution Activity shows that in 2021, same as in 2020, the number of persons persecuted for racial, national or other hate crimes decreased slightly (111 persecuted persons in 2021). In both of the years, expressions of sympathising with the Nazi or neo-Nazi movement prevailed and many hate crimes were committed in the virtual space. In 2021, the situation did not change even in terms of physical assaults or threats between the Roma and majority ethnic groups, with approximately the same number of cases from the minority and from the majority group. According to information from public prosecution, there were no racially motivated attacks that would cause death in 2021.

The regulations within the competence of MoC that concern the issue of national minorities are mainly Act No 231/2001, on television and radio broadcasting (version 38, in force from 15 September 2022). Section 17 par. 1 letter g) of the Act provides that the granting of broadcasting licences takes into account the contribution of the applicant to the development of the culture of national, ethnic and other minorities in the Czech Republic. Section 32 par. 1 letter c) of the Act also lays down that the broadcaster must not broadcast programmes that may confirm stereotypical prejudices concerning ethnic, religious or racial minorities. The broadcaster shall ensure that the programmes broadcast do not incite hatred on grounds of sex, race, colour, language, belief and religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, membership of a national or ethnic minority, property, gender or other status. The broadcaster shall also not include in the broadcast commercial communications which discriminate on grounds of sex, race, colour, language, belief and religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, nationality or ethnic minority, property, gender, disability, age and sexual orientation or other status. The fulfilment of those duties is supervised by the Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting that imposes sanctions for failures to comply with the obligations.

Act No 132/2010, on on-demand audiovisual media services sets out the basic obligations for providing on-demand audiovisual media services (version 9, in force from 15 September 2022). According to Section 6 par. 2 of that Act, the providers of the services must ensure that the on-demand audiovisual media services do not incite hatred, inter alia, on grounds of nationality or ethnic minority, and that commercial communications do not discriminate based on sex, race, colour, language, belief and religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, nationality or ethnic minority, property, gender, disability, age and sexual orientation or other status.

Specific duties are imposed on public service broadcasters: on Czech Television by Act No 483/1991 (version 14, in force from 2 September 2017) and on Czech Radio by Act No 484/1991 (version 10, in force from 1 November 2021). Not only must these public institutions adhere to the above mentioned general provisions, they are obligated to create and disseminate programmes and provide a balanced range of shows for all groups of people, having regard to their freedom of religion and belief, culture, ethnic and national origin, national identity, social origin, age or gender so that the programmes and shows reflect a diversity of opinions, artistic, religious, political and philosophical directions, with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding and tolerance and promoting the coherence of a pluralistic society. The public service broadcasters are also obligated to develop the identity of Czech Republic citizens, including members of national and ethnic minorities.

Specific activities of individual organisations

Article 6 of the Framework Convention is relevant also for the MoC Separate Unit of Museums and the contributory organisations under its responsibility.

National Museum (“NM”)

In 2020, the National Museum concluded a *Cooperation Agreement with the Museum of Romani Culture in Brno*, on implementing an exhibition on the theme of fine art from the collection of the Museum of Romani Culture. In August 2022, NM launched a mobile application *National Museum in Your Pocket* in Ukrainian, which made NM accessible to a new group of visitors.

Czech-Slovak / Slovak-Czech exhibition

The exhibition told a catching story about how the original unrealistic project of Czechoslovakia became reality, it described the co-habitation of Czechs and Slovaks in a joint state and showed what the two nations had and did not have in common. The Czech-Slovak / Slovak-Czech exhibition mapped all key moments of the turbulent 20th century as well as specific life stories of ordinary people. Visitors were reminded by 1,200 items, accompanied by audiovisual documents and interactive elements, of the life in Czechoslovakia, its values and the inspiration it still gives the world today. The project included an accompanying programme including special events for schools. The exhibition was opened in April 2018 at the Bratislava Castle, and it could be seen in the NM from 28 October 2018 until 30 June 2019.

Exhibition: Roma Genocide in World War II (3 August 2022 - 30 October 2022)

The Museum of Romani Culture together with its specialised Roma and Sinti Centre in Prague and in cooperation with NM prepared a travelling exhibition called *Roma Genocide in World War II* at the National Memorial at Vítkov, Prague, on the occasion of the international Roma Holocaust Day. The exhibition focuses on Nazi persecution and extermination of the Roma mostly in the territory of today's Czech Republic. It recalls the tragic period of history when nearly 90% of our pre-war Roma population were murdered. The exhibition offers visitors an opportunity to find out more about this somewhat downplayed chapter of history.

Exhibition The Road is Open / Phundrado drom (3 June 2022 – 31 May 2024)

The exhibition is the curator's "spotlight" on the fine art fund of the Museum of Romani culture and underlines the importance of the museum itself as a unique institution, the only one of its kind in the broader European context. The project *Phundrado drom* combines a gallery format of "great masters" with a museum concept of an open depository. The "great masters" section presents some of the most remarkable artists from the fund, with a distinct style and a human interest story. The exhibition will show the work of e.g. Ján Berky, Rudolf Dzurko, Daniel Kováč, Július Lakatoš or Markéta Šestáková. The "open depository" section presents the activity of the museum, the comprehensiveness of its collection,

it highlights the strong ethnicity emancipation ethos of the museum and its open mission. Various accompanying programmes will be offered during the exhibition in the period 2022-2024 - concerts, commented tours, lectures and activities for schools.

Conferences on national minorities

Since 2018, NM has been a partner of the House of National Minorities in the annual meetings of national minorities, that include a conference. The project partners include the Government Council for National Minorities and the City of Prague. The regular meetings take place in the autumn in the New Building of the NM. As part of the 19th meeting, the conference *National minorities in Czechoslovakia 1948-1989* took place on 28 November 2019. The 2020 meeting was cancelled due to the current epidemic situation. The 20th meeting included the conference *Reflections and outlooks of national minorities*, held on 4 November 2021. On 1 December 2022, the conference *Literature of national minorities in our country* took place as part of the 21st meeting.

Moravian Museum (MZM)

In 2019, MZM cooperated with the Museum of Romani Culture in the festival *Khamoro 2019* and organised a discussion in the Dietrichstein Palace. The MZM activities in respect of the different minorities are described in separate paragraphs below.

German minority

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Gregor Mendel, on the DNA International Day on 25 April 2022, the *Mendel's Path through Brno* was ceremonially opened. The path consists of a network of information panels in the town centre, and with the help of QR codes it offers a *German language version*. Johann Gregor Mendel was a German-speaking inhabitant of Brno. The path refers to the fact that up to 1945, Brno was a bilingual town with a large German minority.

Croatian minority

The Ethnographic Institute of the Historical Museum of MZM has long monitored the topic of Moravian Croats in the Mikulov area and, by museum means, it supports the manifestation of their culture including language (it took part in the exposition in the Croatian House in Jevišovka with phonographic records of spoken language from 1910). In its specialised conferences, it points out the attempts at reviving and preserving the language used for communication by participants in the main social event of the communities - the feast / Kiritofu in Jevišovka.

Greek minority

The Ethnographic Institute of the Historical Museum of MZM organised an exhibition *Two lives, two cultures, two countries. Greeks in the Czech territory from the 2nd half of 20th century until the present* (Telč, 7 July - 8 August 2021).

Silesian Museum (SZM)

The SZM activities in respect of the different minorities are described in separate paragraphs below.

The Jewish and Roma minority

The National Memorial of World War II held an exhibition called *Places of suffering, death and heroism* from 8 October till 30 November 2019. The exhibition was lent by the Holocaust Victims Foundation and described the lives of concentration camp prisoners, both the tortured to death and the survivors. The

exhibition presented to visitors the issue of persecutions and hatred of some parts of the population in World War II, mainly the problems of Jews and the Roma.

Ukrainian minority

The Historical Exhibition Building of SZM in Opava held an exhibition called *People from the East* from 19 July till 30 September 2019. The exhibition of photographs by Jindřich Štreit documented the current situation of the Ukrainian minority in the Czech Republic. It focused on the working, social and cultural life of members of one of the most populous and prominent national minorities in the Czech Republic, presented on the example of Moravia and Silesia. The photos showed the environments of worker accommodation or hospitals as well as folklore ensembles.

Polish and German minority

From 9 October 2019 till 6 January 2020, the Historical Exhibition Building of SZM held an exhibition called *The Polish and German minority in north Moravia and Silesia*. The exhibition depicted the history of the German and Polish population in Czech Silesia and north Moravia from 1918 till the present. It focused on political, religious, social-club and cultural activities of the minority members, emphasising the interwar period. The exhibition also described the post-war forced deportation of the German population and the situation of minorities in the post-war Czechoslovakia. It included the development of the legal status of minorities. The final part of the exhibition outlined the main features of the post-1989 social-club and cultural activities of the German and Polish population in the region.

Vietnamese and Mongolian minority

In 2020, SZM continued working on the grant project under the programme National and Cultural Identities (NAKI) II, called *Legal, historical and social-science aspects of new and traditional minorities in the Czech Republic* (DG18P02OVV064). A part of that project was an exhibition of photographs by Jindřich Štreit "*People from far away: the Vietnamese and Mongolians in Czech lands*". In cooperation with the Silesian University in Opava, a critical (commented) catalogue of the same name was issued, available also in electronic form⁹.

All national minorities in general

As part of the project NAKI II DG18P02OVV064 (see above), an exhibition was implemented with a critical catalogue named "*Old and new minorities in the Czech Republic*", focusing on the development of the status of national and religious minorities after 1945. The exhibition covered both the traditional, "old" minorities - Poles and Germans, and the "new" minorities - Slovaks, Hungarians, emigrants from Volynia, Romania, refugees from Greece, and in the 1970s-80s also from Vietnam, Ukraine, Russia or Mongolia. The authors were academics from Charles University in Prague, Silesian University in Opava and the Czech Academy of Sciences. Under the same project, SZM participated in the preparation of the Atlas of National and Religious Minorities in the Czech Republic, and the Atlas of National and Religious Minorities in Czech Silesia and North Moravia.

National Gallery in Prague (NGP)

The Audience Development Unit of NGP implemented activities on the following exhibition projects related to the German and Slovak minority:

⁹ See <https://www.slu.cz/fvp/cz/file/cul/f676daf8-1f72-4188-8261-8ca1250b5894>.

Exposition 1918 -1938: The First Republic

This permanent exposition, opened in 2018 on the 100th anniversary of establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic, located on the 3rd floor of the Trade Fair Palace, Prague, includes a presentation of art work and design from Slovakia and former Subcarpathian Rus in the period 1918-1938. The artistic life in Slovakia is presented as based in Bratislava and Košice, the art centres of the First Republic. The exposition shows the rich fine art work and the art activities of the young state in the period 1918–1938. Apart from paintings and sculptures of prominent Czech, Slovak, Czech-German and Rusyn artists, the exposition presents works from the famous French collection bought by the Czechoslovak state shortly after its establishment, in the 1920s and 1930s. The exhibition project is not limited to fine art works but reaches to other disciplines by presenting other cultural and art areas of the First Republic (books, design, applied graphic design etc.).

Within the defined period and territory, the project presents important events in visual culture at the time of the First Republic, emphasising the cosmopolitan and multi-national nature of its territory. This approach aims to present, with historical precision, the richness and diversity of the culture of the young state but also serves as a lesson for the present day, as the ignorance of the past often leads to xenophobic attitudes. The exposition is accompanied by a rich educative and specialised programme. Specialists from Slovakia gave lectures on this collection exposition in Slovak.

18 May 2022, Art of 1920s and 1930s in Eastern Slovakia and Subcarpathian Rus.

A commented tour of the curator Miroslav Kleban from the East Slovak Gallery in Košice focused on the culture and art between the world wars in eastern Slovakia. Košice and Uzhhorod as two cultural metropolises of the most eastern edge of the First Republic were, at that time, multicultural centres where Slovak, Czech, Rusyn, Jewish and Hungarian artists worked and found in them their political and cultural asylum and often also important inspiration for their own artistic creations. The period is called Košice modernism, the golden age of art and culture in the interwar period full of progressive and avant-garde ideas.

Art Museum Olomouc (“MUO”)

Days of Jewish Culture

The traditional Jewish festival in Olomouc makes a historical reflection of the coexistence of Czech society with the Jewish community. The festival aims to present a culture that has been part of our cultural environment for centuries through carefully selected topics and at a highly professional level. An integral part of the festival is, apart from lectures and discussions, a presentation of the current live culture - theatre, music, art, dance and film. MUO believes that the festival contributes to the overall cultivation of the current society and helps to eliminate undesirable and pathological social phenomena such as anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and religious intolerance.

- 2019: *Yiddish is still alive*
- 2020: *Re: Start* (covid year, online programme)
- 2021: *Kosher is kosher*
- 2022: *A distant relative is a stranger and kin*

Museum of Romani Culture (MRK)

Lety u Písku

A very positive step in the Roma emancipation was the buyout by the state of the pig farm located at the place of the former WW II Gypsy Camp in Lety u Písku. The place of the former burial ground

belonging to the camp, with a memorial from the academic sculptor Zdeněk Hůla from 1995, was proclaimed a cultural monument in 1998. The buyout contract was signed already in November 2017 and took effect in February 2018. The administration of the memorial site was entrusted from 1 January 2018 to MRK which plans to build a project *Lety u Písku* on the site of the former pig farm. *Memorial of the Roma and Sinti Holocaust in Czech Lands*. In April 2018, the former pig farm was handed over to MRK. Preparatory work for pulling down the feedlot building started, the premises of the former camp were cleaned and prepared for the planned archaeological research. That was carried out in 2017-2019. The excavations identified the precise location of the camp, which was mostly under the pig farm buildings, and its remains were quite well preserved under the level of the current terrain. It also localised the individual buildings and found remains of clothing, shoes and other small belongings of the prisoners. Near the memorial, a former provisional cemetery of the camp was confirmed and two graves were examined after an agreement with the survivors. In October 2019, a two-round landscaping-architectural competition was announced to design the future memorial in Lety u Písku. The winning design was selected in June 2020. In 2021, a contract was concluded between MRK and the winner of the competition. In October 2021, the project documentation was completed for the demolition of the former pig farm, the contractor was selected in June 2022 and the demolition was symbolically started on 22 July 2022. The act was attended by personalities of political and public life, by activists, eyewitnesses and descendants of the survivors of the so-called Gypsy Camp in Lety u Písku. Keynote speeches were given by the MRK director Jana Horváthová, President of the House of Deputies of Czech Parliament Markéta Pekarová Adamová, the Czech Minister of Culture Martin Baxa, the Kingdom of Norway Ambassador H.E. Robert Kvile and the chairman of the Committee for the Redress of the Roma Holocaust Čeněk Růžička. The buildings were demolished by the end of 2022. The memorial is planned to be opened in 2023. The whole project should be completed in 2024.

At present, in the area of the former Gypsy Camp, there is a natural amphitheatre and two replicas of the former quarters with a small exposition and toilets. There is also an educational trail starting at the Municipal Office in Lety, leading by the former camp and ending at the Lety Memorial. Since 2018, The Municipal Office in Lety has housed an information centre with an exposition informing the visitors of the site of the former Gypsy Camp and its history and the Roma genocide in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

All MRK activities promote tolerance and dialogue between cultures. The activities include exhibitions, conferences, workshops, seminars, lectures, discussions, concerts and commemoration ceremonies.

National Open Air Museum (NMvP)

Zubrnice Open Air Museum

Interpretation of the culture of Czech Germans is the core pillar of the Zubrnice Open Air Museum, an organisational unit of the NMvP. As planned, a promotional comic was issued by the museum in 2021, pointing out the problematic post-war expulsion of German-speaking inhabitants.

Rescue of gravestones from the closed German cemetery

In the spring of 2021, in cooperation with the Omnium association, a two-day workcamp was organised to rescue around twenty headstones and other fragments of graves of former German inhabitants from a dump opened in 1968 in connection with demolishing the Zubrnice graveyard. The event had a media coverage and consequently, the museum was addressed by the Museum of Ústí nad Labem, suggesting an exhibition of the gravestones. The exhibition was installed as open-air, in a closed street in the town centre. The purpose of the untraditional exhibition called *Cemetery on the Street*, subtitled *Ruhe sanft! / Rest in peace?* (end of July - end of August 2021), that had a national reach and incited passionate discussions of the public, was to point out, using the Zubrnice case, the problematic attitude of the

current society to the issue of abandoned and dilapidating German cemeteries in general. A leaflet was printed for the exhibition and a discussion with the public was organised to conclude it.

The gravestone rescue action and the subsequent exhibition in the public space was followed at the end of 2021 by designing a lapidarium exposition of the gravestones directly in Zubrnice. The exposition interpreting the history and the story of the Zubrnice graveyard was implemented in cooperation with artists and teachers from the Art and Design Faculty of the University of J. E. Purkyně, the authors of the *Cemetery on the Street* exhibition. The exposition contains the proposal for a design and location of a symbolic memorial of reconciliation/respect on the site of the closed cemetery. In 2022, it was supplemented with an extensive bilingual leaflet.

Cooperation with descendants of the original inhabitants

The cooperation took place as part of preparations for the exhibition *Abandoned villages under the Buková Hora hill*, prepared by Zubrnice Open Air Museum in cooperation with the Archive of Ústí nad Labem, and as part of preparing the printed *Guide through abandoned villages, settlements and secluded dwellings under the Buková Hora hill* (author: Petr Karlíček). In the spring of 2021, a call for eyewitnesses was advertised in the displaced people's periodical *Aussiger Bote* which received two valuable responses. The Zubrnice museum in cooperation with the Archive of Ústí nad Labem then obtained valuable information and historical photos that were published in the above book issued by the museum and archive at the end of 2021. The exhibition also included newly discovered and translated legends from the surroundings of Buková Hora.

Wallachian Open Air Museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm

As an organisational unit of NMvP, it is a long-term partner of the international festival *Roma Song* and the international festival of Slovak folklore the *Jánošík's Ducat*.

In the period 2019-2022, it organised four editions of the international festival *Roma Song* in cooperation with the Democratic Alliance of the Roma of the Czech Republic, based in Valašské Meziříčí. The *Roma Song* festival editions took place in the Little Wooden Town of the Wallachian Open Air Museum on 27 July 2019 (25th edition), 25 July 2020 (26th edition), 24 July 2021 (27th edition) and 23 July 2022 (28th edition). Each edition of the festival presented usually five music ensembles from the Czech Republic, Slovakia or Hungary. The priority mission of the cultural project is to break down barriers between the majority society and minority groups of the Czech Republic population through learning about different cultures. The *Roma Song* festival aims to preserve and present the traditions of Roma culture.

In the same period, the museum organised three editions of the international festival of Slovak folklore *Jánošík's Ducat* in cooperation with the Jánošík's Ducat association, the Slovákovi municipality in the Czech Republic and the Folklore Association Púčík from Brno. It is the only minority festival in the Czech Republic, dedicated to Slovak folk culture. The *Jánošík's Ducat* festival editions took place on 2-4 August 2019 (21st edition), 7-8 August 2021 (22nd edition) and 5-7 August 2022 (23rd edition). *Jánošík's Ducat* 2020 did not take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The *Jánošík's Ducat* festival, held in the Little Wooden Town of the Wallachian Open Air Museum, annually featured around twenty folklore ensembles from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, with more than five hundred dancers and musicians. The Czech Republic ensembles present Slovak folklore to the visitors. Invitations to perform are answered also by compatriots from Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria or Serbia. The *Jánošík's Ducat* festival usually includes performances of compatriot Slovak ensembles and minority representatives in a show called *Aký kraj, taký mrav* (Each region has its manners), a school of dances from various corners of Slovakia, a school of playing shepherd folk musical instruments, a school for folklore musicians teaching the music specifics of a particular region, a photo exhibition and presentation of folk craft producers.

Lidice Memorial (“LM”)

LM representatives regularly attend the commemoration ceremonies organised by MRK. LM then informs of the events on its website and social media profiles.

In 2022, LM organised a workshop for school groups, called *Life stories of Czechs in Russia (and in the Soviet Union and in Ukraine) and their contribution to the establishment and renewal of Czechoslovakia*. Pupils learn about the story of Czechs who went to the tsarist Russia in the 19th century, succeeded economically and left a cultural footprint and never forgot their origin. The story is about Czechs who, during World War I, contributed to resistance, helped to establish independent Czechoslovakia and, in World War II, they wore uniforms of Czechoslovak army and went to liberate and renew the independence of the Czechoslovak Republic. Their story was part of history dictated by totalitarian and nationalistic regimes, world wars, and was driven by love of country and freedom.

Terezín Memorial (“TM”)

Terezín Memorial cooperates at various levels with members of many national minorities (e.g. Jewish, Roma or German) but the primary theme are not the rights of the minorities. The cooperation is associated with the mission of the memorial, i.e. the commemoration of Nazi repression victims in Terezín and in Litoměřice. The representatives of the minorities visit TM or participate in joint projects, commemorative events etc.

Since 3 August 2020 for an estimated period of three years, TM has hosted the exhibition *The Roma genocide in World War II* in the Women’s Yard of the Small Fortress. As TM is well aware that the Nazi persecution victims during the war included members of various national minorities, i.e. also the Roma, it decided to present to TM visitors the topic of the Roma holocaust in cooperation with MRK. The exhibition can be seen during the opening hours of the Small Fortress and deals with the Nazi persecution and genocide of the Roma during World War II, mainly in the territory of today’s Czech Republic. Annually on 2 August, TM flies the Roma flag on the day of liquidation of the “Gypsy Camp” in Auschwitz – Birkenau.

Research and Development Department of MoC (“RDD”)

In the period 2018-2021, RDD supported consortium project DG18P02OVV064 called “Legal, historical and social-science aspects of new and traditional minorities in the Czech Republic” (see above).

Investment and Public Contract Unit of MoC

As part of its programmes to support asset reproduction of state cultural facilities and to support asset reproduction of regional cultural facilities, the Unit has been long investing in MRK and the Museum of Moravian Croats, as well as making investments for the benefit of other national minorities.

Support for important national minority institutions and their projects

Roma minority - Sub-programme 134V131 – Support for asset reproduction of state cultural facilities

MRK (established in 1991) has been a state contributory organisation of MoC since 2005 and falls under the MoC Separate Unit of Museums. In the European context, it is a unique institution that globally documents the culture of the Roma and Sinti, i.e. many different Roma sub-ethnic groups of communities. MRK manages funds of traditional crafts and professions, types of dwellings, equipment of interiors, clothing and jewellery, fine art, written material, posters and invitations, audio, photo and video documentation, libraries, responses to Roma culture in the majority culture and self-

documentation of the museum. The MRK collection is registered in the Central Record of Collections, it contains over 28,000 collection items.

Since 2018, MRK has managed the memorials in Lety u Písku and in Hodonín u Kunštátu. In 2019, MRK took over the management of a valuable First Republic villa at Velvarská 1, Prague, where it is building the Roma and Sinti Centre in Prague. Refurbishments and constructions of all buildings were continuously financed from the MoC budget throughout the reporting period. In the period 2019–2021, MRK had its IT modernised with an approved subsidy of CZK 1,500,000, a subsidy for the demolition in Lety was approved at CZK 111,500,000, the subsidy for Completing the expositions in the Hodonín Memorial was approved at CZK 3,500,000, and the project for the Roma and Sinti Centre has not been approved so far.

Moravian Croats - Sub-programme 134D212 – Support for asset reproduction of regional cultural facilities

Museum of Moravian Croats - The Croatian House. In 2008, the Government of the Republic of Croatia bought the building of a former vicarage in Jevišovka in order to establish a museum of Moravian Croats. The task was entrusted to the Association of Croatian Nationality Citizens in the Czech Republic. The reconstruction of the building including a new extension for occasional accommodation of the organisers (stage I and II) were financed continuously throughout the reporting period by MoC, the approved subsidy was CZK 29,286,233. At present, the original building is reconstructed and houses an exposition of Moravian Croats, and the extension is complete. The Association of Croatian Nationality Citizens in the Czech Republic plans a final stage III of the project, a construction of storage space for agricultural machinery and landscaping around the museum. The date of opening to the public is tied to the end of stage III.

Polish minority - Sub-programme 134D212 – Support for asset reproduction of regional cultural facilities

In 2018, support was granted to project called: Matice slezská, a branch club in Dolní Lomná - replacement of wooden benches in the auditorium in Křínov (EDS 134D212000027). Grant beneficiary: The Matice slezská association, a branch club in Dolní Lomná The action aimed to remove the degrading wooden parts of the auditorium (benches) and replace them with new ones, removable in winter months. Total costs: CZK 725,271, subsidy from the MoC budget chapter 334 was CZK 600,000.

Jewish minority - Sub-programme 134D212 – Support for asset reproduction of regional cultural facilities, EDS 134D212000022 - “Memorial of Silence in the Bubny railway station”.

The aim of the action was to draw up design documentation on behalf of the Prague Shoah Memorial (public benefit society) which would use it to arrange a building modification of the former Bubny railway station, turning it into the Memorial of Silence. The total grant for the action according to the Grant Award Decision was CZK 5,650,644. The grant funding was not used in 2020 and the action was ended on 31 March 2022. Czech Government Resolution of 21 December 2020 established a separate contributory organisation of MoC to build and operate the exposition. The new holocaust memorial will gradually take over the activities of the Prague Shoah Memorial.

Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers for immediate action

Intensifying the efforts to combat stereotypes and prejudice against the minority groups most exposed to hate speech in society, including through minority-specific awareness-raising campaigns, as well as publicly condemning and, in cases of criminal relevance, effectively prosecuting and sanctioning all instances of hate speech and anti-minority rhetoric in public and political discourse.

In the past monitoring period, the Czech Republic organised various awareness-raising campaigns, including through ministries. MoI and the Czech Police have long pursued prevention, curbing and sanctioning of all forms of inequality and discrimination concerning the Roma. MoI and the Czech Police implemented a campaign on employing national minority members by the Czech Police (mainly but not exclusively the Roma), the Czech Police also carried out awareness-raising activities focused on prejudicial violence as part of Weeks Against Racism, and awareness-raising activities targeted at Ukrainian refugees (asylum and immigration agenda, road traffic safety rules, raising legal awareness etc.). The Czech Statistical Office carried out an awareness-raising campaign before the 2021 public census, involving the Office of the Government and representatives of national minorities. MoC finances cultural programmes that aim to raise awareness - e.g. the umbrella festival for national minorities in the Czech Republic *Domovina* (Homeland) organised biannually as part of the *International Folklore Festival in Strážnice*, the Silesian folklore festival *Gorolski Święto*, the *World Roma Festival Khamoro*, *Prague - the Heart of Nations*, the *International Festival of Slovak Folklore Jánošík's Ducat*, *Days of Hungarian Culture*, *Greek Days*, *Days of Slovak Culture in the Czech Republic*, *Days of Jewish Culture*. The Ministry of Regional Development (MoRD) - the Agency for Social Inclusion has long been dedicated to awareness-raising campaigns to improve the perception of the Roma and other minorities at risk (LGBT+, the elderly). The Office of the Government provides grants from the grant programme Prevention of Social Exclusion and Community Work, that can be used to finance awareness-raising activities, activities improving neighbour relations etc. (often the International Roma Day).

Adopting the legislation required and compensating without further delay all women who were victims of forced sterilisation.

In the past monitoring period, Act No 297/2021 was adopted to provide lump-sum payments to persons sterilised in conflict with the law, taking effect on 1 January 2022 with the exception of Section 10 that took effect on the day of its announcement, i.e. 13 August 2021. (Section 10 regulates the running of document destruction periods and so its earliest possible effect was desirable to prevent the shredding of health records).

The Act guarantees entitlement to a lump-sum payment of CZK 300,000 to persons sterilised in conflict with the law. The applications are administered by the Ministry of Health (MoH). As of 24 November 2022, MoH registered 474 applications for the lump-sum payment to persons sterilised in conflict with the law (i.e. pursuant to Act No 297/2021). Of that, 339 applications have been settled. In 171 cases, the applications were granted and the lump-sum payment was made. In 140 cases, the applications were rejected. In 28 cases, the proceedings were stopped (for not removing deficiencies in the application). Each application is subject to an administrative proceeding where the application and its background documents (proposed evidence) are assessed and a decision is issued. An appeal can be lodged against the decision of the ministry, and an action may be brought before the administrative courts against the decision of the Minister of Health on the appeal.

Further recommendations of the Committee of Ministers

Strengthening the mandate of the Public Defender of Rights and allocating the necessary resources to permit the institution to effectively fulfil its duties.

Over the monitoring period, there was no change in this area. The financing of the office of the Public Defender of Rights from the state budget is stable.

Intensifying the efforts to prevent, combat and sanction all forms of inequality and discrimination affecting the Roma.

The Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation Strategy (the Roma Integration Strategy) 2021-2030 includes passages dealing with the above topic, namely the chapter on *Anti-Gypsyism*.

In legislation, the most serious hate violence ranks among hate crime pursuant to Act No 40/2009, the Criminal Code, as amended. See pages 25 and 26.

Establishing an integrated and publicly available hate speech and hate crime data collection system, thus allowing the assessment of the impact on national minorities and on other groups and the way these phenomena have been addressed by the competent authorities.

Over the monitoring period, there was no change in this area. The hate speech and hate crime data collection systems have not been made public so far. MoI has approved *the Concept for Combating Manifestations of Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred 2021-2026* and every year it issues *Annual Reports on Extremism*. The reports point out selected relevant cases and bring quantitative data on hate speech and crimes¹⁰.

Intensifying the efforts to prevent and combat all forms of inequality affecting the Roma in access to housing.

Since 2022, preparations have been underway for the proposal for the Act on support in housing, which is under the responsibility of MoRD and the co-responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA). The draft Act is to be presented in the second half of 2023 and it is expected to take effect from 2024. The Act should bring a systemic solution to accessible and social housing that is still not regulated in legislation. It should support housing strategies mainly for municipalities, social work in housing, prevention of housing loss, housing support tools (contact centres, social real estate agencies, guaranteed funds). The need for the Act is underlined by the growing number of persons in housing emergency, as in 2021 nearly 500,000 persons spent more than 40% of their income on housing.¹¹

In the systemic solution to social housing, MLSA is responsible for social policy, social work (work with people in housing emergency, prevention of housing loss etc.), social services (doss-houses, shelters, halfway houses etc.) and housing social benefits (i.e. housing contributions and housing supplements). The role of these social agendas in the social housing system is not only supportive but is absolutely key for its functioning. Social work and social services are an essential part of the social housing system, mainly for people in housing emergency, who are facing multiple social and economic problems or e.g. discrimination in housing.

In 2016, MLSA started to implement the project Social housing - methodological and information support in social agendas (shortly Social Housing Support), aimed at introducing and developing a social housing system in the Czech Republic and, for that purpose, provide appropriate methodological and information support based also on international cooperation and transfer of good practice, research activities and consultations with key actors (municipalities, NGOs, umbrella organisations, experts). At the beginning, support was provided to sixteen municipalities. In 2019, the methodological support was extended to *Housing First* projects of thirteen NGOs and municipalities. They received more than 310 personal, telephone and online consultations. A Contact Centre was set up for that purpose, the project educates and informs the professional and lay public through its website, FB profile and Social Housing Newsletter. In cooperation with municipalities, NGOs, experts and researchers, more than ten methodologies, research projects and other analyses were created and published. From the start of the project, seminars and workshops were organised for the professional public, NGOs and representatives of municipalities.

¹⁰ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/extremismus-vyrocnni-zpravy-o-extremismu-a-strategie-boje-proti-extremismu.aspx>

¹¹ Source: Report on Housing Exclusion, 2021.

Through the Operational Programme Employment, MLSA supported social housing projects that increased access of the Roma to housing. In Call 108 of that programme it was proven that 42% of the supported households were Roma. In June 2022, MLSA announced Call 007 under the Operational Programme Employment+ to support social housing for the period 2022-2025 with a total allocation of CZK 500 mil., aiming to increase access of (not only) the Roma to quality housing. Based on experience from Call 108 it can be expected that the share of supported Roma in the total number of supported households will range between 30% and 50%.

II.7 Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Over the monitoring period, the legal framework in this area has not changed. The current practice and regulation of the rights of the national minority members in the exercise of their right of association is in line with the constitutional order, corresponds to the international obligations of the Czech Republic arising from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 27), the Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Art. 14) and in particular the Framework Convention.

The legal regulation of the right of association, contained in Act No 89/2012, the Civil Code, as amended, guarantees everyone, in accordance with the relevant international conventions and constitutional provisions, the right to associate with others. Members of national minorities may therefore establish associations without any restriction. The right of members of national minorities to associate in nationality associations as well as in political parties and in political movements is also explicitly mentioned in Section 5 of the Minorities Act.

Political parties and movements

In the period 2019-2022, a new entity was established in this sector, promoting the interests of the Roma minority, called *Roma Luma*. Its candidates were not very successful at the municipal level. Also mainly at the municipal level, the *Roma Democratic Party* stood for election, and not very successfully.

At the municipal level, the *Coexistentia – Coexistence* (in some municipalities as *Coexistence-Wspólnota*, hereinafter as “*Coexistentia*”) political movement continues to protect the interests of the Polish national minority and is active in the territory inhabited by the Polish national minority in the districts of Frýdek-Místek and Karviná. In the municipal elections in 2022, *Coexistentia* was the most successful in the community of Košařiska, where it obtained 58.81%, in the village of Milíkov *Coexistentia* received 45.87%, and it won in both municipalities. In Hrádek, *Coexistentia* obtained 26.16%, in Dolní Lomná it received 22.84%, in Vendryně 21.06%, in Bukovec 19.31%, in Nýdek 15.00%, in Návší 13.20%, in Chotěbuz 12.95%, in Albrechtice 11.73%, in Jablunkov 7.77% and in Dolní Lutyně 6.63%. In the other municipalities, *Coexistentia* did not reach 5%.

In the elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in October 2021, no national minority party or political movement stood.

II.8 Article 8

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations.

Over the monitoring period, the legal framework in this area has not changed. The conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to be able to preserve their religion, the right to profess

their religion or belief and establish religious institutions, organisations and associations are, aside from the Czech Constitution and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, also enshrined in Act No 3/2002, on freedom of religion and the status of churches and religious societies and amending certain laws (the Churches and Religious Societies Act).

II.9 Article 9

1. *The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.*
2. *Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.*
3. *The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.*
4. *In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.*

The right to distribute and receive information in one's mother tongue is exercised without restriction by members of national minorities under Act No 46/2000. (version 9, in force from 1 February 2022) on rights and obligations in the publishing of periodicals (the Press Act), as amended. National minority organisations publish a number of periodicals and non-periodic publications in their minority languages. In particular, having a periodical is one of the priorities in the activities of national minorities. In addition to publishing printed materials, newspapers and magazines, support is also provided towards creating radio and television shows. This activity is supported by the state through a dedicated grant programme "Support for the dissemination and receipt of information in the languages of national minorities" (the Programme) administered by MoC Department of the Media and Audiovisual. The scope of the competitive grant process is defined in Czech Government Regulation No 98/2002. The value of the grant programme in the reporting period did not reach the value of the previous reporting period, it stabilised at CZK 20,850,000. In 2020 and 2021, the Programme received funding in addition to the budgeted amount. In 2020, the Programme value was CZK 25,000,000, in 2021 it was CZK 24,850,000, and in 2022 it returned to the original budgeted value of CZK 20,850,000 but was increased to CZK 23,150,000 during the year.

Table 7 Funds provided to support the dissemination and reception of information in the languages of national minorities

Minorities Support programme	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bulgarian	1,127,000	1,198,850	1,130,000	950,000
Croatian	0	0	0	0
Hungarian	1,125,000	1,136,000	1,073,000	990,000

German	1,589,000	2,037,160	2,031,000	1,810,000
Polish	5,950,000	6,715,600	6,890,000	6,030,000
Roma	3,270,000	4,389,450	4,084,000	3,440,000
Rusyn	90,000	90,000	102,000	80,930
Russian	1,650,000	1,900,000	1,750,000	1,400,000
Greek	269,000	271,700	220,000	190,000
Slovak	2,660,000	3,409,000	3,186,000	2,595,000
Serbian	600,000	900,000	690,000	450,000
Ukrainian	1,915,000	1,415,000	1,814,000	4,019,070
Belarusian	0	0	0	0
Vietnamese	330,000	616,000	570,000	450,000
Jewish community	275,000	290,000	290,000	245,000
Multicultural projects	0	631,240	1,020,000	500,000
TOTAL	20,850,000	25,000,000	24,850,000	23,150,000

Support for periodicals by national minority

Polish national minority

- *Głos* newspaper format (2 days a week).
- *Zwrot* magazine, monthly.

Roma national minority

- *Romano hangos*, a newspaper-format printed periodical, number of issues ranges between 15 and 17.
- *Romano Vod'i* monthly.
- Another monthly for the youth *Kereka*, the number of issues varies each year between 6 and 8.
- *Romano džaniben* almanac, published twice a year.
- Project *Amare lavutara*, newly supported since 2020. It is a series of musical portraits of Roma musicians.

German national minority

- *Landesecho* monthly.
- *Heimatruf* monthly published in the *Egerland* dialect.
- *Troppauer Nachrichten* bimonthly.
- *Radio+web+more* project, a cooperation in the production of shows for Czech Radio broadcasting in German.

Slovak national minority

- The magazines *Slovenské dotyky* and *Listy Slovákov a Čechov*, published 7 and 10 times a year.
- The *Slovenská mozaika* radio show is broadcast on Radio ZET.

Bulgarian national minority

- *Roden glas* magazine published 5 – 6 times a year.

- *Balgari* magazine published 5 – 6 times a year.

Russian national minority

- *Russkoe slovo* magazine, published 12 times a year.

Greek national minority

- *Kalimera* magazine, bimonthly.

Serbian national minority

- *Srbskoe slovo* magazine, bimonthly.

Hungarian national minority

- *Prágai Tükör* magazine, bimonthly.

Ukrainian national minority

- *Porohy* magazine, monthly, issued 6-8 times a year.
- *Ukrajinskij žurnal* magazine, monthly, issued 6-8 times a year.
- In 2022, extraordinary support was provided to project Radio Ukraine, implemented by the service company MEDIA MARKETING SERVICES a.s. from the MEDIA BOHEMIA group. It involved preparation and implementation of the programme and social media profiles of that radio station. Out of the CZK 2,000,000 grant, CZK 1,994,282 was disbursed.

Rusyn national minority

- *Podkarpatská Rus* quarterly.

Vietnamese national minority

- *Huong Sen*, printed magazine without a stable periodicity, published 4-6 times a year based on available funding.

Jewish community

- *Maskil* monthly.

Multicultural projects

- Since 2020, the production of television portraits of personalities from national minorities, called *They live among us*, has been supported again.

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

State support is granted to print national minorities' news publications and magazines in their languages. There are radio programmes in some minority languages and a television programme about national minorities, all of which contribute to raising awareness of the national minorities in the general population. It is important for the authorities to continuously evaluate the appropriateness of the offer in minority languages by public broadcasters, in particular television, and to consider extending funding to new digital media produced by national minorities.

The financing of new digital media is conditioned by amending Government Regulation No 98/2002 laying down the conditions and method of providing subsidies from the state budget to activities of persons belonging to national minorities and to support the integration of the Roma community members. The authorities concerned are working on the amendment.

II.10 Article 10

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.*
- 2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.*
- 3. The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.*

The Czech Republic fully respects the right of every person belonging to a national minority to use freely his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

The case law includes a decision of the Regional Court in Plzeň, file ref. 6 To 550/2001, according to which, if an accused person asks at any time during the proceedings for assistance of an interpreter in order to use his or her mother tongue, the law enforcement authorities are obligated to grant that request, although the accused person did not ask for an interpreter in the previous phases of the proceedings and it was apparent that the person was able to communicate in Czech. If an interpreter is not called in upon the request of the accused, it is a substantive procedural error because the rights of the accused are substantially curtailed. According to Section 2 par. 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, anyone who declares not having a command of the Czech language, has a right to use their mother tongue or a language they indicate as one they have a command of before the law enforcement authorities. It is sufficient for the persons concerned to declare that they do not have a command of the Czech language, they are not obliged to prove their lack of command in any way and the relevant law enforcement authority is not authorised to examine the level of their knowledge of the Czech language. In line with Section 28 par. 2 and 4 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the decision to initiate criminal proceedings, the order of detention, the order of observation of the accused in a medical institution, the indictment, the plea-bargain agreement and the application for its approval, the motion for punishment, the judgement, the penalty order, the decision on appeal and on the stay of criminal proceedings, as well as any other document strictly necessary to inform the accused of the facts on which the charge is based, must be translated in writing to the accused if necessary to ensure a fair trial, in particular the proper exercise of the rights of the defence, to the extent determined by the law enforcement authority.

In relation to implementing Article 10 of the Framework Convention, we can mention Section 16 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, according to which *a citizen of the Czech Republic belonging to a national minority that has traditionally and for a long time lived in the Czech Republic has the right to address an administrative authority and proceed before it in the language of the minority. If the administrative authority does not have an official who knows the language of the national minority, the citizen shall arrange for an interpreter from the list of interpreters. The costs of interpretation and translation in this case shall be borne by the administrative authority.* That provision has long been part

of the legal order of the Czech Republic and so it is not a new measure that would contribute to the objectives of the Convention in the reporting period.

Section 2 of Act No 141/1961, the Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended (the Code of Criminal Procedure) contains fundamental principles applied in criminal proceedings. As regards Art. 10 par. 3, we must point out paragraphs 13 and 14 of the above provision. According to the former, the person against whom the criminal proceedings are being conducted must be informed in an appropriate manner and intelligibly at every stage of the proceedings about the rights enabling him or her to fully exercise his or her defence and about the possibility to choose a defence attorney. All law enforcement authorities are obligated to enable the person to exercise such rights. It is not sufficient not to hinder the exercise of the rights, the law enforcement authorities must actively contribute to the exercise of these rights so that the person concerned can really exercise his or her rights effectively. Specifically, it is not sufficient to inform the accused person about his or her right for an interpreter and to appoint the interpreter, the law enforcement authorities must check that the interpreters fulfil their tasks duly to ensure that the accused person sufficiently understands the criminal proceedings conducted.

Further recommendations of the Committee of Ministers

Facilitating the oral and written use of minority languages in contacts with administrative authorities for persons belonging to all national minorities, notably through practical measures enabling administrative authorities to use such languages and by raising awareness of this right among the national minorities.

At constitutional level, Article 25 of the Charter guarantees to citizens belonging to national and ethnic minorities the right to use their language in communication with authorities, under conditions laid down in law. To exercise this right, no cooperation with other members of the national minority is required. That article is followed up by Section 9 of the Minorities Act (expanding that right also to courts), providing, inter alia, that the conditions for the exercise of this right are set out in specific legislation.

The procedure of executive authorities, local and regional authorities and other bodies, legal and natural persons who exercise powers in public administration (an administrative authority), is governed by the Code of Administrative Procedure. Section 16 par. 4 of the Code of Administrative Procedure provides that “a citizen of the Czech Republic belonging to a national minority that has traditionally and for a long time lived in the Czech Republic has the right to address an administrative authority and proceed before it in the language of the minority. If the administrative authority does not have an official who knows the language of the national minority, the citizen shall arrange for an interpreter from the list of interpreters. The costs of interpretation and translation in this case shall be borne by the administrative authority”.

II.11 Article 11

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.*
- 2. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.*
- 3. Relevant data, statistics or any other information enabling the evaluation of the impact of such measures.*

In the previous state reports, MoI informed about Act No 301/2000, on register offices, name and surname, and amending some related acts, as amended (the Register Offices Act) which fulfils the rights

of persons belonging to national minorities and the obligations of the Czech Republic arising from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Specifically, the Act regulates the use of name and surname in the language of a national minority, and the right of women to use their surname without the feminine ending. With effect from 1 January 2022, women can request their surname to be used without the feminine ending *without the necessity to prove* that they fall under a case listed in the law (a foreigner, a citizen with permanent residence abroad, a citizen whose husband or partner is a foreigner or a citizen whose parent is a foreigner, or a citizen of other than Czech nationality). So the right of women to use their surname in the uninflected form has been significantly liberalised as it is no longer necessary to prove one's belonging to a national minority.

At present, an amendment to the Register Offices Act is under preparation. It also covers the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The right to use one's name or surname in the language of a national minority should be extended, inter alia, to the possibility to change one's name at birth into the language of the national minority. It should also be possible to contract a marriage or registered partnership in the languages of national minorities. That possibility will be conditional on meeting the following:

- In the last two public censuses, at least 10% of the residents of the municipality in whose administrative territory the declaration is being made declared belonging to that nationality (identical solution as in Section 29 of the Act on Municipalities).
- Both fiancées or both persons wishing to enter a partnership request it.
- The wedding officiant (who is a public official) and the registrar have a command of the language of the national minority.

The use of bilingual inscriptions and names of municipalities was modified by an amendment to the Act on Municipalities, taking effect on 1 July 2016. That amendment newly regulates the indication of the names of municipalities, streets and other public spaces and buildings of state, regional and local authorities in the languages of national minorities (Section 29 of the Act on Municipalities).¹² According to the previous provision, the municipality was obliged to put up such signs if, according to the last public census, at least 10% of the municipality residents declared belonging to that nationality, if representatives of the national minority requested it through a Committee and if that Committee recommended that proposal in its resolution to the municipal assembly. In practice, that enabled the Committee to reject such request without further discussion and so it prevented the signage to be made (or left the multi-lingual signage to the voluntary decision of the municipal bodies).

Programme supporting the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The aim of the funding programme is to contribute to the successful implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The Czech Republic ratified this Council of Europe convention on 15 November 2006, it entered into force for the Czech Republic on 1 March 2007.

¹² Section 29 par. 2 of the Act on Municipalities reads: In a municipality inhabited by members of national minorities, the name of the municipality, its parts, streets and other public spaces and the designation of buildings of state, regional and local authorities shall also be indicated in the language of the national minority if at least 10% of the citizens of the municipality declared themselves to be of this nationality in the last two censuses, if requested by the representatives of the national minority concerned through the Committee on National Minorities ([Section 117 par. 3](#)) and if that Committee recommends the proposal in its resolution or if it is requested in writing by an association, which, according to its Articles of Association, represents the interests of the relevant national minority, and which has been active for at least 5 years in the municipality on the date of the request."

Originally, the funding programme was intended only to cover the costs associated with introducing bilingual Czech-Polish signs in municipalities with a higher presence of inhabitants of the Polish national minority. For a more efficient and effective use of the funding, the grant programme was restructured and transformed into a funding programme supporting the implementation of multiple articles of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The programme is now managed by the Office of the Government - Department of Human Rights and Protection of Minorities.

The aim of the funding programme is to fulfil the international obligation taken by the Czech Republic to preserve and support the historical regional and minority languages, namely:

- Polish (mainly the Těšín dialect in the Frýdek-Místek and Karviná districts, Moravian-Silesian Region);
- German;
- Romani;
- Slovak;
- Moravian Croatian.

In 2019-2022, the following activities were supported:

- A) Educational activities at all levels of education in addition to standard curriculum**, focused on teaching a minority language or carried out in it. The target group of the activities were persons with the minority language as their mother tongue and persons with Czech as their mother tongue. The activities focused on training teachers with a view to supporting minority languages, mainly among persons with Czech as their mother tongue. Special attention was paid to activities encouraging respect, understanding and tolerance among various language groups.
- B) Quantitative and qualitative analyses** focusing on research in the use of minority languages, identifying the areas of their support and proposing forms of the support.
- C) Promoting the use of traditional and correct forms of local names** in minority languages. Special emphasis was placed on production, installation and maintenance of signs with names of municipalities, their parts, streets and other public spaces, and the designations of state, regional and local authority buildings. Under this thematic area, support was granted mainly to: production and print of publications (e.g. creating a digital map with traditional place names, the print of maps with traditional places names); analysis mapping the historical and cultural heritage of the users of a minority language in a region and the production and installation of bilingual signs (e.g. the signage of bus stops, names of streets and localities, entry and exit signs with the municipality name, signage in public (municipal) buildings etc.).
- D) Mapping and documentation of cemeteries and graves** important for the national minorities living in the Czech Republic¹³.

The applicants for a grant for 2021 could be, same as in previous years, associations, institutes, religious legal entities, public benefit societies, schools and educational establishments pursuant to Act No 561/2004, on pre-school, primary, secondary and post-secondary vocational and other education (the School Act), as amended, higher education institutions pursuant to Act No 111/1998, on higher education institutions and amending and supplementing other acts, as amended, and municipalities.

Table 8 Funding programme for implementing the Charter in the reporting period

Year	Number of projects
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¹³ The activities under thematic area D) can be carried out for all languages of national minorities represented in the Government Council for National Minorities. Namely the Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Rusyn, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese national minorities.

	<i>Grant provided (CZK)</i>	<i>Total registered</i>	<i>Of that supported</i>	<i>Not supported</i>
2019	2,888,431	14	14	0
2020	2,699,320	17	13	4
2021	3,288,491.70	25	17	8
2022	2,969,678	19	12	7

The funding programme Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, thematic area C, supports bilingual names in municipalities. The bilingual signage mainly concerns the areas of a compact Polish settlement in Těšín Silesia. After the Charter ratification, the gradual installation of the signs in the municipalities started in 2007 (the signs have been installed in two thirds of the municipalities), the level of bilingualism was determined by each municipality individually based on recommendations of their committees for national minorities. The level ranges from bilingual signs on authority buildings through bilingual signs in publicly accessible areas up to road signs marking the entry into and exit from the municipality. The implementation of the last mentioned type is complicated in some municipalities by disagreement between representatives of the national minority and the relevant authorities.

Table 9 *Grants from the funding programme for implementing the Charter, used for the installation of bilingual signs (in municipalities, total for the duration of the programme)*

<i>municipality</i>	<i>total financial support 2007-2021 (CZK)</i>	<i>year of installation</i>
Albrechtice / Olbrachcice	239,130.3	2007, 2009, 2017
Bocanovice / Boconowice	14,113.0	2007
Bukovec / Bukowiec	59,331.0	2007
Bystřice / Bystrzyca	25,756.4	2008
Český Těšín / Czeski Cieszyn	1,223,684.0	2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013
Dolní Lomná / Łomna Dolna	35,000.0	2007
Hnojník / Gnojnik	105,526.0	2008, 2011, 2012, 2019
Horní Suchá / Sucha Górna	141,126.0	2007, 2009
Hrádek / Gródek	95,859.1	2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2021
Chotěbuz / Kocobędz	61,000.0	2013
Jablunkov / Jabłonków	483,127.0	2009, 2012, 2016, 2018
Komorní Lhotka / Ligołka Kameralna	76,000.0	2013
Milíkov / Milików	46,746.3	2008, 2013
Mosty u Jablunkova / Mosty koło Jabłonkowa	16,200.7	2009
Nýdek / Nydek	28,779.0	2007, 2017
Smilovice / Śmiłowice	14,272.8	2007, 2010
Stonava / Stonawa	47,634.1	2007, 2009
Střítež / Trzyceź	45,990.4	2008, 2009, 2017
Těrlicko / Cierlicko	157,589.3	2008, 2009, 2012
Třanovice / Trzanowice	168,662.0	2007, 2010
Třinec / Trzyniec	191,000.0	2012
Vendryně / Wędrynia	146,738.6	2007, 2009, 2018
total	3,295,226.0	

Further recommendations of the Committee of Ministers

Actively supporting the practical implementation of the right to display topographical indications in minority languages where the legal requirements are met and applying the 10% threshold in a flexible manner. In order to facilitate the application procedure, the authorities should revise the respective legislation with a view to increasing the authorities' responsibility to display topographical indications in these instances upon their own initiative.

Over the monitoring period, the legal framework in this area has not changed. The Office of the Government actively supported the placing of topographical indications in national minority languages from the funding programme Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. See the table above.

II.12 Article 12

- 1. The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.*
- 2. In this context the Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.*
- 3. The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.*

The Czech Republic is taking a number of measures to promote education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history and language of national minorities. In connection with implementing Articles 12 to 14 of the Framework Convention, certain entities may also apply for support under thematic areas A and B of the Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages grant programme. Support for research to promote knowledge of national minorities is provided to a number of specialised centres of higher education institutions and the Czech Academy of Sciences. Since 2007, a team from the Law Faculty of Charles University has been intensively engaged in the general, legal and historical issues of the status of minorities, cooperating closely with the Council (an expert from the Law Faculty is a member of the Council).

The training of teachers for the Polish minority education continued to be provided in the past period through the Pedagogical Centre for Polish Nationality Education, based in Český Těšín (PC ČT). Further education of teachers is also provided by the professional organisation of teachers of Polish schools in the Těšín district - Association of Polish Teachers (*Towarzystwo Nauczycieli Polskich*) that cooperates with the Polish and Czech ministries of education.

The main activity of PC ČT is anchored in the Articles of Association of the PC ČT, and it follows from the tasks and long-term programmes of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS). The PC ČT activity is carried out according to an approved plan of the main tasks of MEYS in the areas below:

Support for minority education

This covers the needs of schools and educational establishments teaching in Polish, including the support for pupils with special educational needs, the publishing (thanks to MEYS financial support) and distribution of methodological aids - magazines *Jutrzenka* (70/104th year) for the lower primary schools and *Ogniwo* (70th year) for the upper primary schools. In all schools and educational establishments teaching in Polish, PC ČT deals with the topic of using and supporting mother tongue. In selected competitions and olympiads, mainly mathematical, it prepares the Polish language version for the pupils. PC ČT prepares and issues new teaching aids for schools teaching in Polish, such as the primer or mathematics workbooks for upper primary schools.

Cooperation with Poland is significant. As part of further education of teachers, a year-long cycle of workshops was organised for headteachers and pedagogical staff of schools teaching in Polish, on the theme of formative assessment. The cycle was held thanks to the project *Implementation of formative education in schools teaching in Polish in the Czech Republic*, submitted to the Polish Ministry of National Education by the Polish educational institution Civic Education Centre (Centrum Edukacji Obywatelskiej) from Warsaw.

II.13 Article 13

1. *Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognise that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.*
2. *The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.*

Article 25 par. 2 letter a) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms guarantees to citizens belonging to national and ethnic minorities the right to education in their language under conditions provided by law. That right is also provided in Section 11 of Act No 273/2001, on the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and amending some acts, according to which the members of national minorities that have traditionally and for a long time lived in the territory of the Czech Republic, have a right to upbringing and education in their mother tongue in schools, pre-school and educational establishments under conditions provided in specific legislation. Moreover, under conditions provided in specific legislation, national minority members can establish private schools teaching in the language of the national minority or teaching the language of the national minority as a subject, and private pre-school establishments and private educational establishments.

The minority that uses most often its own private educational establishments in which instruction is carried out in the minority language is the German minority. The German national minority is spatially dispersed in the Czech Republic and so, unlike the Polish minority, it cannot use the option of establishing national minority schools pursuant to Section 14 of the School Act. Therefore, in practice, the German minority makes use of private education and of teaching some subjects in German as a foreign language.

MEYS Decree No 9/2013 regulates the procedure of permitting the instruction of some subjects in a foreign language, and authorises schools to teach some subjects in German. It applies to primary and secondary schools. For more detailed information see Chapter II.14 Article 14.

Programme to support educational activities of national minorities

The programmes supports, apart from education in national minority languages, also projects on creation of educational programmes and teaching materials for national minority education, aimed at learning about the history and culture of other nations, fostering democratic citizenship, mutual tolerance, combating racial and national intolerance, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, as well as research in the education of children and youth from national minorities and ethnic groups living in the Czech Republic.

The call for proposals is focused on 2 thematic areas:

Thematic grouping A - support for education in national minority languages

Educational activities for members of national minorities - children, pupils, youth and students, including the production of publications, educational texts for children, pupils, youth and students in minority languages, as part of a wider education-focussed project. Development of the mother tongue of national minorities.

Development of teaching materials in national minority languages, focusing on cultural traditions and history of national minorities and ethnic groups living in the Czech Republic for children, pupils, youth and students (preference will be given to the e-learning form).

Thematic grouping B - Support for activities of national minorities

Creation and implementation of educational programmes and teaching materials for children, pupils, youth, students and teachers, aimed at the development of humanism and combating xenophobia, racial, ethnic and religious intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism, as well as projects focused on the theme of the holocaust.

The most frequent outputs of the projects were methodological and specialised materials, seminars and other educational events for pupils and teachers, visits to cultural events in the language of the national minority, language courses for children (e.g. Bona Fide, the Vietnamese Language Centre in Prague, the Iglice association), dance lessons with learning about regional traditions in the country of origin (e.g. the associations Půčik, LIMBORA, PIRIN), producing publications and books for children in the language of a national minority (e.g. Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak Minority in the Czech Republic, Association of Friends of the Polish Book). Literary competitions for pupils are also important, such as the Ján Kollár Competition, where the Slovak language and linguistic communication are developed, the Lidice for the 21st century competition, involving also pupils from Slovakia, Lithuania, Russia and Romania.

Table 10 Funds in the programme Support for Educational Activities of National Minorities in 2017 – 2021

Year	Amount of grant (in CZK)
2017	11,799,529
2018	15,039,000
2019	15,039,000
2020	15,039,000
2021	15,039,000

II.14 Article 14

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.*
- 2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.*
- 3. Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.*

The conditions for education in national minority languages in nursery, primary and secondary schools, provided by municipalities, regions or MEYS, are governed by Section 14 of the School Act. A prerequisite is that the municipality must have a committee for national minorities established pursuant to the law

that also specifies the minimum number of children applying for education in the language of the national minority. Given the low number of statutory towns and municipalities that are obligated by law to set up a committee for national minorities (see Table 3 and Table 4 above), the minority education financed from public budgets is limited to Polish national minority education in the Moravian-Silesian Region.

Polish national minority

Thanks to its population and concentration in the Moravian-Silesian Region, the Polish minority is the only national minority that can use the option of national minority education financed from public budgets. There are several schools in the Moravian-Silesian Region, teaching only in Polish or bilingually, both in Czech and Polish, pursuant to Section 14 par. 5 of the School Act.

According to MEYS, there are currently 32 nursery schools teaching in Polish or in Czech and Polish in the Czech Republic. All of these nursery schools are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region. In the 2021/2022 school year, the nursery schools were attended by 830 children distributed to 45 classes. The table below provides a list of the nursery schools.

Table 11 List of nursery schools teaching in Polish (2021/2022 school year)

School name	Street	Location	Number of classes	Number of children
Nursery school – Przedszkole	No 1	Vendryně	2	26
Nursery school	No 70	Dolní Lomná	1	16
Nursery school	Školní 800	Jablunkov	3	62
Nursery school Przedszkole	No 615	Vendryně	1	9
Nursery school – Przedszkole	No 74	Bukovec	1	25
Nursery school – Przedszkole	No 440	Bystřice	3	58
Nursery school	Pod Výtopnou 190	Návsí	1	18
Nursery school – Przedszkole	No 60	Písek	1	14
Nursery school	Konská 419	Třinec	1	13
Nursery school – Przedszkole	No 104	Milíkov	1	18
Nursery school	No 170	Hrádek	2	30
Nursery school – Przedszkole	No 446	Hnojník	2	37
Nursery school – Przedszkole	No 788	Mosty u Jablunkova	1	19
Nursery school	Lutyňská 400	Orlová	1	15
Nursery school	Moskevská 162/1	Český Těšín	3	55
Nursery school	Hrabinská 1016/51	Český Těšín	1	21
Nursery school	Polní 1832/10	Český Těšín	1	25
Nursery school	Akátová 1361/17	Český Těšín	1	24
Nursery school	Školní 11	Albrechtice	1	20
Nursery school	Koperníkova 652	Dolní Lutyně	1	17
Nursery school	Selská 429/14	Havířov	1	24
Nursery school	No 326	Stonava	1	17
Nursery school	Těrlická 407/5	Horní Suchá	2	30
Nursery school	Dr. Olszaka 155/1	Karviná	3	62
Nursery school	Přehradní 243/9	Těrlicko	1	24
Nursery school – Przedszkole	No 311	Ropice	1	24
Nursery school – Przedszkole	Dolní Líštná 172	Třinec	1	25
Nursery school – Przedszkole	Štefánikova 772	Třinec	1	16
Nursery school – Przedszkole	SNP 447	Třinec	2	40

Nursery school – Przedszkole	Třinec-Nebory 126	Třinec	1	11
Nursery school - Przedszkole	Oldřichovice 210	Třinec	1	27
Nursery school	No 70	Košářska	1	8

In the 2021/2022 school year, there were 24 primary schools teaching in Polish. All of the schools are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region. The schools had 136 classes in total, attended by 2,040 pupils.

Table 12 List of primary schools teaching in Polish (2021/2022 school year) (incomplete=only lower or only upper primary school, complete=both lower and upper primary school)

Type of school	Name	Street	Location	Number of classes	Number of pupils
incomplete	Primary school	No 66	Bukovec	3	37
complete	Primary school	No 366	Bystřice	11	175
incomplete	Primary school	Pod Výtopnou 190	Návsí	3	38
incomplete	Primary school	No 104	Milíkov	2	21
incomplete	Primary school	No 77	Hrádek	3	34
complete	Primary school – Szkoła Podstawowa	No 6	Hnojník	9	150
incomplete	Primary school	No 750	Mosty u Jablunkova	1	10
complete	Primary school	No 234	Vendryně	9	135
incomplete	Primary school	Lutyňská 400	Orlová	1	17
complete	Primary school	Havlíčková 213/13	Český Těšín	20	391
incomplete	Primary school	Polní 1832/10	Český Těšín	3	47
incomplete	Primary school	Školní 11	Albrechtice	2	22
complete	Primary school	Koperníkova 652	Dolní Lutyně	6	43
complete	Primary school teaching in Polish	Selská 429/14	Havířov	6	67
incomplete	Primary school teaching in Polish	No 326	Stonava	2	12
complete	Primary school	Těrlická 407/5	Horní Suchá	8	103
complete	Primary school - Szkoła Podstawowa	Dr. Olszaka 156/2	Karviná	9	154
incomplete	Primary school	Přehradní 243/9	Těrlicko	2	20
complete	Primary school	Školní 438	Jablunkov	15	267
incomplete	Primary school	No 70	Dolní Lomná	1	16
incomplete	Primary school teaching in Polish	No 146	Ropice	3	31
complete	Primary school	Nádražní 10	Třinec	13	208
incomplete	Primary school	Oldřichovice 210	Třinec	2	21
incomplete	Primary school - Szkoła Podstawowa	No 70	Košářska	2	21

In the Moravian-Silesian Region, there are also secondary schools teaching in Polish or with Polish as one of the languages of instruction. The only secondary school with Polish as the only language of instruction is the Polish Grammar School - Polskie Gimnazjum im. Juliusza Słowackiego, Český Těšín, contributory organisation. Other secondary schools with Polish as a language of instruction recorded in the School Register are the Secondary Technical School in Karviná, contributory organisation, the Business Academy in Český Těšín, contributory organisation, and the Secondary School of Healthcare in Karviná, contributory organisation. In the 2021/2022 school year, the above schools were attended by 1,373 students in total. The table below provides a list of the secondary schools.

Table 13 List of secondary schools teaching in Polish (2021/2022 school year)

Name	Street	Location	Language of instruction	Number of pupils
Secondary Technical School	Žižkova 1818/1a	Karviná	Czech, Polish	348
Polish Grammar School - Polskie Gimnazjum	Havlíčková 213/13	Český Těšín	Polish	327
Business Academy	Sokola-Tůmy 402/12	Český Těšín	Czech, Polish	317
Secondary School of Healthcare	Borovského 2315/1	Karviná	Czech, Polish	381

Section 87 of Act No 111/1998, on higher education institutions and amending and supplementing other acts clearly defines the scope of powers of MEYS, while the implementation of study programmes is fully within the competence of higher education institutions as part of their autonomy provided by that Act.

Study programmes focused on the Polish language, or taught in Polish, are implemented in the following higher education institutions.

Table 14 Polish higher education institutions (2019-2022)

Name of the institution	Study programme
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	Polish studies
	Polish language and literature
	Polish, focusing on corporate practice, services and tourism
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Polish philology
	Polish language and literature
	Polish for translation practice
	Polish for business (studied as a single programme)
	Central European historical studies, focusing on Czech, Polish and Slovak history
	Polish language and literature teaching in upper primary schools
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Slavonic studies, specialised in Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian studies, general and comparative Slavonic studies, Slovak studies
Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc	Polish philology
	Polish for translators
	Polish, focusing on economics, law and tourism
Faculty of Arts, University of Pardubice	Slavonic studies of European Union countries - Polish

German national minority

Primary School of German-Czech Understanding and Grammar School of Thomas Mann is a school established in 1991 by the German minority in the Czech Republic. It offers lower primary education for Czech and German children with German as a foreign language or a mother tongue. It prepares pupils

for studying at the Grammar School of Thomas Mann which has 8 grades and teaches the German language.

German is the language of instruction at the bilingual Austrian Grammar School in Prague, established through an international agreement.

Another project important in terms of the language policy of MEYS is the programme of bilingual teaching and extended teaching of German, offered under the project German Language Diploma of KMK (Kultusministerkonferenz). In the Czech Republic, one bilingual six-grade section of the Grammar School of F.X.Šalda in Liberec and one bilingual eight-grade section of the German School in Prague are operated in cooperation with the Federal Republic of Germany at present. The grammar schools employ German teachers and heads of the German sections. The teachers teach selected subjects in German and heads of section are sent to the Czech Republic by the Centre for Education Abroad of the Federal Administrative Office. The pupils instructed bilingually receive both Czech and German school-leaving certificates that give them access to higher education institutions both in the Czech Republic and in the Federal Republic of Germany. The bilingual grammar schools have a specially modified Framework Education Programme that respects the specifics of bilingual instruction.

In 2021-2022, a pilot project was implemented to start instruction in German in two classes of primary schools in Jablonec nad Nisou and in Cheb, in cooperation with the Office of the Government and MEYS.

The German language is taught in the following primary schools.

Table 15 Number of pupils learning German in the 2021/22 school year (by Region):

Territory		Total	Pupils learning German as a foreign language	
			total	of that as the first foreign language
Czech Republic		849,257	211,136	6,432
Of that	City of Prague	104,791	22,975	1,445
	Central Bohemian Region	120,752	24,842	11
	South Bohemian Region	48,710	17,625	556
	Plzeň Region	44,395	15,434	540
	Karlovy Vary Region	21,105	7,705	1,007
	Ústí nad Labem Region	66,726	20,503	1,552
	Liberec Region	36,159	12,187	580
	Hradec Králové Region	42,390	8,635	0
	Pardubice Region	41,515	8,351	36
	Vysočina Region	39,476	10,235	10
	South Moravian Region	96,135	25,159	690
	Olomouc Region	47,705	10,019	5
	Zlín Region	44,911	10,882	0
	Moravian-Silesian Region	94,487	16,584	0

Some subjects are taught in German in the following schools:

- Primary school Marjánka, Prague 6, Bělohorská 52
- Primary school of General Zdeněk Škarvada, Ostrava-Poruba, contributory organisation

The following secondary schools, including technical and vocational schools, have German as the language of instruction or teach some subjects in German.

- The Austrian Grammar School in Prague
- The Grammar School of F. X. Šalda, Liberec 11, Partyzánská 530, contributory organisation
- Grammar School of Dr. Karel Polesný in Znojmo, contributory organisation
- Grammar School in Příbram, Legionářů 402
- Grammar School in Kroměříž
- English-Czech Grammar School AMAZON, limited company

Study programmes focused on the German language, or taught in German, are implemented in the following higher education institutions.

Table 16 German higher education institutions (2017-2022)

Name of the institution	Study programme
Faculty of Arts, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice	Czech-German area studies
	European territorial studies - Czech Republic and German speaking countries
	German language and literature
	German language, focusing on secondary school instruction
Faculty of Education, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice	German language, focusing on education
	German language teaching
	German language teaching for upper primary schools
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	German language and literature
	German language and literature teaching for secondary schools
Faculty of Education, Masaryk University	Foreign language lecturing - German
	German language, focusing on education
	German language and literature teaching assistance for primary schools
	Foreign language teaching for secondary schools - German
	Foreign language teaching for primary schools - German
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	German language teaching for primary and language schools
	German for translation practice
	German for business
	German philology
	German language and literature
Faculty of Philosophy and Science, Silesian University in Opava	German language and literature teaching for secondary schools
	Corpus linguistics, focusing on a specific language group (English, German)
	German
	German for professional purposes

	German for academic purposes
	German language
Faculty of Science, Humanities and Education, Technical University of Liberec	German language, focusing on education
	German language teaching for upper primary schools
Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové	Foreign languages for tourism - German
	German language, focusing on education
	Teaching in lower primary schools - German language
	Teaching in upper primary schools - German language and literature
Faculty of Arts, Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem	Intercultural German studies
	Intercultural German studies in the Czech-German context
	German philology
	German language for school education
	Foreign language teaching for primary schools - German language
Faculty of Education, Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem	German language and literature
Faculty of Humanities, Charles University	German and French philosophy
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University	Czech-German studies
	German and Austrian studies
	German and Central European studies / Deutsche und Mitteleuropäische Studien
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Intercultural communication Czech - German/ Interkulturelle Kommunikation und Translation Tschechisch - Deutsch
	Intercultural communication: Czech and German for translation and interpretation / Interkulturelle Kommunikation: Übersetzen und Dolmetschen Tschechisch-Deutsch
	German
	German for intercultural communication
	German language and literature
	German language and literature, focusing on education
	Translation and interpretation - German
	Translation: Czech - German
	Interpretation: Czech - German
	German language and literature teaching for secondary schools
Faculty of Education, Charles University	German language and literature with didactics
	German language, focusing on education
	German language, focusing on education
	German language teaching for upper primary and secondary schools

	Teaching of general education subjects for primary schools and secondary schools - German language
Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc	German philology
	German literature
	German language
Faculty of Education, Palacký University, Olomouc	German, focusing on applied economics
	German, focusing on interpretation and translation
	German language, focusing on education
	German language teaching for primary schools
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, University of Pardubice	German for business
	German for professional purposes
Faculty of Humanities, Tomas Bata University in Zlín	German for management
Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň	German language, focusing on education
	German language teaching for secondary schools

Roma national minority

Romani (the Roma language) teaching in schools in the Czech Republic is not systematic yet, as the current schools encounter several factors that complicate or prevent the teaching of Romani. One of them is the lack of interest from the parents of Roma children. The parents often hold the opinion that children should primarily learn the majority Czech language so that it is easier for them to integrate into the majority society. Parents often consider Romani to be a language used only in internal family communication. Other complications were faced by some schools that established Romani teaching but not all Roma children enrolled for the optional learning courses, either for lack of interest from children and parents, or for concerns about subsequent stigmatisation by majority school mates. Unlike the Polish minority, the Roma minority is dispersed and so the conditions of the School Act for the existence of Roma minority education are not fulfilled, but it is possible to teach Romani as an optional subject.

As Romani is not taught systematically in Czech schools, we can name several schools where Romani is part of thematically close subjects. Primary school of Florián Bayer in Kopřivnice taught Romani as part of the subject Multicultural Education, similarly as in the Secondary School of Management and Law in Jihlava. Secondary School of Prof. Z. Matějček in Ostrava taught Roma studies as part of teaching social activities, it was included in the subject “work with minorities”.

Table 17 Several new training programmes for further education of teachers as well as for education of Roma children and pupils with a different mother tongue were accredited in 2020.

Organisation (ID No, name)	Name of the training event	Target group
71477543 Mgr. Michaela Veselá	P - Roma children at risk of social exclusion	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
00671274 Secondary School and Nursery School, Liberec, Na Bojišti 15, contributory organisation	Roma issues	teacher - prevention methodologist
		Upper primary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Educators in educational establishments
		teacher - prevention methodologist

25334514 Fakta s.r.o. - training facilities and establishments for further education of teachers	How to help Roma children at school	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Nursery school teachers
		Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Special school teachers
		Educators in educational establishments
		guidance counsellors
29145 CLU3V z.s.	Working with children/pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and with a different mother tongue	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Nursery school teachers
		Teacher assistants
		Educators in educational establishments
		Teachers - heads of after-school hobby clubs
		leisure time educators
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Socio-cultural aspect of teaching children and pupils with a different mother tongue	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Nursery school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Post-secondary vocational school teachers
		Psychologists
		Leisure time educators
Teacher assistants		
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Practical demonstrations from teaching Czech language to pupils with a different mother tongue in primary schools I	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Teacher assistants
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Practical demonstrations from teaching Czech language to pupils with a different mother tongue in secondary and post-secondary vocational schools I	Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Post-secondary vocational school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Psychologists
Teacher assistants		
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Practical demonstrations from teaching Czech literature to pupils with a different mother tongue in primary schools II	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Teacher assistants
		Grammar school teachers
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Practical demonstrations from teaching Czech literature to pupils with a different mother tongue in secondary and post-secondary vocational schools II	Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Post-secondary vocational school teachers
		Teacher assistants

08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Assessment and grading of pupils with a different mother tongue in humanities in primary school	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Teacher assistants
		Headteachers and directors of educational establishments
		Guidance counsellors
		Special pedagogues
8687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Assessment and grading of pupils with a different mother tongue in humanities in secondary and post-secondary vocational school	Psychologists
		Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Post-secondary vocational school teachers
		Teacher assistants
		Headmasters and directors of educational establishments
		Guidance counsellors
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Assessment and grading of pupils with a different mother tongue in natural sciences in primary school	Special pedagogues
		Psychologists
		Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Teacher assistants
		Headteachers and directors of educational establishments
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Assessment and grading of pupils with a different mother tongue in natural sciences in secondary and post-secondary vocational school	Guidance counsellors
		Special pedagogues
		Psychologists
		Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Post-secondary vocational school teachers
		Teacher assistants
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Socio-cultural aspect of teaching children and pupils with a different mother tongue – webinar	Headteachers and directors of educational establishments
		Guidance counsellors
		Special pedagogues
		Psychologists
		Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Nursery school teachers
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Socio-cultural aspect of teaching children and pupils with a different mother tongue – webinar	Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Post-secondary vocational school teachers
		Psychologists
		Leisure time educators
		Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers

		Teacher assistants
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Practical demonstrations from teaching Czech language to pupils with a different mother tongue in primary schools I – webinar	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Teacher assistants
		Grammar school teachers
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Practical demonstrations from teaching Czech language to pupils with a different mother tongue in secondary and post-secondary vocational schools I – webinar	Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Post-secondary vocational school teachers
		Teacher assistants
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Practical demonstrations from teaching Czech literature to pupils with a different mother tongue in primary schools II – webinar	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Teacher assistants
		Grammar school teachers
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Practical demonstrations from teaching Czech literature to pupils with a different mother tongue in secondary schools and post-secondary vocational schools II - webinar	Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Post-secondary vocational school teachers
		Teacher assistants
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Assessment and grading of pupils with a different mother tongue in humanities in primary school – webinar	Lower primary school teachers
		Upper primary school teachers
		Grammar school teachers
		Headteachers and directors of educational establishments
		Guidance counsellors
		Teacher assistants
		Special pedagogues
		Psychologists
08687242 Těšíme se do školy (Looking forward to school), association	Assessment and grading of pupils with a different mother tongue in humanities in secondary and post-secondary vocational school – webinar	Grammar school teachers
		Secondary vocational and apprentice school teachers
		Post-secondary vocational school teachers
		Headteachers and directors of educational establishments
		Guidance counsellors
		Teacher assistants
		Special pedagogues
		Psychologists

In the area of inclusive education, an amendment to Decree No 27/2016, on education of pupils with special educational needs and gifted pupils, as amended, taking effect on 1 January 2020, introduced the financing of teacher assistants in schools, classes or units established under Section 16 par. 9 of the School Act as standard positions, taking into account the type of the school and the disability of the children and pupils. The activity of the teacher assistant in the schools, classes and units of after-school clubs means that a visit to the educational counselling facility is not required. This step is intended to reduce the administrative burden, to finance the personal support in a systemic way and to increase the

certainty of the position both for the schools and after-school clubs and for the teacher assistants. The amendment concerns special education in nursery and primary schools, special primary schools, the preparatory grade of special primary schools, secondary One-year Practical Schools and Two-year Practical Schools, special units of after-school clubs, and classes of schools in educational establishments providing institutional care or detention care (called protective education). All changes were prepared on the basis of a broad and detailed discussion of MEYS with representatives of the professional public and the non-profit sector so that the decree proposal reflects as much as possible the raised comments and takes into account the specifics of the types of school and special educational needs. The educational conditions for pupils with special educational needs are regularly evaluated through analyses and based on statistical data. A methodological guideline was issued to facilitate the implementation of the Decree amendment¹⁴.

The Long-term plan for education and development of the education system of the Czech Republic 2019-2023 sets out strategic objectives that should significantly improve the quality of education. The priority objectives for inclusive education are:

- to streamline the system of educational counselling facilities by introducing unified procedures for providing counselling services, mainly in identification of special educational needs and exceptional gifts and in recommendation of supportive measures;
- to promote equal access to education at all levels of schools, which will enable every child, pupil and student to fully develop their abilities in the company of their peers;
- to commit to maximum development of the potential of all children and pupils, including the development of their creativity;
- to ensure equal access to education at all levels of schools and to reduce external selectivity of the system;
- to ensure a common approach by educational authorities, municipalities with extended powers and regions.

The Educational Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic up to 2030+ contains the strategic objective “To reduce inequality in access to quality education and enable maximum development of the potential of children, pupils and students” that weaves through the whole document. In the area of inclusive education, it seeks to achieve an education system that will provide fair chance of access to quality education for all.

Further education of teachers in inclusion is provided by an organisation directly managed by MEYS - the National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic.

MEYS and MLSA have issued a joint statement on the enrolment of children in compulsory pre-school education¹⁵. The recommendation addresses situations where the legal guardian does not enrol the child in a catchment-area or other nursery school, nor chooses individual pre-school education for the child. The purpose of this measure is to overcome the consequences of not fulfilling the obligation to enrol children in compulsory pre-school education, including situations that indicate a serious infringement or negligence of duties of legal guardians in caring for or upbringing a child.

¹⁴ <http://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/socialni-programy/metodicky-pokyn-k-novele-vyhlasky-c-27-2016-sb-o-vzdelavani>

¹⁵ <https://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/predskolni-vzdelavani/stanovisko-ministerstva-prace-a-socialnich-veci-a>.

Table 18 Qualified estimate of the number of Roma children in nursery schools and in preparatory classes of primary schools

Qualified estimate of the number of Roma children		Number
Total in nursery schools		6,954
- of that	under the age of five	2,757
	over the age of five	4,197
	With postponed compulsory school attendance	1,036
Total in preparatory classes of primary schools		897

As results from the qualified estimates for the 2020/2021 school year, nursery schools are educating 6,954 Roma children, of that 2,757 are under five years of age and 4,197 are more than 5 years old. Preparatory classes of primary schools accepted 897 Roma children and postponement of compulsory school attendance was recommended for 1,036 children. Against the 2019/2020 school year, the estimated number of Roma children with granted postponement of compulsory school attendance decreased (1,049 > 1,036) while the estimated number of Roma children educated in preparatory classes of primary schools increased (888 < 897). The estimated number of Roma children over the age of five in nursery schools also went up (4,126 < 4,197).

MEYS considers it important to increase the share of children involved in compulsory pre-school education, mainly its in-person form, and remove the obstacles causing the non-participation of the children in education. The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic supported the project “*Verifying the impacts of introducing compulsory last grade of pre-school education*”, aimed at mapping and describing the specific impacts of and obstacles to the implementation of compulsory pre-school education. Based on the results of the research, measures will be taken to increase the share of children involved in pre-school education, focusing on areas with social disparities. The research also seeks to identify measures that should be taken to ensure access of children to pre-school education in a nursery school near their place of residence because this way of fulfilling the duty of compulsory pre-school education of children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds is considered ideal. Other topics of the research include information and support for forming the attitudes of legal guardians, the approach of schools to education of children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, enrolment in nursery schools, involvement of outreach workers, financial support, more specific definition of the outputs of compulsory pre-school education, mainly as regards verification that the children have learnt the expected outputs in individual education etc.

Individual education is one of the ways of complying with the requirement of compulsory pre-school education. As of 30 September 2020, the statistical yearbook for school education indicated 2,400 individually educated children out of the total number of 109,686 five-year-olds in pre-school education¹⁶, i.e. 2.19%.

Section 34b of the School Act sets out that the nursery school headteacher recommends to the legal guardian of the child that is educated individually the areas in which the child should be educated. The areas are based on the framework educational programme for pre-school education. Subsequently, the nursery school verifies the level of learning of the expected outputs in each area in the 3rd to 4th month from the start of the school year, and can recommend the next steps in the education to the legal guardian where necessary. The legal guardian of the child that is individually educated is obligated to bring the child to the verification. The headteacher of the nursery school in which the child is accepted for pre-school education will terminate the individual education of the child if the legal guardian of the child does not bring the child to the verification. After the individual education of the child is terminated,

¹⁶ This includes children in nursery schools, preparatory classes of primary schools and in preparatory grades of special primary schools.

the child cannot be educated individually again. Some individually educated children attend pre-school clubs or children's groups (i.e. facilities not registered in the register of schools and educational establishments).

As support to nursery schools in a situation where a legal guardian announces a decision to fulfil the requirement of compulsory pre-school education of their child through individual education, and to prevent the education of children according to modified outputs, MEYS issued a Methodological Recommendation on the procedure of individual education of children in nursery schools and on verifying the achievement of the expected outputs¹⁷, which recommends making a written record of the verification of achievement of expected outputs, signed by the legal guardian of the child and a representative of the nursery school. The conditions, implementation and results of education are evaluated by the Czech School Inspectorate (CSI) based on criteria¹⁸ for the relevant school year. CSI also verifies compliance with legislation related to the provision of education and educational services. The above-mentioned project *Verifying the impacts of introducing compulsory last grade of pre-school education* also checks the option of taking measures that would define more specifically the outputs of compulsory pre-school education, mainly with regard to the verification of the achieved level of the expected outputs of learning in individual education.

Qualified estimates of the number of Roma pupils in primary schools

The facts assessed by the European Court of Human Rights (the Court) in the judgement of case *D.H. and others v the Czech Republic* were the following. According to data provided by the complainants, that were based on answers to questionnaires distributed in 1999 to headteachers of eight special and sixty-nine primary schools in Ostrava, the share of the Ostrava Roma included in special schools (schools existing at that time for pupils with such mental deficiencies that prevented them from being educated in a mainstream school; those schools were abolished in 2005) was 50.3%. According to data found by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (now European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights), more than a half of Roma children attended special schools in the Czech Republic. The Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities stated in the report of October 2005 that, according to unofficial estimates, the Roma formed up to 70% of the total number of pupils enrolled in special schools.

Detailed information on the current approach of MEYS to ensuring equal access of Roma pupils to education is contained in the Government report on execution of the *judgement D.H. and others v the Czech Republic* of June 2022, sent to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, based on an item of its decision of 3 December 2020 No CM/Del/Dec(2020)1390/H46-8.¹⁹

All regions made qualified estimates as of 30 September 2020, counting a total of 34,267 Roma pupils, i.e. 3.6% of the total number of primary school pupils. Year on year, this is an increase by 499 Roma pupils. If we consider the total increase in the number of primary school pupils, the Roma pupils make up 5.3% of that increase (the number of Roma pupils grew faster than the number of pupils from the majority population). That may be one of the reasons for the higher percentage of Roma pupils educated according to the Framework Educational Programme for primary education (FEP PE) with modified outputs (MO)²⁰ in 2020 as opposed to 2019 (see the table below and the comment).

¹⁷ <https://www.msmt.cz/file/50179/>

¹⁸ <https://www.csicr.cz/cz/Dokumenty/Kriteria-hodnoceni/Kriteria-hodnoceni-2020-2021>

¹⁹ The report on execution of the judgement is available at: [https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng/?i=DH-DD\(2022\)606E](https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng/?i=DH-DD(2022)606E).

²⁰ As regards the growing number of Roma pupils educated according to the modified outputs of the Framework Educational Programme for primary education (FEP PE MO), MEYS points out that it is a supportive measure ensuring a differentiated educational support exactly matching the individually differentiated needs, and evaluation of outcomes in education for all pupils with special educational needs regardless of their ethnic or social origin. While the cancelled FEP PE for light mental disability (LMD) established for all pupils with LMD the same

Table 19 The transfer of pupils from FEP PE LMD to FEP PE MO enabled the development of the maximum learning potential of each pupil in key areas in mainstream primary schools.

Educational programme	Number of Roma pupils		Share of Roma pupils (%)	
	2019/2020	2020/2021	2019/2020	2020/2021
FEP PE	32,686	33,631	96.8	98.1
Of that FEP PE MO	3,533	4,013	10.8	11.9
FEP PE for special schools	612	629	1.8	1.8
Total	33,768	34,267	100	100

Note: The table does not indicate pupils educated according to FEP PE LMD. For that reason, the error in the number and share of Roma pupils educated according to FEP PE MO was corrected for 2019.

If we compare the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 school years, there is a positive trend in the number of Roma pupils educated under the standard FEP PE, which increased year on year by 945 pupils (from 32,686 in 2019 to 33,631 Roma pupils in 2020). Primary schools educate 98.1% of Roma pupils according to the FEP PE. A year-on-year comparison shows a strong increase in the share of Roma pupils educated under the FEP PE (96.8% in 2019, 95.2% in 2018, 92.5% in 2017).

Out of the total number of Roma pupils educated under the unified FEP PE, 11.9% are educated under the FEP PE MO. The increase in the share of Roma pupils educated under the FEP PE MO copies the changes in the number of Roma pupils educated under the FEP PE (10.8% in 2019, 9.9% in 2018, 7.1% in 2017). The share is higher due to the full termination of the FEP PE for light mental disability, which ended in the 2019/2020 school year. Nevertheless, it is necessary to continue to monitor the rate of representation of Roma pupils in the FEP PE MO in the next years. The nature of FEP PE MO is different from the FEP PE for light mental disability, as it enables a differentiated approach to specific pupils, as described above.

The share of Roma pupils in all pupils educated according to FEP PE MO is 25.3% (in 2019, the share was estimated at 24.2%, in 2018 it was 27.5%). Looking only at pupils educated under FEP PE MO, the data again copy the oscillation of the above-mentioned trends. While the total number of pupils in that educational programme grew by 8.9% (from 14,572 to 15,870 pupils), the number of Roma pupils grew by 13.6% (from 3,533 to 4,013 pupils). This seemingly worse result must be interpreted in the context of the termination of the FEP PE LMD in the 2019/2020 school year, in which the last 470 Roma pupils of the final 9th grade were educated. So primary schools educate pupils only under the FEP PE MO and the grades educated under FEP PE LMD were gradually leaving but their pupils are no longer mentioned in the report. If we cleanse the data of the impact of the last year of the transitional period, the share of Roma pupils in the increase of pupils educated according to educational programmes for mental disability will be 10.3%. The interpretation of further developments will be based on the results of the research described below. For the sake of completeness please note that we are estimating quite a low absolute number of pupils, which may entail a higher impact of errors on the result.

The table below shows the numbers of Roma pupils educated under FEP PE MO, broken down to standard classes and classes established pursuant to Section 16 par. 9 of the School Act. The data indicate that the share of Roma pupils educated in standard classes oscillates around 74%. Please note that these are estimates with a certain imprecision and year-on-year variation. Therefore, we suggest monitoring longer-term trends. In any case, pupils are included in classes established pursuant to Section

reduced level in all educational areas without a differentiation of the needs of individual pupils, the FEP PE MO enables the pupils with LMD, based on a recommendation of an educational counselling facility, to use the modified outputs only in the areas where it is necessary for the given pupil. The education according to FEP PE MO has the same quality. It tailors the education to the needs of the pupils so that every pupil has a chance to experience success and excel. That is the goal of the individual approach and, on a broader scale, of the application of formative assessment.

16 par. 9 of the School Act only if their integration in a standard class is not possible, and strictly only with their parents' consent. If a parent disagrees, the pupil cannot be included in such class. The possible causes of the excessive representation of Roma pupils will be examined by the commissioned analysis aimed at finding out why the majority of Roma pupils educated under FEP PE MO is not educated in standard schools/classes, and identifying a strategy for MEYS to change the situation.

Table 20 Numbers of pupils educated under FEP PE MO

Numbers of pupils educated under FEP PE MO	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Total Roma pupils educated under FEP PE MO	3,450	3,533	4,013
Of that in classes established pursuant to Section 16 par. 9 of the School Act	2,519	2,573	3,038
i.e. the share (%) in the total number of Roma pupils educated under FEP PE MO	73.0	72.8	75.7

The number of Roma pupils educated in 2020 under the educational programme for special primary schools is 629. Only 1.8% of Roma pupils in primary schools are educated under that programme, the share did not increase year on year even though the total share of Roma pupils in primary schools grew.

Table 21 Numbers of schools and pupils in educational programmes

Numbers of schools and pupils in educational programmes	2019/2020		2020/2021	
	Number	Share (in %)	Number	Share (in %)
Number of primary schools	4,189	—	4,211	—
Total primary school pupils	952,946	—	962,348	—
- of that estimate of Roma pupils	33,768	3.5	34,267	3.6
Primary school pupils educated under FEP PE incl. MO	944,782	—	955,147	—
- of that an estimate of Roma pupils	32,686	3.5	33,631	3.5
Primary school pupils educated under FEP PE MO	14,572	—	15,870	—
Of that an estimate of Roma pupils educated under FEP PE MO	3,533	24.2	4,013	25.3
Primary school pupils educated under FEP PE for special primary schools	6,963	—	7,133	—
- of that an estimate of Roma pupils	612	8.8	629	8.8

The above data show a steady trend, with slight oscillations (compared to data from previous years), but the long-term trend will be key.

In recent years, applicants from among secondary school pupils have prevailed significantly. As scholarship is granted based on academic achievement, the success rate, i.e. the number of pupils and students continuing their studies in the following year, is increasing and ranges around 75%. In the 2019/2020 school year, 60 applications for a contribution from the Verda Foundation were submitted, and in the subsequent year, the number of applications grew to 68. In the selection procedure in 2020/2021, the Foundation selected 54 students and granted them a contribution in the total amount of CZK 425 thousand. Of that, CZK 332 thousand was disbursed (78% of the originally granted amount). The full contribution was paid to 43 students, 6 students received a half of the contribution and 5 students did not receive it at all. The reason was non-compliance with the conditions of the grant - e.g. a failure grade on the school certificate, a lower mark for conduct, not assessed/failed as overall assessment, not producing the required documents (certificates or confirmation of exams passed for higher education students). Out of the scholarship holders, 3 students studied a post-secondary vocational school and 6 students a higher education institution (2 successfully completed the p.s.

vocational school, 1 received a Bachelor's degree), the others advanced to the next year of study. The donors again include the Albatros Foundation that contributed CZK 126 thousand. The cooperation with the Albatros Foundation was enhanced, mainly through expanding the direct continuous interactive communication with students via social media and e-mail.

Table 22 Romani/Roma studies and higher education (2017-2022)

Name of the institution	Study programme
Faculty of Education, Masaryk University	Romani as an optional subject open to students of any study programme
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Fundamentals of Roma studies (lifelong learning)
Faculty of Education, Charles University	Roma integration, in the study programme Special Education
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Roma studies
Faculty of Arts, University of Pardubice	Subjects: The Roma in history and at present, Romani for anthropologists, Roma religiosity, Romani language course, Romani conversation and text reading

Other minority languages

Other minority languages are taught mostly in higher education institutions. The following table gives an overview of instruction in languages that are also minority languages.

Table 23 Other minority languages and higher education (2017-2022)

Name of the institution	Study programme
Bulgarian language	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	Bulgarian language and literature
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Slavonic studies, specialised in Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian studies, general and comparative Slavonic studies, Slovak studies
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, University of Pardubice	Slavonic studies of European Union countries - Bulgarian
Croatian language	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	Croatian language and literature
	Balkan studies
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Slavonic studies, specialised in Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian studies, general and comparative Slavonic studies, Slovak studies
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, University of Pardubice	Slavonic studies of European Union countries - Croatian studies
Hungarian language	
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Hungarian
	Central European studies
Faculty of Public Policies, Silesian University in Opava	Central European studies
Russian language	

Faculty of Education, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice	Foreign languages for European and international trade - Russian language
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	Translation of Russian
	Russian literature
	Russian studies
	Russian language and literature
Faculty of Education, Masaryk University	Russian language and literature teaching for secondary schools
	Foreign language lecturing - Russian (studied as a single subject)
	Russian language and literature teaching assistance for primary schools
	Russian language, focusing on education
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Russian language teaching for primary schools
	Russian philology
	Russian language and literature teaching in upper primary schools
Faculty of Education, University of Hradec Králové	Russian language and literature teaching for secondary schools
	Foreign languages for tourism - Russian
	Russian language, focusing on education
	Teaching in lower primary schools - Russian language
	Teaching in upper primary schools - Russian language and literature (studied in combination with another course)
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University	Teaching in secondary schools - Russian language and literature
	Russian and East European studies
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Russian language and literature
	Russian language, focusing on education
	Russian language teaching for secondary schools
	East European studies specialising in Russian studies, Ukrainian studies, Latvian studies, Lithuanian studies
Faculty of Education, Charles University	Russian language, focusing on education
	Russian Language Oriented at Education
	Training Teachers of General Subjects at Lower and Upper Secondary Schools - Russian Language
	Russian language teaching for upper primary and secondary schools
Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc	Russian philology
	Russian philology in the context of European culture and literature
	Russian literature
	Russian language
Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia in Plzeň	Russian language, focusing on education
	Russian language teaching for secondary schools
	Russian language teaching for primary schools

Slovak language	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	Paleoslavic and Slavic Languages
	Slovak language and literature
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Central European historical studies, focusing on Czech, Polish and Slovak history
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Slavonic studies, specialised in Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian studies, general and comparative Slavonic studies, Slovak studies
Serbian language	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	Serbian language and literature
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Southeast European studies
	Slavonic studies, specialised in Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Polish, Serbian studies, general and comparative Slavonic studies, Slovak studies
Ukrainian language	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	Ukrainian studies
	Ukrainian language and literature
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Southeast European studies
	East European studies specialising in Russian studies, Ukrainian studies, Latvian studies, Lithuanian studies
Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc	Ukrainian philology
	Ukrainian, focusing on economics, law and tourism
Vietnamese language	
Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University	Vietnamese studies
Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Ethnology, specialising in Vietnamese studies
	Languages of Asian and African countries
Faculty of Arts, Palacký University, Olomouc	Vietnamese philology

Further recommendations of the Committee of Ministers

Ensuring, in close co-operation with the representatives of the national minorities, that curricula, teacher training and teaching materials in mainstream education provide concrete information about the history and culture of the national minorities as well as their contribution to Czech society, taking into account their respective sensitivities, promoting critical thinking and the accommodation of multiple perspectives in all efforts.

At present, MEYS is revising the framework educational programmes so that, after the revision, they contain more detailed information on national minorities, including their geographical historical and

cultural realities. These topics should be taught in the 5th to 9th grade of (i.e. upper) primary education. MEYS also offered cooperation to experts in the issues of national minorities to work on the revision of the framework educational programmes, whereby it also responded to a request of the Polish minority.

Continuing, in co-operation with representatives of the Roma and the families concerned, taking measures to increase pre-school attendance by Roma children in mainstream institutions.

As mentioned above, MEYS and MLSA have issued a joint statement on the enrolment of children in compulsory pre-school education²¹. The recommendation addresses situations where the legal guardian does not enrol the child in a catchment-area or other nursery school, nor chooses individual pre-school education for the child. The purpose of this measure is to overcome the consequences of not fulfilling the obligation to enrol children in compulsory pre-school education, including situations that indicate a serious infringement or negligence of duties of legal guardians in caring for or upbringing a child.

Extending the offer of education in German as a minority language in different areas inhabited by the German minority, ensuring local continuity from pre-school to secondary education; examining, in co-operation with representatives of the Roma minority, ways of raising the interest in and, subsequently, extending the offer of Romani teaching in mainstream pre-school, primary and secondary education.

As mentioned above, in 2021-2022, a pilot project was implemented to start instruction in German in two classes of primary schools in Jablonec nad Nisou and in Cheb, in cooperation with the Office of the Government and MEYS. Similar efforts will be seen in the future, also in connection with extending the protection of the German language according to Part III. As regards the Romani teaching, unfortunately, we continue to identify barriers both on the part of the schools (lack of Romani lecturers) and mainly on the part of the Roma minority members who do not express interest in Romani being taught to their children. The issue of Romani teaching is covered in the Strategy of Roma equality, inclusion and participation (the Roma Integration Strategy) 2021–2030.

II.15 Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

The participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs, in particular those affecting them, is ensured at the central government level mainly through the activity of the Government Council for National Minorities. At the regional and local level, the participation is ensured through the activity of Committees for National Minorities. The specific needs of the Roma are also addressed by the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs.

Government Council for National Minorities

According to its Statute, the Council is a permanent advisory and proactive body of the Government for issues of national minorities and their members. As part of its responsibilities, the Council monitors compliance with the Constitution of the Czech Republic, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, international conventions on human rights and fundamental freedoms, that are binding for the Czech Republic, laws and other legal norms related to persons belonging to national minorities. The scope of powers of the Council is defined in Act No 273/2001, on the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and amending certain acts, as amended, by Government Regulation No 98/2002 laying down conditions and method of providing state budget subsidies to activities of

²¹ <https://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/predskolni-vzdelavani/stanovisko-ministerstva-prace-a-socialnich-veci-a>

national minority members and to support the integration of the Roma community members, by its Statute and Rules of Procedure.

There are 14 national minorities represented in the Council: the Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Rusyn, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. A permanent guest of the Council is a representative of the Jewish community that did not express interest in being considered a national minority as it derives its identity from its confession. In the period 2017-2022, the Council registered an application of the Georgian national minority that would like to join the Council. Its requirement is being assessed. In 2018, the Statute of the Council was amended. Newly, the term of office of the national minority representatives in the Council is four years, without a limitation to repeating the mandate²². That was to meet the requirement of some representatives of national minorities who criticised the limitation of the mandate to two consecutive terms of office.

At its meeting on 22 October 2019²³, the Council discussed a request of the German national minority for expanding the protection of the German language by Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and the possibility of introducing train station and train stop announcements in Polish in the Těšín Silesia. With respect to the former item, a new ad hoc working group was established in 2019. Its name was *Working group on the possibility of expanding the protection of the German language by Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages* (the WG). The new WG met for the first time on 16 December 2019. The output of the meeting was a request of the WG members for a more detailed justification of the requirement of the German minority representatives for higher protection of the German language by the end of February 2020. On 6 February 2020²⁴, the Council took note of information on the progress in preparations of the new Government regulation that will replace the current Government Regulation No 98/2002 laying down conditions and method of providing state budget subsidies to activities of national minority members and to support the integration of the Roma community members. At its meeting on 11 September 2020²⁵, the Council received information on progress in the case of the request of the German national minority for expanding the protection of the German language by Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The Working group on the possibility of expanding the protection of the German language by Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages met on 1 September 2020. The members of the WG received a Memorandum (justification of the request for protection expansion) from the German national minority, and a statement on the matter by the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages from the Council of Europe. Comments on the Memorandum were made by representatives of all ministries concerned (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), nevertheless, they agreed on the next steps in the matter.

On 8 January 2021²⁶, the Council met again and discussed information of the Ministry of Transport on the results of negotiations concerning the announcements in Polish at railway stations and stops. It was stated that the whole process was delayed. Another item on the agenda was information on progress in the case of expanding the protection of the German language by Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. In this matter, the Council adopted Resolution No 3/2021, supporting the efforts to protect more efficiently German as a national minority language traditionally used in the territory of the Czech Republic, and asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to submit the relevant proposal;

²² Government Resolution No 346 of 30 May 2018.

²³ <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-178156/>

²⁴ <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/zapis-ze-zasedani-rady-ze-dne-6--2--2020-179774/>

²⁵ <http://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-ze-dne-11--zari-2020-184342/>

²⁶ <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-ze-dne-8--ledna-2021-186451/>

the Minister was also asked to include in the proposal the previous recommendation of the Government Council for National Minorities on the protection of the literary Croatian language, emphasising the support of the Burgenland Croatian variety in line with Council Resolution No 172 of 26 April 2016 on item 1. At its meeting on 18 June 2021²⁷, the Council discussed information of the Ministry of Transport on the results of negotiations concerning the announcements in Polish at railway stations and stops. The Polish minority was dissatisfied with the form of the recording in the Polish language (an unsuitable dialect), nevertheless, the process was almost completed. Another meeting of the Council took place on 7 December 2021²⁸. An item on the agenda was information on progress in the case of expanding the protection of the German language by Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and protection of the Croatian language by Part II of the Charter. The material was reported to be in the inter-ministerial comment procedure. It was also stated that the *task of Polish language announcements at railway stations and stops*, with the recording corrected, was completed. The announcements are made in Polish in the whole territory inhabited by the Polish minority - in Těšín Silesia municipalities that have railway stations and stops and the relevant technology installed in them (some small stops do not provide announcements even in Czech because they are not equipped with loudspeakers). The announcements are made in municipalities:

- Mosty u Jablunkova stop / Mosty koło Jabłonkowa przystanek
- Mosty u Jablunkova / Mosty koło Jabłonkowa
- Bocanovice / Boconowice
- Návsí / Nawsie
- Hrádek / Gródek
- Bystřice / Bystrzyca
- Vendryně / Wędrynia
- Třinec centre / Trzyniec centrum
- Třinec / Trzyniec
- Třinec-Konská / Trzyniec-Końska
- Ropice stop / Ropica przystanek
- Český Těšín / Czeski Cieszyn
- Chotěbuz / Kocobędz
- Petrovice u Karviné / Piotrowice koło Karwiny

At the 18 October 2022 meeting, the Council discussed the Reflection on the results of the 2021 Population and Housing Census. A problem with citizens not indicating their nationality was identified. The question on nationality is *voluntary and open*, there is not a list to choose from. Since 2011, the form has enabled respondents to choose up to two nationalities. The form also indicates that the question is optional. That is one of the reasons why the number of people who do not declare any nationality increases. The reasons may vary, most often this topic seems *irrelevant* to the respondents in the present day, for another group it is so *sensitive* that they do not fill it in. A suggestion was raised at the meeting to calculate the quorum for identifying the number of members of a national minority not based on the total but only on those who declared a nationality. If that modification was made, the legislation would have to be amended (Act No 128/2000, on municipalities and Act No 129/2000, on regions). Nevertheless, a resolution was adopted on starting a dialogue on the possible amendment of the laws. The dialogue was initiated by the Czech Government Human Rights Commissioner. As regards

²⁷ <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/zapis-z-jednani-rady-vlady-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-18--6--2021-190020/>

²⁸ <https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/rnm/jednani-rady/jednani-rady-vlady-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-ze-dne-7--12--2021-194707/>

the proposal to expand the protection of the German language to Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the *comments on the material were settled*, while the largest amount of work was taken up by the preparation of a new explanatory memorandum on the material. The material was discussed and approved by the Government at its meeting on 14 December 2022.

Committee for national minorities

The speakers of regional or minority languages can use the enacted possibility to take an active part in addressing the matters that concern national minorities in committees for national minorities and in meetings of the Council.

Based on the 2021 public census, the legal conditions instituting the duty to establish a committee for national minorities were not met in any region of the Czech Republic (due to the decreasing number of persons indicating their nationality in the census, the persons declaring their belonging to a national minority do not reach 5% in any region).

The institutions ensuring the exercise of rights of national minority members in the regions in the period 2019-2022 are set out in the table below, listing the consultation mechanisms used for communication between national minorities and public administration. Out of the total five existing committees, four were established pursuant to Section 78 par. 2 of Act No 129/2000, on regions, as amended, and one was established beyond the obligation given by that Act. The situation in each region is detailed below.

Table 24 Committees, commissions and working groups in the regions (2019-2022)

Region	Consultation mechanism (committee, commission, working group)	Mandatory by law ²⁹
South Bohemian	-	
South Moravian	Committee for national minorities	NO
Karlovy Vary	Committee for national minorities	YES
Hradec Králové	-	
Liberec	Commission of the Liberec Region Council for national minorities, foreign nationals and social inclusion	NO
Moravian-Silesian	Committee for national minorities	YES
Olomouc	Working group Ethnic minorities and foreign nationals	NO
Pardubice	Commission of the Pardubice Region Council for integration of the Roma community and other ethnic groups	NO
Plzeň	Committee for social affairs	NO
City of Prague	Committee for national minorities	YES
	Advisory council for Roma minority affairs	NO
Central Bohemian	-	
Ústí nad Labem	Committee for national minorities	NO
Vysočina	Working group of service providers for national and ethnic minorities, homeless persons and crime victims	NO
Zlín	-	

The establishment of committees for national minorities in statutory cities and municipalities to institutionalise the exercise of the rights of national minority members again derives from the public census. The results of the 2021 public census again reduced the number of municipalities obligated to establish a committee for national minorities. The list of those municipalities is available on the Mol

²⁹ The conditions of Section 117 par. 3 of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities, as amended, were met for the legal obligation to establish a committee for national minorities.

website³⁰. The previous committees still worked in 2022 as the changes were made only after the municipal elections in the autumn of 2022.

The institutions ensuring the exercise of rights of national minority members in statutory cities in the period 2017-2022 are set out in the table below, listing the consultation mechanisms used for communication between national minorities and public administration. Out of the four committees, two were established pursuant to the law (Karviná and Třinec) and two (Brno and Chomutov) beyond the legal obligation, specifically Section 117 par. 3 of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities, as amended. Some other statutory cities establish consultation mechanisms with different names, e.g. commissions or councils.

Table 25 Committees, commissions and working groups in statutory cities

City	Consultation mechanism (committee, commission, council, working group)	Mandatory by law ³¹
Brno	Committee for national minorities	NO
České Budějovice	-	
Děčín	-	
Frýdek-Místek	-	
Havířov	-	
Hradec Králové	Commission for social, health and family policy	NO
Chomutov	Committee for national minorities	NO
Jablonec nad Nisou	-	
Jihlava	-	
Karlovy Vary	-	
Karviná	Committee for national minorities	YES
Kladno	-	
Liberec	Council for foreign nationals, national minorities and other ethnic groups	NO
Mladá Boleslav	Commission for integration of ethnic groups and national minorities	NO
Most	Commission for social affairs and national minorities	NO
Olomouc	-	
Opava	-	
Ostrava	-	
Pardubice	Community planning group: Foreign nationals, national and ethnic minorities	NO
Plzeň	Commission for social affairs and national minorities	NO
Prostějov	Working group for community planning: National minorities and foreign nationals	NO
Přerov	-	
Teplice	-	
Třinec	Committee for national minorities	YES
Ústí nad Labem	-	
Zlín	-	

³⁰ <https://www.mvcr.cz/odk2/clanek/informace-ke-zrizovani-vyboru-pro-narodnostni-mensiny-a-oznacovani-ulic-v-jazyce-narodnostni-mensiny-v-souvislosti-se-scitanim-lidu-domu-a-bytu-2021.aspx>

³¹ The conditions of Section 117 par. 3 of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities, as amended, were met for the mandatory obligation to establish a committee for national minorities.

The table below gives an overview of municipalities that established in the period 2017-2022 a committee for national minorities (or another body, such as a commission or working group), both as an obligation under Section 117 par. 3 of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities, as amended, and beyond that legal obligation. The table is compiled on the basis of data provided by regional authorities.

Table 26 Committees for national minorities or other advisory bodies at municipal level

Municipality	advisory bodies established pursuant to the law ³²
Aš	YES
Bílá Voda	NO
Bukovec	YES
Bystřice (Frýdek-Místek district)	YES
Česká Lípa	NO
Česká Třebová	NO
Český Těšín	YES
Dolní Lomná	YES
Hnojník	YES
Horní Suchá	YES
Hrádek	YES
Cheb	NO
Chotěbuz	YES
Jablunkov	YES
Kobylá nad Vidnavkou	NO
Košářska	YES
Milíkov	YES
Mosty u Jablunkova	YES
Návsí	YES
Nýdek	YES
Petrovice u Karviné	YES
Písečná (Frýdek-Místek district)	YES
Semněvice	NO
Smilovice (Frýdek-Místek district)	YES
Stonava	YES
Střítež	YES
Těrlicko	YES
Třanovice	YES
Vendryně	YES

Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs

An important body in the area of Roma integration is the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs (the Roma Council). It is a permanent advisory and proactive body of the Czech Government. It gathers, discusses and submits to the Czech Government information, background documents and proposals for creating and implementing the Government policies concerning the Roma. The Roma Council consists, on a parity basis, of members of the Czech Government or their representatives and other public administration representatives and representatives of civil society - the Roma.

Professional support to the Roma Council is provided by the joint office of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs and the secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities (the

³² The conditions of Section 117 par. 3 of Act No 128/2000, on municipalities, as amended, were met for the mandatory obligation to establish a committee for national minorities.

Council Office), which is part of the Human Rights Section of the Office of the Czech Government. The Council Office is a specialist centre for questions of Roma integration and for cooperation with representatives of civil society. The Council Office is the author and main implementer of the Strategy of Roma equality, inclusion and participation (the Roma Integration Strategy) 2021–2030.³³ It continuously monitors the implementation of the Strategy and reports on it to the Czech Government, the European Commission and the general public. For this purpose, it prepares annually a Report on the Situation of the Roma Minority, which it submits to the Czech Government³⁴.

It also actively engages civil society in the debate on the implementation of the Strategy and its revision, through its committees, working groups, meetings and workshops. The Council Office also acts as the National Contact Point for Roma Integration.

Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers for immediate action

Implementing the Strategy of Roma Integration 2021-2030, in close consultation with representatives of the Roma. The related action plans should include clear indicators permitting the monitoring and evaluation of the impact.

The Strategy was approved by the Government on 10 May 2021. The preparation of the Strategy closely involved Roma associations, as well as experts at individual level. The Strategy is available on the Office of the Government website in Czech and English.³⁵

Further recommendations of the Committee of Ministers

Continuously evaluating the effects of the education reform, including whether the assessments by school counselling facilities reflect the educational needs of Roma pupils in a correct way and whether the aim of inclusive teaching of Roma with non-Roma pupils is reached.

These aspects will be evaluated as part of performing the tasks of the Strategy of Roma equality, inclusion and participation (the Roma Integration Strategy) 2021–2030.

Detailed information on the current approach of MEYS to ensuring equal access of Roma pupils to education is contained in the Government report on execution of the *judgement D.H. and others v the Czech Republic* of June 2022, sent to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, based on an item of its decision of 3 December 2020 No CM/Del/Dec(2020)1390/H46-8.³⁶

Ensuring the effective participation of representatives of national minorities in public affairs at local level by establishing Committees for National Minorities in municipalities and regions where a sufficient number of persons belonging to national minorities resides and to review, in consultation with representatives of the national minorities, the functioning of such committees.

The functioning of the committees in municipalities up to 2022 is described above. According to the applicable legislation, the establishment of new committees in municipalities is tied to the results of the 2021 population and housing census and to municipal elections that took place in 2022. So the new committees are being established at the time of preparing this state report. The review of their functioning will be relevant in the following years.

³³ See https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/zalezitosti-romske-komunity/aktuality/strategie-rovnosti--zacleneni-a-participace-romu-strategie-romske-integrace-2021_2030-188413/.

³⁴ See <https://www.vlada.cz/scripts/detail.php?pgid=85>.

³⁵ https://www.vlada.cz/cz/ppov/zalezitosti-romske-komunity/aktuality/strategie-rovnosti--zacleneni-a-participace-romu-strategie-romske-integrace-2021_2030-188413/

³⁶ The report on execution of the judgement is available at: [https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng/?i=DH-DD\(2022\)606E](https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng/?i=DH-DD(2022)606E).

II.16 Article 16

The Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention.

The Czech Republic has not taken any measures described in Art. 16 of the Convention.

II.10 Article 17

- 1. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.*
- 2. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.*

The Czech Republic has not taken any measures contrary to Art. 17 of the Convention. Persons belonging to national minorities and their organisations can, in the Czech Republic, freely develop foreign contacts and cross-border cultural cooperation. The Slovak, Polish and German minorities are very active in this regard.

For more detailed information see Chapter II.18 Article 18.

II.18 Article 18

- 1. The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States, in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.*
- 2. Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.*

The Czech Republic concludes bilateral and multilateral agreements with other states, in particular those of origin of the largest or traditional national minorities.

Based on bilateral agreements with neighbouring states, representatives of ministries meet regularly to evaluate the cooperation to date, including cross-border cooperation, and plan joint projects for the upcoming period. An example can be the Czech-Bavarian or the Czech-Saxon mixed commissions. Regular meetings are also held between representatives of ministries and local authorities in the Czech-Polish mixed commission for cross-border cooperation, same as meetings of the programme boards of the Czech-Polish forum, the task of which is to promote further development and intensification of Czech-Polish relations.

Czech-Polish cooperation

Under the programme INTERREG V-A Czech Republic - Poland, the Pedagogical Centre Český Těšín (PC ČT) is a partner of the flagship project "Increasing the language competences of future school-leavers on the cross-border labour market" (lead partner - Palacký University in Olomouc, partners - PC ČT and Uniwersytet Wrocławski). Workshops are prepared for the future school-leavers from the Czech Republic and Poland to develop communication competences, promote learning of neighbouring languages and mutual learning about both cultures.

In programme INTERREG V-A Czech Republic-Poland, PC ČT is a partner in project „akcent@net“ (lead partner – Institut Euroschola in Třinec, Silesian University in Katowice and the European grouping for territorial cooperation NOVUM). Along the full length of the Czech-Polish border, in all euroregions, events will be implemented up to 2021 under 4 main activities: networking - building networks among Czech and Polish schools, job-shadowing - teacher exchange stays, on-line consultations for Czech-Polish cooperation, and creating a Czech-Polish publication called “Mosaic of cultures”.

“Traditions and customs of the region” - a project under the programme INTERREG V-A Czech Republic-Poland, the Fund for Microprojects, deals with regional education in the Czech-Polish border area of Těšín Silesia and aims to present traditions and customs of the region in each season of the year.

Czech-Slovak cooperation

Cross-border cultural exchange with Slovakia (under the responsibility of the MoC Department of International Relations) takes place pursuant to the applicable cultural agreements and implementing programmes. In the case of the Slovak implementing programme, the contracting parties undertook to support, within their powers, the cultural activities of the Slovak national minority living in the Czech Republic and the Czech national minority living in the Slovak Republic.

Cross-border cooperation with the Slovak Republic was influenced by the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the independent Czechoslovak State, falling on 2018, so many joint projects referred to that event. The cross-border cooperation programme INTERREG V-A Slovak Republic - Czech Republic, financed by EU funds, was underway.

Czech-German and Czech-Austrian cooperation

The Ministry of Culture cooperates with various partners in German teaching, mainly with the *Goethe Institute*.

On 11 May 2021, the Education Department of the Plzeň Regional Authority and the *Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic* organised, in cooperation with MEYS and the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe, a two-day online training for German language teachers on teaching German using the CLIL method. The *Assembly of German Associations in the Czech Republic* in cooperation with the German embassy, the Goethe Institute and other partners active in teaching German organised, during the pandemic, online meetings to support German teaching and to support teaching German as the language of a national minority, called Austausch-Kaffe. There were 4 meetings in total, attended by MEYS representatives.

The MEYS representatives take part in regular meetings of the partners of the *Šprechtíme* campaign, to which MEYS granted its auspices. It is a significant project, supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Embassy of the Republic of Austria in the Czech Republic, and representing a joint action plan to support German teaching in the Czech Republic.

The Czech-German activities are extensive also in extracurricular youth initiatives, such as the Coordination Centre of Czech-German Youth Exchanges TANDEM in Plzeň, supported also from MEYS resources. The coordination centres provide advisory services and support governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations of both countries in implementing and intensifying Czech-German youth exchanges and international cooperation in working with young people. TANDEM operates nationwide. The aim of its activity is the meeting of young people. TANDEM offers financial support towards Czech-German meetings of children and youth mainly in the extracurricular and pre-school area, it implements the Practical Training Support Programme and it mediates the European Voluntary Service in Germany. Other important tasks of TANDEM are mediation of contacts between Czech and German organisations and support for their partnerships.

Czech-Croatian cooperation

On 23 November 2022, the Czech Minister of Culture Martin Baxa and the Croatian Minister of Culture and Media Nina Obuljen Koržinek met at the Ministry of Culture in Prague and signed a new Programme of Cultural Cooperation between both ministries (the previous programme had ended). The Programme will be valid until 31 December 2025 and then it will be automatically extended until a new programme takes effect.

The Czech-Croatian minority cooperation is interesting in that in each of the states, there is a traditional autochthonous minority of the other state (concentrated in a relatively small rural area, which makes it compact and prospering), and that is unique for the Czech Republic.