

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 29 January 2019

MIN-LANG (2018) 25

**EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Report of the Committee of Experts  
presented to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe  
in accordance with Article 16 of the Charter**

**Fourth Report**

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages provides for a control mechanism to evaluate how the Charter is applied in a State Party with a view to, where necessary, making recommendations for improving their legislation, policy and practices. The central element of this procedure is the Committee of Experts, set up under Article 17 of the Charter. Its principal purpose is to report to the Committee of Ministers on its evaluation of compliance by a Party with its undertakings, to examine the real situation of regional or minority languages in the State and, where appropriate, to encourage the Party to gradually reach a higher level of commitment.

To facilitate this task, the Committee of Ministers adopted, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, an outline for periodical reports that a Party is required to submit to the Secretary General. This outline requires the State to give an account of the concrete application of the Charter, the general policy for the languages protected under Part II and, in more precise terms, all measures that have been taken in application of the provisions chosen for each language protected under Part III of the Charter. The Committee of Experts' first task is therefore to examine the information contained in the periodical report for all the relevant regional or minority languages on the territory of the State concerned. The periodical report shall be made public by the State in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 2.

The Committee of Experts' role is to evaluate the existing legal acts, regulations and real practice applied in each State for its regional or minority languages. It has established its working methods accordingly. The Committee of Experts gathers information from the respective authorities and from independent sources within the State, in order to obtain a fair and just overview of the real language situation. After a preliminary examination of a periodical report, the Committee of Experts submits, if necessary, a number of questions to each Party to obtain supplementary information from the authorities on matters it considers insufficiently developed in the report itself. This written procedure is usually followed up by an on-the-spot visit by a delegation of the Committee of Experts to the State in question. During this visit the delegation meets bodies and associations whose work is closely related to the use of the relevant languages, and consults the authorities on matters that have been brought to its attention. This information-gathering process is designed to enable the Committee of Experts to evaluate more effectively the application of the Charter in the State concerned.

Having concluded this process, the Committee of Experts adopts its own report. Once adopted by the Committee of Experts, this evaluation report is submitted to the authorities of the respective State Party for possible comments within a given deadline. Subsequently, the evaluation report is submitted to the Committee of Ministers, together with suggestions for recommendations that, once adopted by the latter, will be addressed to the State Party. The full report also contains the comments which the authorities of the State Party may have made.

## CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Chapter 1 The situation of the regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic – Recent developments and trends</b> .....	<b>5</b>
1.1 <b>General developments in policies, legislation and practice concerning the regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic</b> .....	<b>5</b>
1.2 <b>The situation of the individual regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Chapter 2 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and recommendations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>2.1 German</b> .....	<b>10</b>
2.1.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of German .....	10
2.1.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of German in the Czech Republic .....	11
<b>2.2 Romani</b> .....	<b>12</b>
2.2.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Romani .....	12
2.2.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Romani in the Czech Republic .....	13
<b>2.3. Moravian Croatian</b> .....	<b>14</b>
2.3.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Moravian Croatian .....	14
2.3.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Moravian Croatian in the Czech Republic .....	15
<b>2.4 Polish</b> .....	<b>16</b>
2.4.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Polish .....	16
2.4.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Polish in the Czech Republic .....	19
<b>2.5 Slovak</b> .....	<b>20</b>
2.5.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Slovak .....	20
2.5.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Slovak in the Czech Republic .....	23
<b>Chapter 3 [Proposals for] Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>Appendix I: Instrument of Ratification</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Appendix II: Comments from the Czech authorities</b> .....	<b>27</b>

## Executive Summary

This fourth evaluation report by the Committee of Experts is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts' on-the-spot visit to the Czech Republic in September 2018.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages entered into force in the Czech Republic in 2007 and applies to the following languages: German, Moravian Croatian, Polish, Romani, and Slovak.

The Czech Republic has made progress in the implementation of its undertakings under the Charter, notably regarding the financing of cultural activities related to minority languages. A new multilingual television programme tends to enhance the atmosphere of respect, tolerance and mutual understanding between the linguistic groups of the country.

The aim of state-financed grants is to promote the academic study of minority languages and support the implementation of the Charter. Important examples are the development of teaching material and the publication of a Romani dictionary.

Education using the minority language as the medium of instruction is organised in Polish. Due to the fact that Czech and Slovak languages are mutually intelligible, the interest of parents in Slovak medium education is low and no Slovak-medium pre-school, primary and secondary education therefore exists.

Concerning the use of the regional or minority languages by judicial authorities, the situation has not changed. Art. 9. Paragraph 1 a ii of the Charter applies to Part III languages Polish and Slovak and creates an obligation to guarantee the right of the accused to use his or her minority language, irrespective of his or her knowledge of Czech and involving no extra expenses.

As a result of the amendment of the Municipalities Act, minority associations active at least for 5 years in a given municipality can also request the use of bilingual place names from the authorities. Until the modification of the Act, only local National Minority Committees enjoyed this right. However, such requests can only be formulated if, according to the last census, the ratio of the respective national minority reaches 10% of the local population. This threshold hinders the application of the Charter in municipalities where the ratio of the minority language speakers falls below 10%.

Representatives of all regional or minority languages participate in the work of the Government Council for National Minorities.

## Chapter 1 The situation of the regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic – Recent developments and trends

1. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (hereafter referred to as “the Charter”) is a treaty of the Council of Europe putting obligations on its States Parties to protect and promote the country’s traditional minority languages in all fields of public life: education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, and transfrontier exchanges. The Czech Republic signed the Charter on 9 November 2000 and ratified it on 15 November 2006. The Charter entered into force in the Czech Republic on 1 March 2007 and applies to the following languages: German, Moravian Croatian, Polish Romani, and Slovak. Polish and Slovak receive protection under both Part II (Article 7) and Part III (Articles 8-14).

2. Article 15 (1) of the Charter requires States Parties to submit three-yearly reports on the implementation of the Charter. The Czech authorities submitted their fourth periodical report on 6 March 2018. This fourth evaluation report of the Committee of Experts is based on the information contained in the periodical report and statements made by representatives of the speakers of the minority languages during the on-the-spot visit (17-20 September 2018) pursuant to Article 16 (2) of the Charter.

3. Chapter 1 of this evaluation report focuses on the general developments and trends regarding the regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic and the situation of these languages. It examines in particular the measures taken by the Czech authorities to respond to the recommendations made by the Committee of Experts and the Committee of Ministers at the end of the third monitoring cycle and also highlights new issues. Chapter 2 provides a detailed overview of the state of implementation of each undertaking of the Czech Republic in respect of the given language as well as the recommendations addressed to the Czech authorities. On the basis of its evaluation, the Committee of Experts proposes, in Chapter 3, recommendations to the Committee of Ministers to be addressed to the Government of the Czech Republic, as provided in Article 16 (4) of the Charter.

4. As far as the detailed legal examination of each undertaking is concerned, the Committee of Experts refers to its **third evaluation report on the application of the Charter in the Czech Republic (ECRML (2015) 6<sup>1</sup>)**. The changes in the legal setup are presented in this report.

5. This report is based on the political and legal situation prevailing at the time of the Committee of Experts’ on-the-spot visit to the Czech Republic in September 2018. This evaluation report was adopted by the Committee of Experts on 23 November 2018.

6. In the chapter on Part III of the fourth periodical report, the Czech authorities also included information about the German and Romani languages, which are covered by Part II only. This information, which points to possible compliance with several Part III provisions concerning German and Romani, was taken into account by the Committee of Experts in its examination of Part II. Furthermore, in a statement submitted to the Committee of Experts, the umbrella association of the German minority stated that it will propose to the Czech authorities to apply Part III of the Charter to German. The Committee of Experts reiterates that a State Party has the possibility to improve the status of a regional or minority language under the Charter and invites the Czech authorities to examine this matter in cooperation with the German speakers.

### 1.1 General developments in policies, legislation and practice concerning the regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic

7. The Government of the Czech Republic should be commended for its welcoming and open approach towards the recommendations of the COMEX, as well as the detailed Report about the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic issued in 2018 which served as a reference for numerous supplementary information used in the present report.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/16806dcc93>

8. Since the last monitoring round, the Czech Republic introduced several measures which made the implementation of the Charter for the protection of minority languages easier:

9. The amendment of the Schools Act (82/2015 Sb) established a new system of support of children with special educational needs based on their inclusion in mainstream education. The obligatory pre-school classes have been introduced and the new Roma Integration Strategy has shown the perspective of teaching the pupils in the Romani language.

10. The amendment of the Law on Municipalities (Act No. 128/2000) extended the category of those who may apply for topographical signs in the language of the national minority from the committees to national minorities to their associations.

11. There is a system of governmental grants for activities supporting the development of minority languages and the minorities' speakers are represented in the Governmental Council for National Minorities.

12. The 10% clause for establishing committees on national minorities remains a challenge. It still influences the implementation of several of the rights enshrined in the Charter – e.g. to install topographical signs for languages protected under Part III of the Charter, or the use of the minority language in contact with an administrative body. Furthermore, there is the formulation of the criminal and civil procedures which make the use of the minority language dependent on not closely defined “needs” in the procedures, as well as the system of grants based on an annual allocation of resources which makes the planning of cultural activities difficult.

13. However, in principle, the situation of implementation of the Charter in the Czech Republic is satisfactory; the government might even discuss the possibility of extending the instrument of ratification for German as a Part III language.

#### ***Use of the regional or minority languages in education***

14. Minority language education is carried out according to different educational models in the Czech Republic. The Schools Act allows the introduction of minority language education either on the initiative of the committee for national minorities, or by decision of the school director upon the request of pupils or their parents. Polish is used as the language of instruction in pre-school, primary and secondary education. German, as the language of instruction for several subjects, is present in primary and one state-owned secondary school, and in a few private institutions. Romani is taught in only two institutions and is not a language of instruction in any school. The initiatives to launch primary education in Slovak remain unsuccessful due to the lack of parental interest. Besides research on minority languages, universities offer a wide range of Polish, Slovak, German, Romani and some Moravian Croatian related subjects. The Roma Integration Strategy, adopted by the Czech Government focuses on appropriate teaching of Romani and Czech for Romani children. The Committee of Experts welcomes the amendment to the Schools Act which introduces a compulsory year of pre-school education from the 2017-2018 school year. This is free of charge and is expected to help eliminate the risk of unjustified Roma pupil segregation. Moravian Croatian is not taught in any form, or at any level. The Committee of Experts reiterates its findings, as expressed in its previous report, that the authorities should encourage parents and pupils to choose minority language education, and schools to offer it. The authorities should also take measures to make families aware of the advantages of learning minority languages. More emphasis should be put on the teaching of history and culture of national minorities in Czech general education.

#### ***Use of the regional or minority languages by judicial authorities***

15. In its second and third evaluation reports, the Committee of Experts urged the Czech authorities to remove from legislation the condition that a person must declare that he or she does not have a command of Czech before they can use a minority language in criminal proceedings. Concerning the use of the regional or minority languages by judicial authorities, the situation has not changed. The Committee of Experts reiterates that Art. 9 Paragraph 1 a ii of the Charter applies to Part III languages Polish and Slovak and creates an obligation for the judiciary to guarantee the right of the accused to use his or her minority language independently of his or her Czech knowledge and

involving no extra expenses. The fact that their speakers are fluent in the official majority language does not mean that these languages should not be actively promoted.

#### ***Use of the regional or minority languages by administrative authorities***

16. The use of minority languages before administrative authorities is possible. Minority language place names and topographical signs are used in communities where 10% of the residents were registered as members of a national minority. This requirement hampers the continuous application of the Charter, especially in regions where the number of speakers fell under 10%, according to the last censuses but can still be considered sufficient for the application of the Charter.

17. The local authorities are again encouraged to apply the Charter where there is a demand, irrespective of thresholds.

#### ***Use of the regional or minority languages in the media***

18. Concerning printed media in Romani, the following periodicals benefited from State grants: Romano hangos (Roma Voice), taking the format of a newspaper format, is published 17 to 20 times per year; Kereka (Circle), a journal for children and young people, is published 7 to 10 times per year; and Romano vodí (Roma Soul). Furthermore, there is a scientific journal called Romano džaniben (Romani Knowledge) which is published bi-annually and edited by the staff of Romani Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. Concerning printed media in the German language, the monthly LandesECHO received financial support. In addition, two regional periodicals were supported, namely Heimatruf (Voice of the Homeland) and Troppauer Nachrichten (Opava Newsletter). On the initiative of the representatives of national minorities in the Council, two programmes for and about minorities were produced by public service media (Czech Television and Czech Radio) in the reporting period. The new programmes are intended to enhance mutual understanding and tolerance between national minorities. The Polish speakers can tune in to a 25-minute Czech-Polish Radio programme 5 times per week. Slovak speakers can tune in to a news magazine lasting 55 minutes once a week nationwide and for 15 minutes twice a week on regional radio channels partly in Slovak, and partly in Czech. A TV programme, broadcast entirely in Polish a few minutes per week, is considered insufficient by the language speakers. Despite the introduction of a new monthly television programme for and on national minorities called Sousedé (Neighbours), the presence of German, Romani and Moravian Croatian in the mass media remains very limited. The austerity measures in the Czech public media are partly compensated by the increasing use of new media in regional or minority languages. These are used mostly for the exchange of news, information and culture. On the other hand, cases of hate speech in blogs were also reported by the speakers.

#### ***Use of the regional or minority languages in cultural activities and facilities***

19. The value of grants designed for the support of cultural activities related to minority languages increased during the reporting period. The presence of foreign financial support is also significant. "The House of National Minorities" in Prague contributes actively to the establishment and maintenance of links and exchanges between the groups using regional or minority languages.

#### ***Use of the regional or minority languages in transfrontier exchanges***

20. The government reported about cross-border cultural exchanges with Slovakia, Poland and Germany taking place in accordance with the existing cultural agreements and implementation programmes.

#### ***Awareness-raising***

21. The new television broadcast programme Sousedé (Neighbours) aims to enhance the atmosphere of respect, tolerance and mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country.

## 1.2 The situation of the individual regional or minority languages in the Czech Republic

22. The complex situation of the **German** language is affected by history. In the Czech school system, German is offered primarily as a foreign language. German as a minority language is taught in some private nursery schools, primary and secondary schools. Several public primary and secondary schools offer German as a language of instruction in selected subjects. The F. X. Šalda (public) Grammar School in Liberec has a German section where subjects included in “matura” exams are taught in German. The school offers, in addition to the Czech, an official German graduation, benefiting from the funding of the German and Czech governments and the involvement of teaching staff seconded from Germany.

23. German is not used before courts or administrative authorities as a minority language in the Czech Republic. The Committee of Experts learnt during the OSV that because of historical reasons, some German speakers still might feel intimidated using the language in public.

24. Printed periodicals in German, cultural events and festivals reflecting the German language and culture benefit from the annual governmental grant programmes, together with the support coming from Germany.

25. The local authorities support the activities of German associations, e.g. by offering a building for community use. Apart from historical street name inscriptions in the centre of Prague, there is no progress in the field of displaying bilingual place names in Czech and German. Radio and television broadcasting did not increase significantly since the last monitoring period. Cross-border exchanges exist in the field of education, especially between some Czech and German secondary schools.

26. The Government’s Roma Integration Strategy (2014-2020) intends to provide effective support for the use of **Romani**. However, Romani still has only a symbolic (low) presence in education and in radio and television. The Romani language is taught in two institutions, in the Florián Bayer primary state school in Kopřivnice as part of the subject “Multicultural education” and in the Jihlava secondary vocational private school of management, at the rate of one lesson a week. Most parents still share the prevailing general opinion – also shared by educational specialists – that immersion in a completely Czech language environment is the best way for Roma pupils to learn Czech. This situation did not change since the last report. The Committee of Experts learned about cases where pedagogical-psychological experts discouraged Roma pupils to speak Romani in order to properly learn Czech. There is still a lack of Romani speaking teachers and teaching assistants. Romani is a university subject in several institutions. Research on the language is conducted in the Department of Central European Studies at the Charles University in Prague. There is a grant scheme under the title: “Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages”. It provides support for a magazine focused on Romani studies, teaching material and the Olah Romani dictionary, a project developed by the Department of Central European Studies of the Charles University in Prague. Annual organised cultural events and festivals are benefiting from state grants, but transnational exchanges in the fields covered by the Charter should be promoted.

27. **Moravian Croatian** is used only in private life and in a cultural context. Moravian Croatian is not present in education. An inter-ministerial working group has been established which is in charge of preparing the modification of the ratification instrument in order to explicitly mention Moravian Croatian. The grant scheme “Support for the Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages” provided funding for a cultural heritage project, prepared by the Association of Croats in the Czech Republic. The reconstruction of the Museum of Moravian Croats in Jevišovka benefited considerably from a government grant. The establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups in the country should be encouraged and transnational exchanges in the fields covered by the Charter should be promoted. Representatives of the Moravian Croatian speakers participate in the work of the Government Council for National Minorities.

28. The situation of **Polish** remains satisfactory in general. Pre-school, primary and secondary school education is available in the Polish language, according to the Framework Educational Programme. The number of pupils attending primary school education being taught in Polish has increased. Universities offer a wide range of Polish studies, from language and literature to Polish for business, or secondary school teacher training. Polish is offered as a subject in adult or further

education. In cooperation with the Czech and Polish education ministries, the Polish Teachers Association offers courses for teachers from Polish minority schools. Polish courses are offered in public and private institutions.

29. Requests and evidence, written or oral, submitted in Polish must be accepted in criminal proceedings. Litigants before civil and administrative courts have the right to use Polish. According to the law, interpreters will be provided when needed and costs shall be borne by the State. The possibility also exists to use Polish in dealing with administrative authorities, however, speakers are not encouraged to use their minority language. The government did not provide practical examples on the use of Polish by regional or local authorities in debates in their assemblies as requested in the previous monitoring cycle. During the reporting period, one locality benefited from the Charter Grant Programme for the installation of bilingual signs.

30. The 25-minute news programme Kwadrans has been broadcast by the public Czech Radio Ostrava in Polish, 5 times a week. Currently two regular programmes exist on public Czech Television in which Polish is present: Hranice dokořán - Rozmówki polsko-czeskie (Borders Wide Open) is a bilingual programme about the co-existence of people in the border areas. It is broadcast for 25 minutes daily. The language of the programme is mostly Czech without Polish subtitles, however the Polish-speaking co-reporter is subtitled in Czech. Ostrava regional television broadcasts the only entirely Polish language programme with Czech subtitles: Zajímavosti z regionu - Wiadomości w języku polskim (Curiosities from the Region), lasting 6 minutes per week. Two Polish newspapers received public funds in the monitoring period, Głos Ludu (published 3 times a week) and Zwrot. European rules on cross-border television are implemented. Cultural activities promoting Polish as well as libraries and museums are benefiting from state budget funds. Silesian Museum collects and preserves works related to Polish and cooperates with the Ministry of Culture in the implementation of the objectives of the Charter. Těšín Theatre/Teatr Cieszyński, which has both a Czech and Polish company, benefits from year-round support for cultural activities in Polish abroad, mainly in Poland. As in the previous monitoring cycle, the authorities reported on the support of the participation of amateur artistic groups in cultural events organised in Poland.

31. **Slovak** and Czech are mutually intelligible. Slovak is treated equally with Czech in public life. The Committee of Experts reiterates its findings expressed in the last evaluation report that this should not prevent at least some presence of Slovak at pre-school and primary levels, in line with the ratification. Furthermore, according to the Charter, the authorities should be pro-active in raising the awareness of the parents and informing them about the various possibilities for their children to receive minority language education. The Committee of Experts was informed about projects and grants available to facilitate the teaching of Slovak. Universities offer a range of Slovak studies, including language, literature and history. There are no practical obstacles to the use of Slovak in the judiciary and in public services. Further proactive measures have to be taken to increase the use of Slovak in mass media. The Documentation and Museum Centre of the Slovak National Minority publishes magazines and media projects. Slovak Literary events, cultural activities including the participation in foreign festivals - mainly in the Slovak Republic - are equally supported.

## Chapter 2 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and recommendations

### 2.1 German

#### 2.1.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of German

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of the Czech Republic concerning German <sup>2</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
<b>Part II of the Charter</b>						
<b><i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i></b>						
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>						
7.1.a	recognition of German as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of German	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote German		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of German, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using German</li> <li>• establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups</li> </ul>	=				
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of German at all appropriate stages		=			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of German to learn it	=				
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on German at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of German	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of German	=				
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country</li> <li>• promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to German among the objectives of education and training</li> <li>• encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to German among their objectives</li> </ul>		=			
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses German</li> <li>• establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to German</li> </ul>	=				

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

<sup>2</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: [http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/\(treaty No. 148\)](http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/(treaty%20No.%20148)).

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### **2.1.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of German in the Czech Republic**

The Committee of Experts encourages the Czech authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.1.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process. The following overview presents the Committee of Experts’ recommendations of the previous monitoring cycles which the Czech Republic has not yet implemented and the recommendations of the current monitoring cycle. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Czech Republic<sup>[1]</sup> remain valid in their own right.

#### **I. Recommendations for immediate action**

<b>a. Take further steps to make teaching in or of German available as a minority language</b>
--

#### **II. Further recommendations**

- b. Create favourable conditions and adopt measures to facilitate the public use of German
- c. Promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to German among the objectives of education, training and the mass media

---

<sup>[1]</sup> CM/RecChL(2009)7 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45)  
CM/RecChL(2013)1 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb);  
CM/RecChL(2015)5 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e)

## 2.2 Romani

### 2.2.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Romani

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking <sup>3</sup> :						
Article	Undertakings of the Czech Republic concerning Romani <sup>3</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
<b>Part II of the Charter</b> <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>						
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>						
7.1.a	recognition of Romani as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Romani	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Romani		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Romani, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life		=			
7.1.e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Romani</li> <li>• establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups</li> </ul>	=				
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Romani at all appropriate stages		=			
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Romani to learn it					=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Romani at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Romani	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Romani			=		
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country</li> <li>• promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romani among the objectives of education and training</li> <li>• encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romani among their objectives</li> </ul>		=			
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Romani</li> <li>• establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Romani</li> </ul>		=			

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

<sup>3</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/148> (treaty No. 148).

## 2.2.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Romani in the Czech Republic

The Committee of Experts encourages the Czech authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.2.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process. The following overview presents the Committee of Experts’ recommendations of the previous monitoring cycles which the Czech Republic has not yet implemented and the recommendations of the current monitoring cycle. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Czech Republic<sup>[1]</sup> remain valid in their own right.

### I. Recommendations for immediate action

**a. Examine, in co-operation with the speakers, ways of introducing Romani into mainstream education**

### II. Further recommendations

- b. Continue taking measures to raise awareness of the benefits of promoting Romani within the Roma community
- c. Create favourable conditions and adopt measures to facilitate the use of Romani in public life, in co-operation with the representatives of the speakers
- d. Continue to take measures in order to eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion or restriction of preference relating to the use of Romani
- e. Promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Romani among the objectives of education, training and the mass media
- f. Take measures to strengthen the presence of Romani on radio and television
- g. Take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use Romani

<sup>[1]</sup> CM/RecChL(2009)7 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45)  
 CM/RecChL(2013)1 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb);  
 CM/RecChL(2015)5 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e)

## 2.3. Moravian Croatian

### 2.3.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Moravian Croatian

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of the Czech Republic concerning Moravian Croatian <sup>4</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
<b>Part II of the Charter</b>						
<b>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</b>						
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>						
7.1.a	recognition of Moravian Croatian as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Moravian Croatian	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Moravian Croatian		=			
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Moravian Croatian, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life					=
7.1.e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Moravian Croatian</li> <li>• establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups</li> </ul>	=				
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Moravian Croatian at all appropriate stages					=
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Moravian Croatian to learn it					=
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Moravian Croatian at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Moravian Croatian	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Moravian Croatian	=				
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country</li> <li>• promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Moravian Croatian among the objectives of education and training</li> <li>• encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Moravian Croatian among their objectives</li> </ul>					=
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Moravian Croatian</li> <li>• establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Moravian Croatian</li> </ul>	=				

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

<sup>4</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: [http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/\(treaty No. 148\)](http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/(treaty%20No.%20148)).

### **2.3.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Moravian Croatian in the Czech Republic**

The Committee of Experts encourages the Czech authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.3.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process. The following overview presents the Committee of Experts’ recommendations of the previous monitoring cycles which the Czech Republic has not yet implemented and the recommendations of the current monitoring cycle. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Czech Republic<sup>[1]</sup> remain valid in their own right.

#### **I. Recommendations for immediate action**

<b>a. Identify forms and means, including new media, for the revitalisation of Moravian Croatian</b>
--

#### **II. Further recommendations**

- b. Promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Moravian Croatian among the objectives of education, training and the mass media
- c. Take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the Moravian Croatian speakers

---

<sup>[1]</sup> CM/RecChL(2009)7 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45)  
CM/RecChL(2013)1 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb);  
CM/RecChL(2015)5 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e)

## 2.4 Polish

### 2.4.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Polish

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ↘ deterioration = no change

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking <sup>5</sup> :						
Article	Undertakings of the Czech Republic concerning Polish <sup>5</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
<b>Part II of the Charter</b> <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>						
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>						
7.1.a	recognition of Polish as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Polish	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Polish	=				
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Polish, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life	=				
7.1.e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Polish</li> <li>• establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups</li> </ul>	=				
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Polish at all appropriate stages	=				
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Polish to learn it	=				
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Polish at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Polish	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Polish	=				
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country</li> <li>• promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Polish among the objectives of education and training</li> <li>• encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Polish among their objectives</li> </ul>	=				
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Polish</li> <li>• establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Polish</li> </ul>	=				
<b>Part III of the Charter</b> <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>						
<b>Art. 8 – Education</b>						
8.1.ai	make available pre-school education in Polish	=				
8.1.iii	make available a substantial part of pre-school education in Polish	=				
8.1.bi	make available primary education in Polish	=				
8.1.bii	make available a substantial part of primary education in Polish	=				
8.1.ci	make available secondary education in Polish	=				
8.1.cii	make available a substantial part of secondary education in Polish	=				
8.1.dii	make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Polish		=			
8.1.eiii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Polish or of facilities for the study of Polish as an university or higher education subject	=				
8.1.fiii	favour and/or encourage the offering of Polish as a subject of adult and continuing education				=	
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Polish		=			

<sup>5</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: [http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/\(treaty No. 148\)](http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/(treaty%20No.%20148)).

<b>The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:</b>						
<b>Article</b>	<b>Undertakings of the Czech Republic concerning Polish<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>fulfilled</b>	<b>partly fulfilled</b>	<b>formally fulfilled</b>	<b>not fulfilled</b>	<b>no conclusion</b>
8.1.h	provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching (in) Polish	=				
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Polish and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings	↗				
8.2	in territories other than those in which Polish is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of Polish at all the appropriate stages of education				=	
<b>Art. 9 – Judicial authorities</b>						
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Polish in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		↗			
9.1.a.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Polish, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.a.iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Polish, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned		↗			
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Polish in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations		=			
9.1.b.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Polish in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations		=			
9.1.c.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Polish in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations		=			
9.1.c.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Polish in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations		=			
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Polish and the related use of documents and evidence in Polish, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.2.a	not to deny the validity of legal documents solely because they are drafted in Polish	=				
<b>Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services</b>						
10.1.a.i v	ensure that users of Polish may submit oral or written applications in Polish to local branches of the national authorities		=			
10.2.b	possibility for users of Polish to submit oral or written applications in Polish to the regional or local authority		=			
10.2.e	use by regional authorities of Polish in debates in their assemblies	=				
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Polish in debates in their assemblies	=				
10.2.g	use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language, of place names in Polish		=			
10.4.a	translation or interpretation	=				
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Polish	=				
<b>Art. 11 – Media</b>						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Polish	↗				
11.1.b.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Polish on a regular basis					✓
11.1.c.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private television programmes in Polish on a regular basis					✓
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Polish					✓
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Polish	=				
11.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Polish</li> <li>• do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Polish</li> <li>• ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Polish</li> </ul>	=				

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of the Czech Republic concerning Polish <sup>5</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
<b>Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities</b>						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Polish	=				
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Polish in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Polish	=				
12.2	In territories other than those in which Polish is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Polish	=				
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Polish and the culture it reflects				=	
<b>Art. 13 – Economic and social life</b>						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Polish in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.e	arrange for information provided by the authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in Polish					=
<b>Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges</b>						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Polish is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Polish in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education	=				
14.b	for the benefit of Polish, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Polish is used in identical or similar form	=				

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

32. The authorities reported on the Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Schools in Cesky Tesin, however it is not clear to the Committee whether this centre offers Polish courses as part of adult and continuing education. Therefore the Committee is not able to conclude on this undertaking. According to the fourth periodical report, the Government Council for National Minorities plays the role of monitoring body for issues concerning national minorities, including the use of minority languages, although it has no executive powers. The results of the monitoring are the annual Reports on the Situation of National Minorities, consulted by the government and published on the internet. A supervisory role is played by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. In addition, the Pedagogical Centre for Polish National Schools plays a role in the assessment of education in Polish. Hence, the undertaking under Art. 8 (1) i is considered fulfilled for Polish. The new regulation, which also allows minority associations to request bilingual designations or signs in municipalities where they are active, did not solve the issue of the threshold. The undertaking under Art. 10 (2) g remains partly fulfilled. The Committee of Experts asked the Czech authorities to provide information in the current periodical report on whether any radio programmes in Polish are actually broadcast by private radio stations. The Committee of Experts did not receive any information on the existence or on the encouragement of private radio and television broadcasting in Polish. The Committee of Experts was not able to conclude whether Art. 11 (1) bii and cii are fulfilled. Furthermore, the Committee did not receive information on the production of audiovisual works under Art. 11 (d). However, the Committee is aware that due to the technical developments in the field of new media, such products are available

and asks the authorities to provide information on this point. The authorities did not provide an overview of the materials on the rights of consumers available in Polish, as it has been asked by the Committee of Experts. The Committee of Experts was not able to conclude on the fulfilment of Art. 13. (2) e.

#### **2.4.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Polish in the Czech Republic**

The Committee of Experts encourages the Czech authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.4.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process. The following overview presents the Committee of Experts’ recommendations of the previous monitoring cycles which the Czech Republic has not yet implemented and the recommendations of the current monitoring cycle. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Czech Republic<sup>[1]</sup> remain valid in their own right.

##### **I. Recommendations for immediate action**

**a. Reconsider the thresholds for installing Polish place names and topographical signs in accordance with the Charter**

##### **II. Further recommendations**

- b. In territories other than those in which Polish is traditionally used, allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of Polish at all appropriate stages of education
- c. Ensure the practical possibility of using Polish in court proceedings
- d. Take measures to increase the broadcasting time in Polish on private radio and television and provide it with an appropriate time slot
- e. Report on the production and distribution of audiovisual works in Polish
- f. Make provision, in cultural policy abroad and not only in Poland, for Polish and the culture it reflects
- g. Provide information about the way consumers are informed about their rights in Polish

<sup>[1]</sup> CM/RecChL(2009)7 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45)  
 CM/RecChL(2013)1 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb);  
 CM/RecChL(2015)5 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e)

## 2.5 Slovak

### 2.5.1 Compliance of the Czech Republic with its undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages concerning the protection and promotion of Slovak

Symbols used to mark changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle: ↗ improvement ✓ deterioration = no change

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of the Czech Republic concerning Slovak <sup>6</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
<b>Part II of the Charter</b> <i>(Undertakings which the state must apply to all regional or minority languages within its territory)</i>						
<b>Art. 7 – Objectives and principles</b>						
7.1.a	recognition of Slovak as an expression of cultural wealth	=				
7.1.b	ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Slovak	=				
7.1.c	resolute action to promote Slovak	=				
7.1.d	facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of Slovak, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life	=				
7.1.e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Slovak</li> <li>• establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups</li> </ul>	=				
7.1.f	provision of forms and means for the teaching and study of Slovak at all appropriate stages			=		
7.1.g	provision of facilities enabling (also adult) non-speakers of Slovak to learn it			=		
7.1.h	promotion of study and research on Slovak at universities or equivalent institutions	=				
7.1.i	promotion of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Slovak	=				
7.2	eliminate any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of Slovak	=				
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country</li> <li>• promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Slovak among the objectives of education and training</li> <li>• encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Slovak among their objectives</li> </ul>	=				
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the group which uses Slovak</li> <li>• establish a body for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Slovak</li> </ul>	=				
<b>Part III of the Charter</b> <i>(Additional undertakings chosen by the state for specific languages)</i>						
<b>Art. 8 – Education</b>						
8.1.aiv	favour and/or encourage the provision of pre-school education in Slovak and a substantial part of pre-school education in Slovak			↗		
8.1.biv	make available primary education in Slovak, a substantial part of primary education in Slovak or teaching of Slovak as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils whose families so request and whose number is considered sufficient			↗		
8.1.eiii	encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in Slovak or of facilities for the study of Slovak as an university or higher education subject	=				
8.1.g	ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by Slovak	↗				
8.1.i	set up a supervisory body responsible for monitoring the progress achieved in the teaching of Slovak and for drawing up public periodic reports of its findings	↗				
8.2	in territories other than those in which Slovak is traditionally used, allow, encourage or			↗		

<sup>6</sup> In order to facilitate readability, the provisions of the Charter appear here in a shortened and simplified form. The complete version of each provision can be consulted on the website of the Treaty Office: [http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/\(treaty No. 148\)](http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/(treaty%20No.%20148)).

<b>The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:</b>						
<b>Article</b>	<b>Undertakings of the Czech Republic concerning Slovak<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>fulfilled</b>	<b>partly fulfilled</b>	<b>formally fulfilled</b>	<b>not fulfilled</b>	<b>no conclusion</b>
	provide teaching in or of Slovak at all the appropriate stages of education					
<b>Art. 9 – Judicial authorities</b>						
9.1.a.ii	guarantee the accused the right to use Slovak in criminal proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.a.iii	provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible in criminal proceedings solely because they are formulated in Slovak, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.a.iv	produce, on request, documents connected with criminal legal proceedings in Slovak, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.1.b.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Slovak in civil proceedings without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.b.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Slovak in civil proceedings, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.c.ii	allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use Slovak in proceedings concerning administrative matters without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.c.iii	allow documents and evidence to be produced in Slovak in proceedings concerning administrative matters, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations	=				
9.1.d	with regard to the conduct of civil and/or administrative proceedings in Slovak and the related use of documents and evidence in Slovak, ensure that the use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned	=				
9.2.a	not to deny the validity of legal documents solely because they are drafted in Slovak	=				
<b>Art. 10 – Administrative authorities and public services</b>						
10.1.a.v	ensure that users of Slovak may submit oral or written applications in Slovak to local branches of the national authorities	=				
10.1.av	ensure that users of Slovak may validly submit a document in Slovak to local branches of the national authorities	=				
10.2.b	possibility for users of Slovak to submit oral or written applications in Slovak to the regional or local authority	=				
10.2.e	use by regional authorities of Slovak in debates in their assemblies	=				
10.2.f	use by local authorities of Slovak in debates in their assemblies	=				
10.3.c	allow users of Slovak to submit a request in Slovak to public service providers	=				
10.4.a	translation or interpretation	=				
10.5	allow the use or adoption of family names in Slovak	=				
<b>Art. 11 – Media</b>						
11.1.a.iii	make provision so that public broadcasters offer radio and television programmes in Slovak	↗				
11.1.b.ii	encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio programmes in Slovak on a regular basis	↗				
11.1.d	encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Slovak	=				
11.1.ei	encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one weekly or daily newspaper in Slovak				=	
11.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Slovak</li> <li>• do not oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in Slovak</li> <li>• ensure the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in Slovak</li> </ul>	=				
<b>Art. 12 – Cultural activities and facilities</b>						
12.1.a	encourage production, reproduction and dissemination of cultural works in Slovak	=				
12.1.f	encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Slovak in providing facilities and planning cultural activities	=				
12.1.g	encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body responsible for collecting, keeping a copy	=				

The Committee of Experts considers the undertaking*:						
Article	Undertakings of the Czech Republic concerning Slovak <sup>6</sup>	fulfilled	partly fulfilled	formally fulfilled	not fulfilled	no conclusion
	of and presenting or publishing works produced in Slovak					
12.2	In territories other than those in which Slovak is traditionally used, allow, encourage and/or provide cultural activities and facilities using Slovak	=				
12.3	make provision, in cultural policy abroad, for Slovak and the culture it reflects	↗				
<b>Art. 13 – Economic and social life</b>						
13.1.c	oppose practices designed to discourage the use of Slovak in connection with economic or social activities	=				
13.2.e	arrange for information provided by the authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in Slovak	=				
<b>Art. 14 – Transfrontier exchanges</b>						
14.a	apply bilateral and multilateral agreements with the States in which Slovak is used in identical or similar form, or conclude such agreements, to foster contacts between the users of Slovak in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education	=				
14.b	for the benefit of Slovak, facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory Slovak is used in identical or similar form	=				

\* The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages evaluates the compliance of States Parties with their undertakings under the Charter as follows:

**Fulfilled:** Policies, legislation and practice are in conformity with the Charter.

**Partly fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are wholly or partly in conformity with the Charter, but the undertaking is only partly implemented in practice.

**Formally fulfilled:** Policies and legislation are in conformity with the Charter, but there is no implementation in practice.

**Not fulfilled:** No action in policies, legislation and practice has been taken to implement the undertaking.

**No conclusion:** The Committee of Experts is not in a position to conclude on the fulfilment of the undertaking as no or insufficient information has been provided by the authorities.

### Changes in the evaluation compared to the previous monitoring cycle

33. As projects exist in order to facilitate the teaching in Slovak under government grant schemes - without practice - the Committee of Experts considers undertakings concerning Art. 8 (1) aiv, biv formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts stated, in its last evaluation report, that the Framework Education Programme for Primary Education does not specifically refer to the topic of the history and culture reflected by minority languages. However, its objectives allow for its inclusion in the curriculum. Therefore, the undertaking on Art. 8 (1) g is considered fulfilled. According to the fourth periodical report, the Government Council for National Minorities plays the role of monitoring body for issues concerning national minorities, including the use of minority languages, although it has no executive powers. The results of the monitoring are the annual Reports on the Situation of National Minorities, consulted by the government and published on the internet. A supervisory role is played by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. Hence, the undertaking under Art. 8 (1) i is considered fulfilled for Slovak. Since the teaching of Slovak is allowed in territories other than those in which Slovak is traditionally used, and with regard to its intelligibility with Czech, Art. 8 (2) is considered formally fulfilled. The Committee of Experts did not conclude on the undertaking under Art. 11 (1) aiii during the last monitoring cycle, but asked the Czech authorities to provide information on broadcasting in Slovak. The Committee of Experts received information that Slovak was used in Czech public radio and television without any limitations. Therefore, the undertakings of Art 11. (1) aii, and bii are considered fulfilled. As for the cultural policy abroad, the Committee was informed that Czech and Slovak were often presented together; the undertaking under Art. 12 (3) is therefore considered fulfilled.

## **2.5.2 Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Slovak in the Czech Republic**

The Committee of Experts encourages the Czech authorities to comply with all undertakings under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which are not considered “fulfilled” (see under 2.5.1 above), as well as to continue to comply with those that are fulfilled. Recommendations made in the monitoring procedure of the Charter aim to support the authorities in the implementation process. The following overview presents the Committee of Experts’ recommendations of the previous monitoring cycles which the Czech Republic has not yet implemented and the recommendations of the current monitoring cycle. The recommendations by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the application of the Charter in the Czech Republic<sup>[1]</sup> remain valid in their own right.

### **Recommendations**

- a. Examine the possibility of the creation and the maintenance of a newspaper in Slovak, in co-operation with the speakers

---

<sup>[1]</sup> CM/RecChL(2009)7 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805cff45)  
CM/RecChL(2013)1 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c8deb);  
CM/RecChL(2015)5 [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c267e)

### **Chapter 3 [Proposals for] Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe**

The Committee of Experts, while acknowledging the efforts the Czech authorities have undertaken to protect the regional and minority languages spoken in their country, has in its evaluation chosen to concentrate on some of the most important deficiencies in the implementation of the Charter. The recommendations forwarded by the Committee of Experts to the Committee of Ministers should not, however, be interpreted as diminishing the relevance of the other, more detailed observations contained in the report, which remain valid in their own right. The recommendations proposed by the Committee of Experts are drafted accordingly.

The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, in accordance with Article 16 (4) of the Charter, proposes on the basis of the information contained in this report, that the Committee of Ministers makes the following recommendations to The Czech Republic.

The Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Article 16 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;

Bearing in mind the instrument of ratification submitted by the Czech Republic on 15 November 2006;

Having taken note of the evaluation made by the Committee of Experts of the Charter with respect to the application of the Charter by the Czech Republic;

[Having taken note of the comments submitted by the Czech authorities on the content of the report of the Committee of Experts;]

Bearing in mind that this evaluation is based on information submitted by the Czech Republic in its fourth periodical report, supplementary information given by the Czech authorities, information submitted by bodies and associations legally established in the Czech Republic and on the information obtained by the Committee of Experts during its on-the-spot visit;

Recommends that the Czech Republic take account of all the observations and recommendations of the Committee of Experts and, as a matter of priority:

1. continue efforts to promote awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis all regional or minority languages and the cultures they represent as an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Czech Republic, both in the general curriculum at all stages of education and in the media;
2. adopt a structured policy for the protection and promotion of German including by making teaching in or of German available as a minority language in co-operation with the German speakers, and create favourable conditions for its use in public life;
3. further protect and promote Romani, including by extending teaching of Romani as a minority language in co-operation with the Romani speakers, and create favourable conditions for its use in public life.

## Appendix I: Instrument of Ratification



Czech Republic

### Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 15 November 2006 - Or. Engl.

The Czech Republic hereby declares that it will apply the provisions of the Charter in conformity with its constitutional order and the relevant international treaties by which it is bound.

Though there exists no general legal regulation in the Czech Republic relating to the country's official language, for the purposes of the Charter, regarded as minority languages are languages meeting the conditions of Article 1.a. In conformity with the Charter, the Czech Republic therefore declares that it considers the Slovak, Polish, German and Roma languages as minority languages which are spoken in its territory and in respect of which it will apply the provisions of Part II of the Charter.

Period covered: 01/03/2007 -

Articles concerned : 1

Declaration contained in the instrument of ratification deposited on 15 November 2006 - Or. Engl.

The Czech Republic declares that, pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 2, and Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Charter, it will apply the following selected provisions of Part III of the Charter to these languages:

#### **The Polish language in the Moravian-Silesian Region, in the territory of the districts of Frydek-Místek and Karviná:**

Article 8, paragraph 1 a (i), a (ii), b (i), b (ii), c (i), c (ii), d (ii), e (iii), f (iii), g, h, i, paragraph 2;

Article 9, paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), a (iv), b (ii), b (iii), c (ii), c (iii), d, paragraph 2 a;

Article 10, paragraph 1 a (iv), paragraph 2 b, e, f, g, paragraph 4 a, paragraph 5;

Article 11, paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), c (ii), d, e (i), paragraph 2;

Article 12, paragraph 1 a, f, g, paragraph 2, paragraph 3;

Article 13, paragraph 1 c, paragraph 2 e;

Article 14 a, b.

#### **The Slovak language all over the territory of the Czech Republic :**

Article 8, paragraph 1 a (iv), b (iv), e (iii), g, i, paragraph 2;

Article 9, paragraph 1 a (ii), a (iii), a (iv), b (ii), b (iii), c (ii), c (iii), d, paragraph 2 a;

Article 10, paragraph 1 a (iv), a (v), paragraph 2 b, e, f, paragraph 3 c, paragraph 4 a, paragraph 5;

Article 11, paragraph 1 a (iii), b (ii), d, e (i), paragraph 2;

Article 12, paragraph 1 a, f, g, paragraph 2, paragraph 3;

Article 13, paragraph 1 c, paragraph 2 e;

Article 14 a, b.

## **Appendix II: Comments from the Czech authorities**