

CZECH REPUBLIC

Information on the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action

The Czech Republic submits the Information on the Implementation of the Recommendations for Immediate Action (the “report”) included in the Fourth Evaluation Report by the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which was presented to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 16 of the Charter.¹ To provide a more complete overview of recent developments, the Czech Republic also provides information on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers adopted on 19 June 2019, which are closely related.² The report covers the period from 2018 to 1 March 2020.

Introduction

The Committee of Ministers recommended to the Czech Republic to:

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;

Since the last report, the Czech Republic has been continuing to promote awareness and tolerance vis-à-vis all regional or minority languages and the cultures they represent. At national level, there are comprehensive grant schemes to support languages and cultures of national minorities, including programs to support integration of the Roma minority.

The regional or minority languages are mainly supported by **grant schemes** of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic launches an annual call for proposals to support the effective implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages. This program includes the following:

- educational activities at all levels of education beyond standard curricula that focus on or take place in one of the minority languages;
- quantitative and qualitative research focused on the use of minority languages, and
- promoting the use of traditional forms of local names in minority languages, including installation and maintenance of signs indicating the names of municipalities, their parts, streets and other public spaces and the marking of buildings of state authorities and local and regional authorities.

¹ 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, Strasbourg, 29 January 2019, available at https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=0900001680948771

² Recommendation CM/RecChL(2019)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by the Czech Republic, available at https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016809500fe

Chart 1 Support of languages under the Charter implementation scheme (2015-2019)

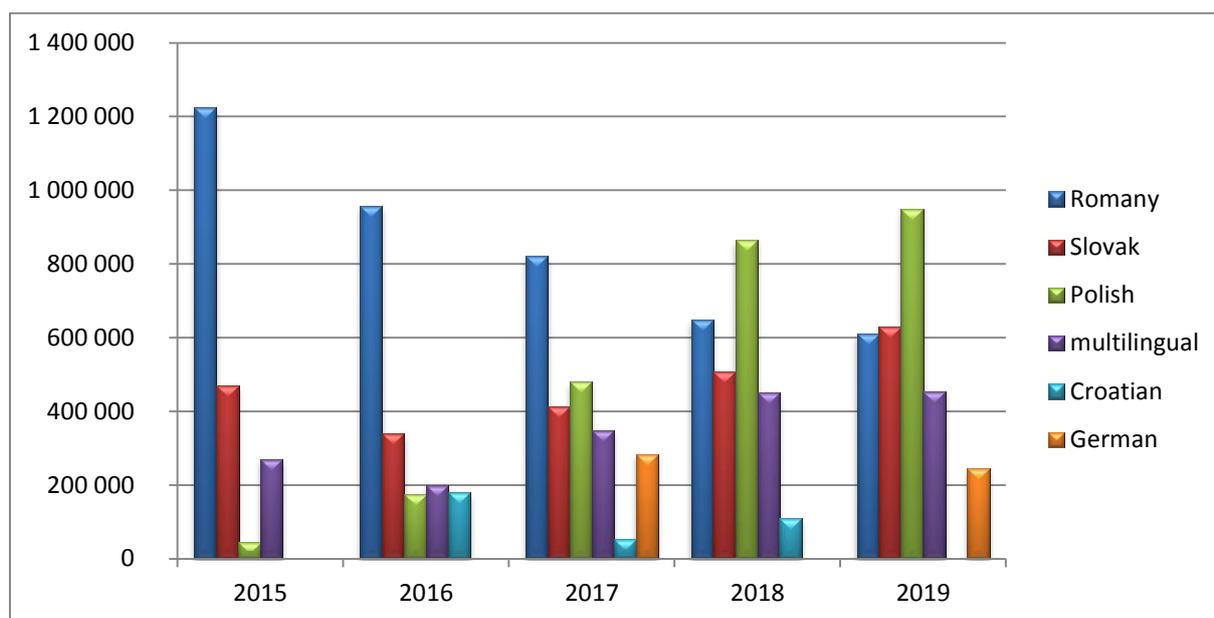
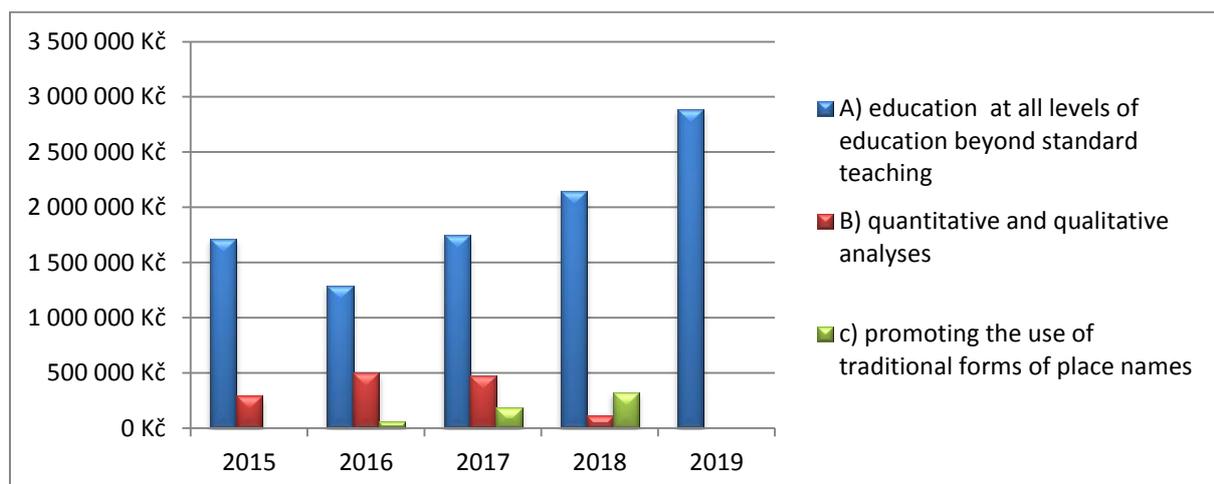


Chart 2 Numbers of projects, by subject category (2015-2019)



In 2020, the call for proposal newly included activities focused on documentation and mapping of cemeteries and graves as an important part of the culture of national minorities in the Czech Republic. This area of support is open for all national minorities which are represented in the Government Council for National Minorities, namely Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Ruthenian, Russian, Greek, Slovak, Serbian, Ukrainian and Vietnamese minorities. Adding the new category of activities to the grant scheme is based on the resolution of the Government Council for National Minorities.

In 2020, three projects in this category will be supported, namely two projects focused on the documentation and the mapping of cemeteries and graves of the German minority and one project on the graves of the Belarusian minority.

The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic also administers grant schemes to support the integration of the Roma minority. Two of these programs are opened for regions and municipalities, respectively, and the third for NGOs that work in the area of prevention of social exclusion and/or the area of community work.

The Ministry of Culture has continued to **support the publication of periodicals in minority languages, or the production of radio and television broadcasting in minority languages**. The usual annual allocation for this program is about CZK 21 million.

In 2019, in total 23 projects of national minorities were supported. Out of 23 projects, four were focused on the Roma minority, three focused on the Slovak and German minorities, respectively, two projects focused on Polish, Bulgarian and Ukrainian minorities, respectively, and one project supported the Greek, Russian, Ruthenian, Jewish, Serbian, Hungarian and Vietnamese minorities.

The Ministry of Culture also implements another grant scheme to support **cultural activities of national minorities**. The usual allocation for this program is about CZK 10 million. This supports:

- artistic activities (theatres, museums, galleries, libraries),
- cultural and educational activities,
- study and analysis of national culture and folk traditions,
- multi-ethnic cultural events (e.g. aimed at combating manifestations of extremism, racial and national intolerance and xenophobia),
- editorial activity (non-periodical publications),
- documentation of minority cultures.

This grant scheme also provides support the KHAMORO World Roma Festival which promotes mutual understanding among language groups. This festival has been supported from the state budget. In the given period, the minimal annual allocation was CZK 1.1 million.

The Ministry of Culture, which is responsible for the operation of **public libraries** in the Czech Republic, also provides support for activities of national minorities and the integration of foreigners. The support is part of the *Concept of library development* in the Czech Republic for the years 2017–2020.

The Ministry of Culture also administers the grant scheme to support the integration of the Roma minority. The projects supported by this call for a focus on artistic, cultural and educational activities, expert studies expanding knowledge and supporting research on the Roma culture, traditions and history, documentation of the Roma culture, publishing activities (non-periodical publications), and cultural events aimed at combating manifestations of extremism, racial and national intolerance and xenophobia.

In the area of education, support for teaching in the languages of national minorities at all levels of education, including support for the educational activities of the national minorities, has continued. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports implements the grant scheme to support education in languages of national minorities and educational activities of the national minorities.

The grant scheme is usually divided into two modules:

A) **support for education in minority languages** (development of the mother tongue of national minorities via educational activities, courses, publications, projects, educational activities for members of national minorities – children, pupils and young people, including the publishing of publications, educational texts for children and young people in minority languages, as part of a wider education-focused project, etc.),

B) **support for activities of national minorities** – creation and implementation of educational programs and teaching materials for children, pupils, young people 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 Holocaust, cultural habits and historical barriers, working with stories of children and families from other countries and cultures, mutual knowledge and understanding.

According to the information from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the teaching of all national minority languages covered by the Charter is available at all levels of education, with the exception of teaching Romani. The teaching of minority languages is also provided by the NGOs that are funded from the state budget by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. This support also includes the NGOs that teach Romani both in regions of the Czech Republic and in its capital, Prague.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports also administers a grant scheme to support the integration of the Roma minority and socially disadvantaged Roma pupils at secondary schools and colleges. Each year, around CZK 17.5 million is usually allocated to this program.

The Norway Funds also provide support for minority cultures and languages. In 2020, the Museum of Czech Roma and Sinti in Prague, funded by the Norway funds, will be opened. The Museum is a branch office of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno, which is funded from the state budget. The Museum will present a centre of Roma culture with educational activities including activities that support the promotion of Romani.

The support of minority languages in the media is provided by the Ministry of Culture through grant schemes and also directly by the public media. Section 17 of Act No 231/2001 Coll., on the Operation of Television and Radio Broadcasting, stipulates that, when granting broadcasting licences, an applicant's contribution to ensuring the development of the culture of national, ethnic and other minorities in the Czech Republic is evaluated, inter alia. Furthermore, it is stipulated by this Act that a broadcaster is obliged not to include programs in its schedules that can reinforce stereotypical prejudices regarding ethnic, religious or racial minorities. In addition, broadcasting companies must ensure that programs do not incite hatred on grounds of gender, race, colour, language, belief or religious, political or other opinions, national or social origin, affiliation to a national or ethnic minority, property, gender or other status. The broadcasting company may not include in its broadcasting commercials messages which discriminate on grounds of gender, race, colour, language, belief or religious, political or other opinion, national or social origin, affiliation to a national or ethnic minority, property, gender, disability, age and sexual orientation or other status. Compliance with the obligations is enforced by the Broadcasting Council, which imposes sanctions for non-compliance with the obligations.

Czech Television

In 2017, Czech Television launched a program for national minorities and about them called *Sousedé (Neighbours)*. It is produced under the auspices of the Ostrava Centre for Dramaturgy, specifically the team of authors of the *Babylon* cycle. The team is headed by Marta Růžičková, a member of the Working Group for National Minorities Broadcasting. The monthly program aims to provide viewers with an up-to-date insight into the lives of minorities in Czechia. The cycle maps the intertwining and mutual influences of cultural and life habits, their preservation by members of minorities, as well as possible changes in the Czech environment, addressing general aspects of social inclusion, and the long-term and day-to-day problems of cohabitation.³

Czech Radio

Table 1 Czech Radio programs of the national minorities

Slovak	
STRETNUTIE	news-journalistic-cultural-social magazine
Broadcasting frequency:	2 per week, MON and WED, 15 minutes in all regions; 1 per week SUN; 55 minutes on the national Radiožurnál program
Polish	

³ <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/11690334848-souseded/>

KWADRANS	news-journalistic-cultural-social magazine in Polish
Broadcasting frequency:	5 per week, 25 minutes MON to FRI on the Ostrava regional loop
German	
SOUSEDÉ	journalistic-cultural social magazine in German
Broadcasting frequency:	1 per week, FRI, 15 minutes in all regions
Romani	
O ROMA VAKEREN	cultural and social magazine for Roma, broadcasted partly in Romani, otherwise in Czech
Broadcasting frequency:	2 per week ,TUE and THURS, 15 minutes in all regions; 1 per week, SAT 55 minutes on the national Radiožurnál program

For other minorities, Czech Radio also broadcasts a new cultural and social news magazine *Mezi námi (Between Us)*, every Saturday from 15:10 to 15:30 on the Czech Radio Plus station.⁴ Out of 450 entries, the most frequent were contributions from the Russian, Vietnamese and Ukrainian minorities, and the most common topics concerned music, minorities and their traditions, current political issues and history.

German language

The Committee of ministers recommended to the Czech Republic in relation to German to

Adopt a structured policy for the protection and promotion of German including making teaching in or of German available as a minority language in co-operation with German speakers, and create favourable conditions for its use in public life;

The Committee of Experts recommended to the Czech Republic to

Take further steps to make teaching in or of German available as a minority language

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports supports the teaching of the German language in the majority population and emphasizes its significance in social and professional life. Since September 2013, compulsory teaching of a second foreign language has been in place in primary schools, no later than from the 8th grade. In 2017, a total of 331,224 pupils were taught German as a second foreign language at elementary and secondary schools.

Under Decree No. 9/2013 Coll., which regulates the procedure for permitting the teaching of certain subjects in a foreign language, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports maintains a record of schools where certain subjects are taught in German on the basis of a licence. The following schools are concerned:

Table 2 Elementary schools teaching in the German language

Name	City	Street
Elementary School Marjánka, Praha 6, Bělohorská 52	Praha 6 - Břevnov	Bělohorská 417/52
Elementary School Zlín, Kvítková 4338	Zlín	Kvítková 4338
Elementary School of German-Czech Understanding	Praha 8 - Střížkov	Střížkovská 32/27
Elementary School and Kindergarten Děčín VI, Školní 1544/5	Děčín	Školní 1544/5

⁴ http://www.rozhlas.cz/plus/porady/_porad/101655

Elementary school with extended language teaching, Praha 4, K Milíčovu 674	Praha 4 - Háje	K Milíčovu 674/2
Elementary School and Kindergarten Olomouc, Svatoplukova 11	Olomouc	Svatoplukova 65/11
Elementary School, Chrjukinova 12	Ostrava	Chrjukinova 1801/12
General Švarda Elementary School, Ostrava-Poruba	Ostrava	Porubská 831/10

Table 3 Grammar schools (and other schools providing higher secondary education) teaching or teaching partly in German

Name	City	Street
Grammar School Na Pražačce, Praha 3, Nad Ohradou 23	Praha 3 - Žižkov	Nad Ohradou 2825/23
Grammar School, Praha 8, U Libeňského zámku 1	Praha 8 - Libeň	U libeňského zámku 1/2
Business Academy Neveklov (Obchodní akademie Neveklov)	Neveklov	Školní 303
Grammar School pod Svatou Horou, Příbram II, Balbínova 328	Příbram	Balbínova 328
J.N. Neumann Episcopal Grammar School and Church Elementary School (Biskupské gymnázium J. N. Neumanna a Církevní základní škola)	České Budějovice	Jirsíkova 420/5
Masaryk Grammar School, Plzeň, Petáková 2	Plzeň	Petáková 2055/2
First German Regional Grammar School, Elementary School and Kindergarten (I. Německé zemské gymnásium, základní škola a mateřská škola, o.p.s.)	Brno	Mendlovo náměstí 1/4
Grammar School Kroměříž	Kroměříž	Masarykovo náměstí 496/13
EDUCA – High Vocational School (EDUCA - Střední odborná škola, s.r.o.)	Nový Jičín	B. Martinů 1994/4
Grammar School, Olomouc, Čajkovského 9	Olomouc	Čajkovského 68/9
Thomas Mann Grammar School.	Praha 8 - Střížkov	Střížkovská 32/27
German School in Prague – Foreign school and grammar school (Německá škola v Praze s.r.o. - zahraniční škola a gymnásium)	Praha 5 - Jinonice	Schwarzenberská 700/1
English Czech Grammar School Amazon (Anglicko-české gymnázium AMAZON s.r.o.)	Praha 1 - Staré Město	Rytiřská 406/10
Austrian Grammar School in Prague (Rakouské gymnásium v Praze , o. p. s.)	Praha 4	Na Cikorce Modřany 2166/2b
F.X. Šalda Grammar School in Liberec, Partyzánka 530 (Gymnázium F.X. Šaldy Liberec, příspěvková organizace)	Liberec	Partyzánka 530
Dr. Karel Polesný Grammar School in Znojmo (Gymnázium dr. Karla Polesného Znojmo, příspěvková organizace)	Znojmo	Náměstí Komenského 945/4

Source: Ministry of Education, the information relates to 2019

The Elementary School of German-Czech Understanding and Thomas Mann Grammar School established in 1991 is the only private school founded by the German minority in the Czech Republic. It offers education for Czech and German children. The Elementary School of German-Czech Understanding prepares students for studies at the Thomas Mann Grammar School, which is an eight-year grammar school. The Ministry of Education

cooperates with the management of the school, which guarantees high-quality German language teaching.

The Ministry of Education also cooperates with the *Goethe Institute* and supports its work to develop multilingualism not only in schools but also in society as a whole.

There are also extensive Czech-German extracurricular activities, such as activities of the *TANDEM Coordination Centre for Czech-German Youth Exchanges in Plzeň*. The centre is supported, inter alia, by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The Centre provides advisory services and supports state and non-governmental organizations in both countries in Czech-German youth exchanges and international youth cooperation. Important tasks of the organization include, among other things, establishing contacts between Czech and German organizations and promoting partnership between them.⁵

Table 4 Study fields at universities focused on German studies

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice	Faculty of Arts	Czech-German Area Studies and German Studies
		European Area Studies – Czech Republic and German-Speaking Countries
		German language and literature
	Faculty of Education	German Language with a Focus on Education
		Teaching German Language
		Teaching German Language for the Higher Level of Elementary Schools
Masaryk University	Faculty of Arts	Germanic Languages
		Germanic Literatures
	Faculty of Education	Teaching foreign language – German Language
	Faculty of Arts	German Literature
		German Language
		German Language and Literature
	Faculty of Education	German Language with a focus on teaching
		Pedagogical Assistance of German Language and Literature for Elementary Schools
	Faculty of Arts	Translation – German Language Překladařství německého jazyka
		Translation – Romanic and Germanic Languages
	Faculty of Education	Teaching Foreign Languages for Secondary Schools – German Language
	Faculty of Arts	Teaching German Language and Literature for Secondary Schools
Faculty of Education	Teaching German Language and Literature for Elementary Schools	
	Teaching German Language for Primary Schools	
University of Ostrava	Faculty of Arts	German for Translation Practice
		German in the Area of Business
		German Philology
		German Language
		German Language and Literature
		Teaching German Language and Literature for the Second Level of Elementary Schools
		Teaching German Language and Literature for

⁵ Information about Tandem is available at www.tandem.adam.cz.

		Secondary Schools
Silesian University in Opava	Faculty of Philosophy and Science in Opava	Corpus Linguistics Focused on a Special Language Group (English, German)
		German
		German for School Practice
		Teaching German for Secondary Schools
Technical University of Liberec	Faculty of Science, Humanities and Education	German Language focused on Education
		Teaching German Language for the Second Level of Elementary Schools
University of Hradec Králové	Faculty of Education	Foreign Languages for Tourism – German Language
		German Language with a Focus on Education
		Teaching for Primary School – German Language
		Teaching for Second Level of Elementary School – German Language and Literature
Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem	Faculty of Arts	Intercultural Germanic Studies
		Intercultural Germanic Studies in the Czech-German Context
		German Philology in Czech-German Cultural Context
		German Literature
	Faculty of Education	German Language and Literature
	Faculty of Arts	German Language and Literature
		German Language and Literature for the Second Level of Elementary Schools
		German Language and Literature with a Focus on Education
		German Language for School Practice Německý jazyk pro školskou praxi
		Teaching Foreign Languages for Elementary Schools – German Language
		Teaching German Language and Literature for Secondary Schools
	Charles University	Faculty of Social Sciences
Czech–German Studies /Deutsch-Tschechische Studien (one subject studies)		
German and Central European Studies		
Faculty of Arts		Germanoslavistika
		Germanic Languages
		Germanic Languages and Literatures
		Germanic Literatures
		Intercultural Communication Czech - German/Interkulturelle Kommunikation und Translation Tschechisch - Deutsch
		Intercultural Communication Czech: Czech as Foreign Language – German
		German
		German for Intercultural Communication
Faculty of Humanities		German and French Philosophy
Faculty of Social		German and Austrian Studies

	Sciences	German and Central European Studies
		German and Central European Studies / Deutsche und Mitteleuropäische Studien
	Faculty of Arts	German Language and Literature
	Faculty of Education	German Language and Literature with Didactic
		German Language with a Focus on Education
	Faculty of Arts	Translation and Interpretation – German Language
		Translation: Czech - German
Interpretation: Czech - German		
Faculty of Education	Teaching of General Subjects for Elementary and Secondary Schools – German Language	
Palacký University in Olomouc	Faculty of Education	German Language with a Focus on Applied Economics
	Faculty of Arts	German Language with a Focus on Interpretation and Translation
		German Philology
		German Literature
		German Language
	Faculty of Education	German Language with a Focus on Education
		Teaching German Language for the Second Level of Elementary Schools
Teaching German Language for Elementary Schools		
University Pardubice	Faculty of Arts	German Language for Economic Practice
		German Language for Professional Practice
Tomas Bata University in Zlín	Faculty of Humanities	German Language for Managerial Practice
University of West Bohemia in Plzeň	Faculty of Education	German Language with a Focus on Education
		Teaching German Language for Secondary Schools
		Teaching German Language for Elementary Schools

New initiatives of the Council for National Minorities and the Government Commissioner for Human Rights

In direct response to the Recommendation by the Committee of Ministers in relation to German as a minority language and the Recommendation of the Committee of Experts for immediate Action, the Council for National Minorities and the Commissioner for Human Rights have taken several steps described in detail below.

Towards the structured policy for German language: The considerations on protection of the German language under the Charter

Based on the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe and the initiative of the German minority, the Council for National Minorities and its secretariat at the Office of the Government are considering options for increasing the protection of the German language from level II to level III under the Charter. Such a step would provide a new framework for the development of the structured policy for the protection and promotion of German, including by making teaching in or of German available as a minority language and create favourable conditions for its use in public life. However, such a step would first need a careful comprehensive analysis of the current legal Czech framework and its limits. At

present, such a study is being prepared in close co-operation with German minority representatives.

In 2019, the German minority addressed the Prime Minister (who is also a chairman of the Government Council for National Minorities) with the proposal to extend the protection of the German language under the Charter. Based on this initiative, the Government Council for National Minorities has founded a new working group where specific requirements and possible measures are discussed. The working group is composed of representatives of the responsible ministries, representatives of the German minority and experts from the academia. The first meeting of the working group took place in December 2019.

Following the establishment of the working group, the Office of the Government has also begun to cooperate on the issue with the experts from the Faculty of Law at Charles University involved in the implementation of the project "*Legal, historical and social aspects of new and traditional minorities in the Czech Republic*". The project supports, inter alia, the co-operation of public institutions and the university. Within the framework of the cooperation, the Faculty of Law at Charles University organized a workshop focused on the legal issues related to extending the protection of the German language on 26 November. The outputs of this workshop are available to the working group. At present, the German minority is working on a more comprehensive explanatory report to the proposal. The next meeting of the working group is planned for April 2020.

Further steps to make teaching in or of German available as a minority language

As follows from the information in the previous section, teaching in or of German is available. Nevertheless, this availability does not cover all regions. Therefore, some concrete initial steps have been taken to increase the availability, in particular in the border regions of Liberec and Karlovy Vary.

In May 2019, the government of the Czech Republic appointed Helena Válková as a new Government Commissioner for Human Rights. Since her appointment, the new commissioner has worked intensively on raising awareness about minority languages, and in particular about the German language.

Her initiative mainly concerns the teaching of German in areas traditionally inhabited by the German population, in particular the Liberec and Karlovy Vary regions. In November and December 2019, the commissioner and her team visited Jablonec nad Nisou and Cheb and met with the local authorities of these cities, who are interested in the possibility of starting to teach some school subjects in German. In December 2019, the Office of the Government organized a meeting with the local authorities of the city of Jablonec nad Nisou and Cheb, the directors of the primary schools of Jablonec nad Nisou and Cheb, representatives of the German minority and representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Based on the meeting, the primary school in Jablonec nad Nisou is considering starting to teach some school subjects in German using the CLIL method.⁶ The primary school in Cheb is considering teaching in German from the 2021/2020 school year. At present, steps are being taken to secure the necessary financial and other support for the plan, including possible support from the neighbouring German regions of Bavaria and Saxony.

⁶ Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) is an approach where students learn a subject and a second language at the same time.

The representatives of the German minority have also organized a visit to the Thomas Mann Elementary School and Grammar School of German-Czech Understanding and a visit to the Goethe Institute in Prague. These institutions have also offered assistance in extending teaching in German.

Moravian Croatian

In relation to Moravian Croatian the Committee of Experts recommended to

Identify forms and means, including new media, for the revitalisation of Moravian Croatian

The Croatian minority is one of the smallest in the Czech Republic. According to the last census held in 2011, 1,125 persons registered for Croatian nationality (ethnicity). Most people belonging to the Croatian minority live in the region of South Moravia, especially in the municipality of Jevišovka where the Museum of Moravian Croats is located.

In 2008, the Government of the Republic of Croatia purchased the building of the former rectory in the municipality of Jevišovka to establish the Museum of Moravian Croats. The museum will be a cultural centre and will document the history of the Croatian minority. It may also be a place for the possible teaching of Croatian. The Museum of Moravian Croats should be finished by the end of 2020.

The Ministry of Culture supports the activities of the Croatian minority. Every year, the Croatian Cultural Day in Jevišovka called Kiritof is supported from the state budget. This unique event provides the members of the Croatian minority with an opportunity to meet in the place where many of them come from, to learn more about their origin and to inform the public about the existence of their tiny minority.

The most important association of the Croatian minority in the Czech Republic is Sdružení občanů chorvatské národnosti v ČR, z.s. This organization strives to preserve the culture of Moravian Croats, including the preservation of dialects of Moravian Croatian. In 2018, the organization published a book about the Croatian minority called “Colors of Croatian Moravia”. This book is devoted to the history of the Croatian minority in the Czech lands and their culture. It includes an article about the Croatian language. In addition, the book also includes a link to an e-learning course in Moravian Croatian.⁷ The link is also available on the website of the association of Croatian minority Sdružení občanů chorvatské národnosti v ČR, z.s. The Czech–Moravian-Croatian dictionary, which was created with the cooperation of native Moravian-Croatian speakers, is also available on the website.

In order to preserve the original version of Moravian Croatian, the organization Sdružení občanů chorvatské národnosti v ČR, z.s., implemented the project called Documentation of the Oldest Speakers of Moravian Croatian in 2018. The project was supported by the state budget within the framework of the grant program focused on the effective implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages mentioned above. A total of 15 interviews with eyewitnesses were recorded. The interviews were subsequently rewritten, edited (video, audio, text) and partially published in www.moravstichorvati.cz and www.pametnaroda.cz.

The Government Council for National Minorities has working bodies which focus on specific topics. One of them is a working group for national minority broadcasting which deals with national minority languages in radio and television broadcasting and, newly, also in social

⁷ <http://elearning.moravstichorvati.cz/>

networks and so-called new media. In 2019, the working group launched the discussion on the possibility of supporting new media from the state budget, especially from the budget of the Ministry of Culture. Following this initiative, the Government Council for National Minorities started look for the financial resources to support new media. The Council asked its Secretariat to prepare the necessary steps for financing new media within existing or new programs.

The Secretariat of the Council for National Minorities also advises representatives of the Croatian national minority on the availability of grant schemes to support the Moravian-Croatian Language. It will continue in this effort in the future.

Polish language

In relation to Polish the Committee of Experts recommended to

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

The conditions for installing place names and topographical signs in a language of national minority are set by Section 29 paragraph 2 of Act No. 128/2000 Coll., on municipalities. According to the provision, in a municipality inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities, the name of the municipality, its parts, streets and other public places and the designation of buildings of state bodies and territorial self-governing units shall also be given in the language of the national minority provided that at least 10% of the citizens of the municipality declared that they belong to a national minority (i.e. minority ethnicity) in the last two censuses. The provision also stipulates further conditions. The installation of names and topographical signs in a minority language must be requested by the representatives of the relevant national minority through the Committee for National Minorities or in writing by an association of members of the national minority active in the municipality for at least five years as of the date of the application.

These conditions shall guarantee that place names and topographical signs in minority languages are installed in municipalities where there is a durable and genuine link between the minority population and the place. As the threshold is linked to the census, new data from the census which will take place in 2021 should be taken into consideration when analysing possible changes of the legal framework. Therefore, the Secretariat of the Council for National Minorities will analyse the issue carefully once the data from the 2021 census are available.

In this context, we would like to add that the state takes practical steps to support the municipalities with minority populations in installing place names and topographical signs in the language of the national minority. The municipalities can apply for financial support in a program designed to support the effective implementation of the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which is run by the Office of the Government and is administered by the Secretariat of the Council for National Minorities. In 2018, two municipalities with Polish minority populations were supported, namely Jablunkov and Vendryně.

Romani language

In relation to Romani, the Committee of Ministers recommended to the Czech Republic to

Further protect and promote Romani, including by extending teaching of Romani as a minority language in co-operation with Romani speakers, and create favourable conditions for its use in public life.

The Committee of Experts recommended to

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

The Czech Republic supports the Romani language as a part of the national cultural heritage. There is a systematic support of the World Roma festival KHAMORO provided within the grant scheme of the Ministry of Culture. The Roma festival KHAMORO also includes educational activities about the Roma minority and Romani language. The Ministry of Culture also supports projects of other NGOs, e.g. the project of the organization *Výbor pro odškodnění romského holocaustu v ČR, z.s.* This project is focused on activating Czech–Roma understanding through an exhibition concerning the Lety concentration camp which is exhibited in the regions of the Czech Republic.

The public authorities also support the Roma language and promote the Roma culture via supporting the publication of magazines and other publications in Romani. Since the last Report, there has been continuing state support of a Roma newspaper called *Romano hangos*, the magazine *Romano Vodí*, magazine *Kereka*, which is designed for Roma youth, or the almanac *Romano džaniben*, which is usually issued twice a year. Within the grant scheme supporting the implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, books in Romani were issued and online Roma television called *Tuke.TV* supported.

As in previous years, the teaching of the Romani language has been continuing at three universities, two secondary schools and one primary school. The teaching of Romani at universities is usually part of Romany Studies or similar fields. The only institution where Roma studies works as a special program remains the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague. An overview of the universities teaching subjects related to Roma studies or Roma language is shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Study fields at universities focused on Romany Studies

Faculty of Arts, Charles University	Central European Studies: Roma Studies
Faculty of Education, Masaryk University	Romani as an optional subject open to students of any field
Faculty of Education, Charles University	Integration of Roma in Special Education
Faculty of Arts, Pardubice University	Roma studies and Romani at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University	Fundamentals of Romological Studies (Lifelong Learning)

The Roma language and Roma studies are taught at the Secondary School of Management and Law in Jihlava and at the Secondary Medical School in Český Krumlov. It is possible to pass the state exam in Romani at the Language School with the right of the state exam in Prague, but the interest in this is decreasing from year to year.

At primary-school level, the Primary School of Florián Bayer in Kopřivnice remains the only primary school where the Romani language is taught. The Romani language is taught only as a part of the Multicultural Education course and therefore the scope of Romani language taught is limited.

The reason why Romani is not taught in more elementary schools is mainly the low interest of parents of Roma children and also a lack of teachers of Romani. In this context, it should also be mentioned that in most cases, schools with a high percentage of Roma pupils are located in poorer or socially excluded localities, which also has an impact on the demand for education in Roma, as many parents of Roma children have to struggle to meet their basic needs.

Despite the fact that the support of systematic teaching of Romani is still insufficient, in traditional Romani communities the Roma language remains partly the main communication tool. The problem of gradual loss of knowledge of Romani among Roma is thus rather the problem of larger cities, where Roma are more dispersed among the majority population. In places where Romani is the main communication language, insufficient teaching of Czech as a foreign language also remains a problem, which can complicate successful start-ups in the education of Roma pupils.

Some Roma NGOs support learning and teaching of the Roma language. For example, the organization Nová škola, o.p.s., teaches Romani in Prague. The organization Amaro suno - feder dživipen, z.s., also organizes courses in Romani, which are usually attended by 20 children. The organization KHER, z.s. also organized courses for children to support reading and writing in Romani and also provided courses to understand the diverse language competences. KHER also organized seminars for teachers and other pedagogical staff at Czech schools to support awareness about the Roma language.

The Roma Office at Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, which also performs the functions of the National Roma Contact Point within the EU, has been working on the new Roma Integration Strategy 2021–2030. The new Strategy follows up on the Strategy 2020 and takes into account needs that have been identified in the mid-term evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. Among the needs are the following: reinforcing the combating of antigypsyism, supporting the participation of Roma and diversity, and taking into account the gender dimension. The new Strategy will include four main thematic areas, namely education, employment, health and housing. Beside the four main topics, the Strategy will also focus on emancipation of Roma and antigypsyism as horizontal issues. Emancipation shall include measures to support Roma cultural identity, empowerment and participation. The support of the Roma cultural identity shall also involve measures creating favourable conditions for the use and development of the Roma language. The Roma Office at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic is working on these topics with the members of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs, the Museum of Roma Culture and others. The Strategy should be adopted by the end of 2020. The teaching of Roma languages is also discussed in the Committee for Roma Education which is a working body of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs.